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**Testimony to the House Transportation Committee
In Support of HB2125
February 13, 2019**

Chairman Proehl and Committee members:

Our associations requested this bill to address challenges we are facing at an increasing rate. In our contacts with the operators of motor vehicles we sometimes encounter persons who claim to be a sovereign citizen or members of other groups that reject the authority of the government. This often results in those individuals refusing to hand their driver's license to us, instead holding it where we can see it or against a rolled-up window claiming that doing so complies with the current statutory language of "displaying" their license. The first part of our proposed amendments changes the current word "display" to "deliver."

The plain language of 257.311 is very clear. A driver "shall display the [operator's license] upon demand of any police officer ..." Since there are no binding cases, we just look at the clear, unambiguous wording of the statute. A motorist is required to "display" the license, not give it to the officer. So, holding it up the window should be sufficient.

Some of the people that engage in this type of activity when we stop them are not truly a member of a sovereign citizen group but study their material and act accordingly. Others are what we call internet lawyers who study things such as this on internet social media and blog sites.

The second part of our request is to separate this act from the act of simply not having their license in their possession. This allows the current provision that later providing the license to the court or office of the arresting officer conviction is not allowed for merely not having it the operator's possession. Our proposal does not allow that provision to apply when the license is indeed in their possession, but they refuse to deliver it to the requesting authority.

It is important for us to be able to physically be in possession of the driver's license. First, it allows us to examine it for alteration and validity. Second, many agencies now use electronic ticket systems where the license is scanned and the driver information is electronically and accurately transferred to the system. Third, if a person turns resistive or drives off after the contact is made, we have positive ID of the person we had stopped.

We ask you to recommend this bill favorable for passage.

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