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Subject: FW: Protect drivers from license suspension due to inability to pay traffic fines
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From: Samuel Merrill [mailto:sammerrill3@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 9:22 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Protect drivers from license suspension due to inability to pay traffic fines

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Dear Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court,

We are writing in support of [proposed changes](#) to the Infraction Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (IRLJ) that would **help limit driver's license suspensions for people who cannot pay traffic tickets.**

Our purpose is to protect Washington drivers from unfair license suspensions due to the inability to pay traffic tickets. These proposed changes are **intended to fill gaps in new statutes that go into effect on January 1, 2023, due to passage of SB 5226.** They require that traffic tickets include a box that drivers can check to show an inability to pay and request a payment plan. Furthermore, they explain drivers' rights and how to exercise them, outline a clear process for courts to give drivers notice of those rights, and include standard forms. Our support for these reforms stems from the follow issues:

- • Allowing people to stay licensed permits them to stay insured, continue getting to work, and take care of their families.
- • Low-income persons and persons of color are disparately cited for traffic infractions.
- • Clear, specified procedures help overcome information gaps for many individuals, while attendance at hearings can be difficult for people with no control over the hours required by their jobs.

We believe that adoption of the proposed rules is best both for society and for individuals who are directly impacted by the system. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Samuel Merrill, Clerk (Chair), Criminal Justice Working Group
Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy