



SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony, SB 37, February 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
2023

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP). As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, AFP is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. That is why we support SB 37; despite the best intentions of lawmakers over the years, our criminal justice system has, in many regards, gradually morphed into a major impediment to individual prosperity over time.

Without rehashing the sponsor testimony of Senators Blessing and Ingram, SB 37 aims to reduce the number of scenarios wherein driver's licenses can be suspended for actions unrelated to the operation of motor vehicles or the commission of very serious crimes. The purpose of license suspension ought to be to protect people from genuinely dangerous motorists and criminal actors, not to erect barriers to success that needlessly complicate everyday life for individuals who may have made mistakes but otherwise pose little or no threat to their communities.

Additionally, if an individual is in a situation where they owe child support, it stands to reason that using driver's license suspension as a punishment will only hinder that person's ability to get to work efficiently so they can continue to meet their obligations. Smartly reforming the criminal justice system to maintain community safety, but also affording people a real opportunity to make a situation better before burying them in an avalanche of fines, fees, and suspensions will allow more Ohioans to live up to their full potential, and SB 37 is a small but

important step in the right direction. Various bills in this vein have been introduced in past General Assemblies, and hopefully this committee can thoroughly vet this proposal and enact it during the 135<sup>th</sup> GA.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to offer testimony today, and thank you to Senators Blessing and Ingram for taking this step to further the goal of a smart, effective criminal justice system that does not unjustly punish people with sanctions disproportionate to their behavior.

I'm happy to do my best to answer any questions that the committee may have.

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.AmericansForProsperity.org](http://www.AmericansForProsperity.org).*