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HAL TAYLOR
SECRETARY

February 8, 2023

VIA Hand Delivery

Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter
Senate Pro Tempore Greg Reed

Re: Interlock

Speaker Ledbetter and Pro Tempore Reed:

I am writing to request your support in extending the interlock program for DUIs that are adjudicated through the pre-trial diversion program. The section of Ala. Code §32-5A-191 requiring an interlock system for those addressing their DUI through pre-trial diversion will sunset this year. I firmly believe that this program is necessary to ensure that pre-trial diversion remains a viable option for those arrested for driving under the influence while balancing the interests of public safety.

Of the 4,289 interlock orders processed by ALEA during the 2022 calendar year, 2,027 were required as a condition of the offender's pre-trial diversion. If the pre-trial diversion interlock requirement is allowed to sunset, 47% of the interlock orders issued last year will no longer be allowed. I firmly believe this will negatively impact public safety.

Accordingly, I am asking you to support HB2 filed by Representatives Mooney and Treadaway. This bill removes the sunset provision of the original pre-trial diversion interlock code section and will require continued interlock use for those entering pre-trial diversion programs. As a representative from MADD once told me, all repeat offenders start with a first offense. The interlock requirement for pre-trial diversion allows those with a first offense to complete a program that allows them to keep their vehicle, work through their legal issues and hopefully address the underlying issues that resulted in their arrest, all while helping ensure that they do not drive while impaired.

If you have any questions or need any additional information from my office, please contact the Director of Governmental Affairs for ALEA, Chris Reader, at 334-530-9879.

Sincerely,

Secretary Hal Taylor
Alabama Law Enforcement Agency