



Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee**  
**HB 884: Vehicle Laws - Canceled, Revoked, and Suspended Driver's Licenses - Penalties**  
**Position: Favorable**

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
cc: Members, House Judiciary Committee

Honorable Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (MCRC) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances financial justice and economic inclusion for Maryland consumers through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 8,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

We are writing today in support of bill HB 884. Through our organizational work, we witness the impact that fines and fees have on low-income families who are already in financial distress. As our report, *No Exit: How Maryland's Debt Collection Practices Deepen Poverty & Widen the Racial Wealth Gap*, details those who can afford to pay a fine, do not go to jail, while those who cannot afford to pay remain in jail.<sup>1</sup>

HB 884 would protect low-income Marylanders by 1) reducing the maximum fine for a person convicted of driving with a suspended license; and 2) removing imprisonment as a potential penalty for displaying a canceled, revoked, or suspended license or driving with a license that is suspended due to an unsatisfied judgment.

For many low-income individuals, the inability to pay a fine can have dire consequences resulting in unemployment, disruption of child care, loss of housing, or incarceration further.

For all these reasons, we strongly support HB 884 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.marylandconsumers.org/penn\\_station/folders/about/annual\\_report/No\\_Exit\\_Report.pdf](http://www.marylandconsumers.org/penn_station/folders/about/annual_report/No_Exit_Report.pdf)