



## **SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Senate Democrats Approve Legislation to End License Suspensions due to Fines and Fees**

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Senate Democrats passed House Bill 4210 to end the practice of suspending driver licenses due to a failure to pay court fines and fees. The bill passed on a 20-7 vote.

“An individual’s inability to pay their fines and fees should not be the reason to suspend a license,” said Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene) a longtime champion of this proposal who chairs the Senate Committee on Judiciary. “The cycle of debt-punishment is unfair, and under our current law, it may make it so one cannot get to work, take their kids to school or seek medical care without violating the law.”

Oregon collects data on the demographics of those who are stopped and ticketed by police as well as those who are charged and convicted. As a disproportionate number of Black and Brown Oregonians are stopped, they are also more likely to be issued fees and citations and therefore their legal right to drive is more often in jeopardy.

“Fee-based license suspensions disproportionately impact people of color,” said Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D-Eugene) who carried the bill on the Senate Floor. “We know our constituents of color will benefit from this. This is an equity issue and it’s the right thing to do. Especially now while so many are struggling economically.”

House Bill 4210 passed the House of Representatives yesterday with bipartisan support. The bill now goes to the Governor for her approval.

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