



## **DRAFT LETTER FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL**

DATE

Governor Jared Polis  
State of Colorado  
136 State Capitol Building  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

On behalf of the City of Commerce City, I respectfully request your veto of HB 21-1314. The legislation will not achieve its intended results; in its current form, the bill negatively affects our ability to create a safer community by preventing the city from issuing outstanding judicial warrants on traffic matters for non-payment or non-compliance.

Outstanding judicial warrants are a key tool in obtaining compliance and payment for traffic matters. Without them, we lose one of our few tools to enforce accountability in traffic cases, which will be difficult to replace. While the bill does provide for the formation of a study group to develop alternatives to improve court attendance and fine payment without resorting to license sanctions, this is not a viable solution. Apart from imposing suspended fines and sending outstanding fines to collection agencies, there are no other readily apparent alternatives that will compel people to appear at court or pay traffic fines after this bill goes into effect on January 1, 2022.

Additionally, this bill contains hidden but severe adverse financial impacts. The impending decrease of traffic fines will diminish revenues. The bill provides for payments to the DMV, likely to offset this financial impact. Without people having to pay to clear the outstanding judicial warrants or the license reinstatement fees that are normally collected when someone cleans up their suspended license, the DMV will require significant payments as an offset. These payments take away from other priorities to solve a problem that should not exist in the first place. Furthermore, the bill does not mention the financial impact on state courts or municipalities.

Finally, this bill carries a significant public safety risk. Without an ability to impose penalties in a meaningful way, traffic laws will lose their teeth. Barring a meaningful alternative to outstanding judicial warrants, courts will be unable to compel appearance in court or payment of fines. In the absence of these penalties, there is a real risk that unsafe drivers will feel emboldened to flout traffic laws, making the roads less safe for everyone.

Outstanding judicial warrants play a major role in keeping our roads safe. Simply put, without this tool, we will be unable to enforce traffic laws. As such, we respectfully request your veto of HB 21-1314 and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Benjamin Huseman