



March 4, 2026

On behalf of our organizations, we urge your support of HB26-1242, by Representatives Paschal and Jackson with Senator Roberts. This bill makes three important changes which will conform Colorado's ignition interlock law to nationally recognized best practices:

- The bill closes a loophole in Colorado law that allows drivers with a first-time offense below .15 BAC to effectively wait out their suspension without getting an ignition interlock. If HB26-1242 passes, drivers in this category will have to complete their ignition interlock term before they can reinstate with an unrestricted license.
- The bill adopts the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) financial assistance model, providing easier accessibility and transparency to the affordability program. This includes raising the eligibility threshold to 150% of the federal poverty level and requiring providers to give a 50% discount on the monthly service fee to qualifying individuals.
- The bill allows a person whose privilege to drive has been revoked for refusing to comply with expressed consent to apply for early reinstatement with an interlock-restricted license. Currently, these drivers must wait two months. Eliminating the waiting period allows them to drive immediately with an ignition interlock.

Taken together, these changes will enhance public safety by increasing access to ignition interlocks. Encouraging drivers to quickly obtain their interlock-restricted license allows them to drive lawfully with an ignition interlock while learning to separate drinking and driving.

Sadly, Colorado is facing an impaired driving crisis. In 2025, 235 lives were lost on Colorado roads due to suspected impaired driving crashes—a 9 percent increase from 2024 and the worst total since 2022. (source: CDOT Fatal Crash Data) In 2024, there were 582 traffic crashes with suspected driver impairment that involved at least one serious bodily injury. In the state fiscal year 2024, there were 16,332 impaired driving case filings, of those 1,053 were for felony DUI cases. (source: Colorado Task Force on Drunk & Impaired Driving, 2025 Annual Report)

Thankfully, ignition interlocks are among the most effective countermeasures to curb impaired driving. [Studies](#) show that ignition interlocks reduce recidivism—[by up to 70%](#)—among all offenders while they are installed. From 2006 to 2024, in Colorado, ignition interlocks prevented DUI offenders from attempting to drink and drive more than 180,195 times.

HB26-1242 protects people on the roadways while still allowing drivers to safely continue driving and meeting family and work obligations. We urge you to quickly pass this legislation. It will save lives.

Sincerely,

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