

HB2434 – Testimony in Support of Revoking the Authority to suspend driving privileges for the nonpayment of fines from traffic citations

My record includes traffic violations from 2012 until early 2019. It began with a speeding ticket, then I received two. I was pulled over again in 2014 and found my license was suspended at that time, but because I was virtually homeless and living here and there, I never received a notice in the mail.

I failed to appear in court due to lack of transportation and a way to get there. Later in 2015, after I thought everything was better, I was pulled over and was charged with no seatbelt and no liability insurance.

I missed the upcoming court dates because I had moved, which didn't help my case any. I paid my fines in full, but, then I got pulled over AGAIN in a road construction area where I hadn't reduced my speed. I did not get arrested, but, was charged with unlawful registration. My license was taken away for 3 years. I drove on a suspended license just trying to fly under the radar because I needed my car to get to work and my girls to school and daycare.

I was also pulled over for expired tags and had to spend 5 days in jail. Then I was arrested soon after for having a broken mirror, no insurance and driving on a suspended license. I spent 5 more days in jail. I was pregnant at this time and had another baby girl in February of 2017.

The last straw was when I was pulled over at the beginning of 2019 for not having my headlights on at dusk. This time I had to spend 2 nights and 3 days in the Wichita jail and was put on house arrest for 88 days. Again, most of all my fines and fees are paid in full, but, my license has been taken away for 3 years. I did my house arrest just as they asked me, having no hiccups or failures. I was finally off house arrest the very last few days of June.

My request to you is asking if you can help me just get my license back so I can drive to work, get my 3 year old to daycare and my 13 year old to school and school functions. I have enrolled my daughter in online school due to the neighborhood of Wichita we stay in, because that is all I can afford, but, my daughter has to walk to a bus stop at 6:30 a.m. (dark with no sidewalks) for the school bus to pick her up because Jardine School begins at 7 a.m. I know child trafficking is a REAL worry in Wichita and my daughter has to walk as I have had to be at work by 6 a.m.

I know I have taken advantage of my driving privileges and I regret all I have done. I am more that willing to pay any ticket fines that are left to pay. I know that I am responsible. I am just trying to survive in life, but, I have to walk to do laundry, walk to get groceries, prescriptions and to medical appointments. I really feel like I walking is ok, but, my job is in northeast Wichita and I can't walk to get there. I can't even take a city bus as none go that far north. I can't afford calling an Uber or taxi. (Although, I have spent close to \$1000 for this option in the last year) I just don't know what to do.

Thank you in advance so very much for even considering my plea.

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