



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

May 10, 2015

Chairman Jim Butler
Ohio House Judiciary Committee
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Butler and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write today to offer support for Senate Bill 204 which seeks to reform driver's license suspensions for violating specific drug related offenses.

Most places in Ohio lack public transit. For people who live in these areas, a driver's license is not a luxury or a privilege, but a necessity. A license ought to be suspended only for those offenses related to the licensed activity – anything else, frankly, is an unwarranted expansion of government into our citizens' lives.

The fact of the matter is that it is difficult and expensive to reclaim a suspended license, particularly where multiple suspensions – and their "reinstatement fees -- pile on top of each other. The current law is overly complicated, unrelated to the State's interest in safe roads and works a needless hardship on people who ought to be travelling to work as productive members of society.

The current mandatory sentence of a 6-month licensure suspension, for offenses that are unrelated to the individual's actual driving ability, is too rigid. The legislation under consideration allows for *discretionary* sentencing and mandates a maximum suspension of 5 years. In addition to this provision, I am also in favor of allowing previous offenders to apply to terminate their suspension after the amount of time provided in the legislation.

I support Senate Bill 204 and commend Senator Seitz for his leadership on this issue. I would be happy to discuss this issue with you or any members of the committee at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State