

Every year, Virginia suspends almost 39,000 driver's licenses for drug offenses unrelated to driving.

Virginia is still enforcing a relic of the War on Drugs: automatic driver's license suspensions for anyone convicted of a drug offense. While most states have opted-out of the federal law which created these automatic suspensions, Virginia suspends nearly 39,000 driver's licenses annually for drug offenses unrelated to driving. Driver's license suspensions for non-driving offenses are indefensible: they are bad policy, waste government resources, and further disadvantage people convicted of drug crimes.

License suspensions for non-driving offenses don't work.

- The American Association of Motor Vehicles found that there is 'no evidence' that non-driving suspensions deter criminal behavior.
- Nevertheless, non-driving suspensions are added on top of harsh existing criminal penalties for drug convictions.

License suspensions waste taxpayer dollars and traffic safety officials' time.

- Forcing traffic authorities to focus on non-driving suspensions instead of driving-related behavior undermines public safety. No firm numbers are available for Virginia, but a clear pattern from other states has emerged.
- For example, Georgia motor vehicle officials spent \$80,000 a year on postage in order to correspond with people who had their license suspended for reasons unrelated to driving.
- In Washington state, punishing drivers who continue to drive after their driver's license was suspended for non-driving reasons consumes 70,000 hours a year in patrol officer time.

License suspensions make finding and keeping a job harder.

- Public transportation is often not a reasonable alternative for low-income people who bear the brunt of these license suspensions. For example in the Richmond metropolitan areas, almost 75% of jobs are not reasonably accessible via public transit for people living in low-income communities.
- This policy leaves thousands of people without access to economic opportunities. A New Jersey study found that 40% of people lost their job upon having their driver's license suspended and 88% reported lower income.

5 states have recently stopped suspending licenses.

Using an opt-out clause in the federal legislation, Ohio, Massachusetts, Georgia, Delaware, and Indiana have passed bipartisan reforms getting rid of these automatic suspensions in the last three years.

These laws actually make our roads less safe.

A study of law enforcement in eight states found that when non-driving license suspensions increase, less driving-related traffic enforcement takes place.