



SENATOR BORRIS L. MILES
DISTRICT 13

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT
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Statement from Senator Miles Regarding HB 2068 - Repeal the Driver Responsibility Program

"It is with regret that we were not able to pass House Bill 2068, to repeal the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP). The DRP is a **predatory program** that thrives on surcharges and is completely ineffective. The program targets the poorest and most vulnerable in our community with surcharges and automatic license revocation.

"Currently, more than 1.3 million drivers have had their licenses revoked under the DRP. Many who are affected live paycheck to paycheck, and having them choose between paying the enormous surcharges or having their licenses revoked is a no-win scenario. Without a license, they are unable to get a job, find housing or provide for their families. The only one that benefits from this disastrous program is the vendor, Municipal Services Bureau, who pockets more than \$11.4 million a year from the poorest in our communities.

"I understand the need to provide much-needed funding for our trauma care hospitals, but funding them on the backs of the poor and underserved is **not** the way to do it. The fact that we can find \$800 million for border security, but not to close Texas debtor's prison astonishes me.

"Many in the Senate Chamber agreed this was a bad program since its inception, and we had overwhelming bipartisan support for this bill. I was prepared to accept amendments to address the need to aid the poor who find themselves trapped by fines, and to lessen our dependence on this faulty system to fund critical trauma care services. However, the leadership has given their commitment that this bill will be a priority next session. I look forward to working with the leaders of both chambers to push this legislation forward."

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