Poverty Should Never Determine Who is Free to Drive

11 MILLION SUSPENSIONS
THERE ARE AT LEAST 11 MILLION DRIVER’S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS FOR UNPAID FINES AND FEES

44 STATES
SUSPEND, REVOKE, OR WON’T RENEW A DRIVER’S LICENSE FOR FAILURE TO PAY COURT DEBTS

Many jobs require a valid driver’s license even if there is no driving involved. Over 85% of the U.S. population drives to work.

Without a license people can’t get to their doctor’s appointments, drop their kids at school, go to the grocery store or get to court.

New Jersey:
42% of people lost their jobs after their driver’s license was suspended.

Phoenix:
Over 50% of people whose licenses were suspended lost their jobs, with a median decrease of $36,800 to their annual income. Restoring just 7000 licenses increased GDP by $149.6 million.
In New York City, driving on a suspended license is the 4th most common criminal charge. Though 75% of NYC drivers are white, 87% of those charged with that offense are nonwhite.

Driving without a license is one of the top criminal charges in many jurisdictions. In some places, it’s the most common charge.

In 2017, Florida issued over 3 times as many citations for driving on a suspended license than for Driving Under the Influence. 71% of all Florida suspensions are for failure to pay.

CITIES WITH LARGER BLACK POPULATIONS RELY MORE ON FINES AND COURT FEES TO RAISE REVENUE AND DRIVER’S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT BLACK AMERICANS.

Nationally, Black drivers are more likely to be stopped than white drivers; in Missouri, Black drivers are 91% more likely to be stopped than white drivers.

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All because they are poor.

75% of those with suspended licenses say they continue to drive, and if they do they risk a criminal conviction, more fines & fees, and even jail.

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