



Warren C. Evans
Wayne County Executive

May 7, 2026

Mary Gladstone-Highland
Director of Grants
Michigan State Bar Foundation
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48933

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong support of SEMCA's License Recovery Project, an initiative that began as a pilot under a broader workforce development effort funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources allocated by Wayne County.

As Director of Economic Development for Wayne County, I have had the opportunity to observe firsthand the meaningful impact this pilot program has had on our residents. The program was designed to assist low-income individuals in resolving barriers related to suspended driver's licenses – barriers that often prevent them from securing or maintaining stable employment. With providing access to legal assistance, court navigation, and coordinated support services, the program directly addressed one of the most persistent and overlooked obstacles to economic mobility.

The pilot program results have been overwhelmingly positive. Over 160 participants had their licenses reinstated since April of 2024. As a result, many have experienced improved employment outcomes, increased financial stability, and renewed confidence in their ability to move forward. The pilot has demonstrated that with the right support, individuals facing complex legal and financial challenges can successfully re-engage in the workforce and contribute to the economic vitality of our community.

Given its proven success, Wayne County strongly supports efforts to secure funding to expand this initiative into a permanent, full-scale program. Investing in this work aligns directly with our commitment to equitable economic development, workforce participation, and the removal of systemic barriers that disproportionately impact low-income residents.

The License Recovery Project is not only a practical solution– it is transformative one. Continued funding will build on the pilot's momentum, reach more individuals in need, and further strengthen our local workforce.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to supporting initiatives that create meaningful opportunities for our community members.

Sincerely,

Anthony Cartwright
Interim Director of Economic Development Department



25TH DISTRICT COURT

ROY B. CICOTTE HALL OF JUSTICE

1475 CLEOPHUS STREET / LINCOLN PARK, MICHIGAN 48146-2301

HON. GREGORY A. CLIFTON
District Judge

HON. DAVID J. ZELENAK
District Judge

April 30, 2026

State Bar of Michigan
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Letter of Support for SEMCA's License Recovery Project

Dear State Bar of Michigan,

I am writing to express my strong support for SEMCA's new License Recovery Project, an initiative (or program) dedicated to assisting low-income individuals with suspended driver's licenses in resolving outstanding legal matters and restoring their driving privileges.

In my capacity as a judge, I have had the opportunity to observe firsthand the impact of this program when it was a pilot and witnessed how it helped individuals and the broader community. Many participants come before the court burdened by unresolved traffic tickets, fines, and related driving offenses that have created significant barriers to employment, education, and family stability. The program provides a structured, supportive pathway for these individuals to address their legal obligations, often for the first time in years.

What distinguishes this initiative is its collaborative and solutions-oriented approach. By working directly with the court, attorneys, and participants, the program facilitates efficient case resolution while ensuring accountability. Participants are guided through the process with clarity and respect, which in turn promotes compliance and long-term success.

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John R. Bertino
313-827-6073

PROBATION OFFICER
Jeaneane Mendenhall
313-382-8603 ext. 1394

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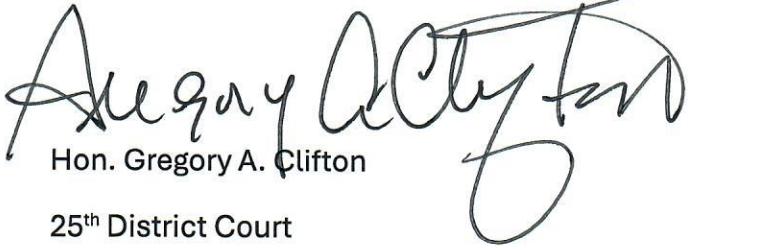
FAX 313-382-9373

From the court's perspective, the program has contributed to improved docket efficiency and increased resolution of outstanding cases that might otherwise remain inactive. More importantly, it has helped individuals regain lawful driving status, allowing them to pursue employment opportunities, meet family responsibilities, and reintegrate more fully into society.

I have consistently supported this program because it aligns with the principles of fairness, access to justice, and public safety. By removing unnecessary barriers and providing a clear path to compliance, it benefits not only the participants but the community as a whole.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to support funding for SEMCA's License Recovery Project. Continued investment in this initiative will expand its reach and ensure that more individuals can resolve their legal issues and move forward productively.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory A. Clifton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the top of the "n" in "Clifton" across the top of the page.

Hon. Gregory A. Clifton

25th District Court

1475 Cleophus Parkway

Lincoln Park, MI 48146

(313) 827-6050

gregclifton.25thdistrictjudge@gmail.com



State of Michigan
Honorable Adam A. Shakoor Judicial Center
36th District Court

421 Madison
Detroit, Michigan 48226-2358
www.36thDistrictCourt.org

(313) 965-6784
Larry.Williams@36thDC.org

LARRY D. WILLIAMS, JR.
JUDGE

April 20, 2026

Grantor Name

State Bar of Michigan

Address

RE: Letter of Support for SEMCA's License Recovery Project

Dear State Bar of Michigan,

Please accept this letter as my wholehearted endorsement of the License Recovery Project offered through SEMCA. The program serves a population that is both frequently overlooked and consistently present in our courtrooms: low-income drivers whose licenses have been suspended and whose unresolved traffic matters have, in many cases, compounded over years into a tangle they cannot unwind on their own.

I've seen firsthand how this program impacts individuals with suspended licenses. Day after day, defendants appear on dockets carrying the weight of old tickets, unpaid fines, and failures to appear — obligations that, left unaddressed, cost them jobs, housing, and the ability to get a child to school. The program meets these defendants where they are. It gives them a coordinated point of contact, a realistic plan, and a sense that the system is willing to help them.

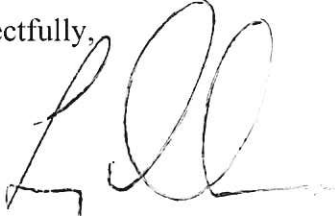
Several key features of the program include: (a) it is collaborative rather than adversarial, pairing participants with counsel and working in tandem with the court rather than around it; (b) it is disciplined— participants are expected to show up, follow through, and take ownership of their cases; and (c) it is respectful, participants that feel treated with dignity, tend to comply with the outcome, and stay in compliance afterward.

The benefits to the bench include dormant cases are finally brought to resolution, court time is used more efficiently, warrants are cleared, and dispositions are entered in matters that would likely never see movement. This translates into real judicial capacity being restored.

A valid license for most Michiganders is a prerequisite to lawful employment, reliable childcare, and basic civic participation. Restoring that privilege — through a process that insists on accountability advances both individual stability and public safety.

For those reasons, I urge the State Bar of Michigan to fund this proposal. SEMCA has built something that works, and additional resources will allow it to reach more of the people who need it. I am glad to answer any questions the review committee may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Williams, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Larry D. Williams, Jr.

36th District Court Detroit