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LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
PUBLIC SAFETY

July 10, 2026

Mr. Steve Gordon, Director
California Department of Motor Vehicles
2415 1st Avenue
Mail Station F101
Sacramento, CA 95818

RE: Information Requested Regarding Notices of Intent to Cancel California Driver's Licenses

Dear Director Gordon,

I write regarding the California Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) recent issuance of approximately 11,000 *Notices of Intent to Cancel California Driver's License* to licensed drivers throughout the state. According to the notice, recipients were informed that DMV identified "irregularities in the knowledge test results" associated with the issuance of their driver's license and directed to retake the knowledge test within 30 days or face cancellation of their license.

As Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, I recognize the importance of protecting the integrity of California's driver licensing process. Ensuring that applicants fairly demonstrate their knowledge of the rules of the road is fundamental to the safety of our roadways, and I respect and appreciate DMV's responsibility to identify and investigate instances of fraud or misconduct.

At the same time, the breadth of this action and the language used in the notice have generated significant concern among affected Californians. Many recipients understandably interpreted the letter as implying they had cheated on the knowledge examination, despite the notice not expressly making that allegation or explaining the basis for DMV's determination. Additionally, for some drivers a trip to a field office to retake the knowledge exam is no small matter. Because the ability to legally drive is essential for many Californians to maintain employment, obtain medical care, and meet family obligations, actions that place a driver's license at risk should be supported by clear, objective, and transparent processes.

I am interested in understanding what safeguards were employed to ensure that individuals who lawfully obtained their driver's licenses were not inadvertently identified. While I appreciate that certain aspects of an ongoing investigation may be confidential, transparency regarding DMV's methodology and procedural safeguards is critical to maintaining public confidence.

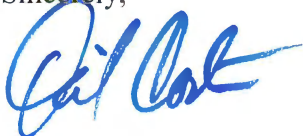
Accordingly, I respectfully request that DMV provide written responses to the following questions:

1. Please describe the methodology used to identify the approximately 11,000 drivers who received these notices.
2. What specific "irregularities" or indicators caused an individual to be selected for retesting?
3. Were automated analytical tools, statistical models, artificial intelligence, or algorithms used in identifying affected drivers? If so, please describe their role in the decision-making process.
4. What validation or quality assurance measures were performed to evaluate the accuracy of the methodology and minimize false positives?
5. What level of confidence does DMV have that individuals who did not engage in misconduct were not included among the approximately 11,000 drivers?
6. What safeguards or review processes were implemented before a notice was issued to ensure the affected individual was appropriately identified?
7. Why were approximately 11,000 drivers selected? Was this population limited to a particular testing period, field office, examiner, vendor, or geographic region?
8. Has DMV identified organized cheating schemes, third-party facilitators, or criminal organizations connected to these irregularities? If so, to the extent permissible, please describe the nature of the misconduct.
9. Has DMV referred this matter to the California Department of Justice, local law enforcement, or any other investigative agency? If so, when were those referrals made?
10. Has DMV previously undertaken a similar review resulting in the cancellation or retesting of licensed drivers based on post-issuance analysis of knowledge test results? If so, please provide the number of affected drivers and the years in which those actions occurred.
11. How did DMV determine that a 30-day deadline was appropriate, and what accommodations are available for individuals who are unable to secure a timely appointment or who face hardships in complying?
12. What additional steps is DMV taking to prevent future knowledge exam fraud while minimizing unnecessary impacts on law-abiding Californians?

As noted, I appreciate your efforts to protect the integrity of California's driver licensing system while also ensuring fairness for the public it serves. I look forward to your response as we work together to ensure a fair and transparent licensing process for California's drivers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Dave Cortese
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
Senate District 15

CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
The Honorable Monique Limón, Senate President pro Tempore