



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 30, 2020

**House Bill 0234 – Child Support – Suspension of Payments and Arrears for
Incarcerated Obligor – Modifications**

Testimony of Delegate Shaneka Henson – Favorable with Amendments

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE,
Chairman Clippinger, and Vice-Chairwoman Atterbeary, thank you for hearing
House Bill 234, a bill sponsored to provide common sense debt relief for
incarcerated child support payers by shortening the jail sentence eligibility
requirement – from 18 months, to 6 months – before a support payer is allowed to
access suspended payments and arrears adjustment.

Along with my testimony, I have submitted for the committee's review and
consideration, two (2) amendments. Amendment No. 1 makes it clear that periods
of incarceration resulting from failure to pay child support are not excluded from
Family Law 12 – 104.1.

Amendment No. 2 requires the Child Support Administration to adopt regulations
to implement the policy changes enacted by HB 234.

If it pleases the Committee, may I introduce those testifying along with me in support of the HB 234, joining me are:

- Kevin Guiswite, the Executive Director, Child Support Administration, Maryland Department of Human Services;
- Karen Rohrbaugh, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Department of Human Services;
- Vicki Turetsky, former Child Support Commissioner, for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Support Enforcement from 2009 – 2017 and consultant to the Abell Foundation;
- Moges Abebe, Esq., Navigate Law, LLC and member of the Maryland Bar Association, Family & Juvenile Law Section;
- Chris Dews, Policy Advocate for the Job Opportunities Task Force (J.O.T.F.);
and
- Rashad Singletary, the Community Violence Program Manager from LifeBridge Health.

Again, thank you for hearing this bill. I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 234 and the attached amendments. Thank you.

HB 0234

BY: Delegate Henson

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 234

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On Page 2, line 7, after “(3)” insert “including incarceration imposed under § 10 – 203 of this subtitle, and”

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On Page 2, after line 22 insert “The Administration shall adopt regulations to carry out this section.”