



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"America's Most Livable City"

Office of Mayor William Peduto

May 18, 2018

Senator John C Rafferty
20 East Wing
Senate Box 203044
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator John P. Sabatina
457 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203005
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Rafferty, Senator Sabatina and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I write to you today to urge you to pass HB 163. Pennsylvania needs to get smarter on crime. For those that have successfully served their time and are returning to society, we must remove any and all barriers to their success. Returning citizens who have difficulties getting a valid driver's license or identification card will also have difficulties getting stable housing and employment. Obtaining these things have proven to reduce recidivism and reliance on public assistance programs.

In Pennsylvania, any crime related to the sale, possession or delivery of any controlled substance results in an automatic suspension of one's license, even when the crime does not include a vehicle. HB 163 would eliminate driver's license suspensions for drug-related crimes. This unfair penalization leads to an alarmingly high number of returning citizens who are not able to easily get back into the workforce.

If our goal is to create productive members of society, HB 163 works ensure that formerly incarcerated people are not continually punished after they've paid their debt to society. It is imperative that HB 163 move forward as a corrective measure for a broken criminal justice system. Please contact Grant Gittlen (grant.gittlen@pittsburghpa.gov) with questions.

Sincerely,

Mayor William Peduto
City of Pittsburgh

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