

February 7, 2022

Attn: Alabama Legislators,

As pastors and leaders in the state of Alabama, we understand and recognize the importance of using our voice to support social justice efforts. The church has a long history of advocating for those who are marginalized, and the church is the foundation of the Civil Rights movement in the South. More importantly, we remain active in bettering our communities. We are writing to urge you to support the driver's license suspension bill HB 200/SB 117. This bipartisan bill is intended to stop the criminalization of poverty by ending the practice of suspending drivers' licenses when people cannot afford to pay their traffic tickets. Ultimately, HB 200/SB 117 will make it easier for Alabamians to get back to driving so they can get back to work.

Furthermore, research indicates this issue plagues the Black community at far higher rates than the white community. Our own experience as clergy pastoring to Black congregations, or lower-income working-class members bears this out.

By championing this bill, you are letting your constituents – our church members – know that you care about our community and are willing to stand with those who are most vulnerable. Alabama residents need driver's licenses to take care of their daily activities and necessities in life. Many of them are hardworking people who are in our congregations, who are relatives, friends, or coworkers of people in our churches.

With your support, we can make the community stronger by getting driver's licenses back in the hands of those who need them most.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joe Genau, Pastor
Edgewood Presbyterian Church
Homewood, AL

Dr. David Barnhart
Saint Junia United Methodist
Alabama

Crescent Cultural Community Center
Birmingham, AL

Zion Spring Baptist Church
Birmingham, AL

Birmingham First Church
Birmingham, AL

Rev. Dollie Howell Pankey, Social Concerns
and Human Justice Coordinator
5th Episcopal District, CME Church
Birmingham, AL

Tuskegee District AME Church
Montgomery, AL

New Beginnings Christian Church
Birmingham, AL

Oak Grove CME Church
Athens, AL

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church
New Market, AL

Unitarian Universalist Church of Huntsville
Huntsville, AL

Frazier Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Athens, AL

Sarvajana Mandir Hindu Temple
Pelham, AL

Big Cove Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Brownsboro, AL

New Life Seventh Day Adventist Worship
Center
Fultondale, AL

Monte Sano United Methodist Church
Huntsville, AL

Oakwood University Church
Huntsville, AL

Temple Beth Or
Montgomery, AL

Rev. Raymonda Speller, Senior Pastor
Community Congregational United Church of
Christ
Montgomery, AL

Pastor Richard Williams, Lead Pastor
Metropolitan United Methodist Church
Montgomery, AL

Father Manuel Williams, C.R.
Resurrection Catholic Church
Montgomery, AL

Rev. Shane Isner
First Christian Church Montgomery
Montgomery, AL

Rabbi Scott Kramer

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Montgomery
Montgomery, AL

Rev. V. Garnier Jackson
Montgomery, AL

Dr. E.O. Jackson, Sr.
Brown Chapel AME Church
Selma, AL

Robert White
Montgomery City of Refuge
Montgomery, AL

Islamic Society of Montgomery
Montgomery, AL

Rachel Estes
Canterbury United Methodist Church
Mountain Brook, AL