

**NEW STATE LAW WILL HELP TO LIMIT DRIVER'S LICENSE
SUSPENSIONS TO UNSAFE DRIVING**

***The Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability Applauds the
Wisconsin State Legislature for Passing a Critical Reform***

Yesterday, Wisconsin became the 38th state to opt out of a 1992 federal mandate that required a minimum six-month suspension of a driver's license for any drug-related conviction, most of which have nothing to do with a vehicle. The Wisconsin State Legislature will pass the joint resolution on to Governor Doyle, who will sign it into law in the coming weeks.

The decision to opt out carries no financial penalty for the state and the new statute gives judges the option to suspend a driver's license for a drug-related conviction if the defendant's actions suggest that the suspension is necessary. State Representative Tamara Grigsby and State Senator Lena Taylor, both of Milwaukee, authored the legislation and connected it to employment.

"Our state's policies should not provide for sanctions that are unrelated to the offenses, which end up hurting us in other ways. Persons who do not demonstrate unsafe driving should not have their licenses suspended, especially when a license is necessary to securing and maintaining employment," said Grigsby.

The *Center for Driver's License Recovery and Employability* was established in March 2007 to address the massive number of suspended and revoked drivers in Milwaukee County, most of which are young and extremely low-income. The program worked to gain bipartisan support for the change and applauds the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, emphasizing that *approximately 11,000 Wisconsin residents each year will no longer be suspended for this non-safety related reason.*

Judge James A. Gramling, Jr., a retired municipal judge from Milwaukee who now works as a pro bono attorney for the *Center*, sees the impact of this law every day, "People are ready to be productive when they come to our program, but this mandatory license suspension that has nothing to do with driving interferes with those goals. This is a key reform."