

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with Out for Justice. I am a resident of District 43b. I **am testifying in support of HB0275 – Child Support – Multifamily Adjustment.**



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

Due to a variety of factors, a parent may be supporting children who live in their home as well as children who do not. Currently, the determination of what child support a parent can afford to pay does not account for whether they are also supporting children in their household. These children living in a parent's household are not necessarily the parent's biological children, but such blended families are common, and children in blended families are no less deserving of support from their caregivers. The more children who are being raised, logically, the more expensive it is to support the family. When the court does not take these situations into consideration, the resulting child support award may force the person paying the support to pay less than is ordered, or to shirk their responsibility for the other children in the household. In either case, the obligation for support is thrown more heavily on the other parent/caretaker.

HB0275 would mandate that the court considering a child support award consider any children in the household of the payor and grant an allowance for such children in their calculations. This will not only lead to more equitable results, it will increase the likelihood of consistent and full child support payments.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **vote in support of HB0275 – Child Support – Multifamily Adjustment.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Theresa M. Hoffman  
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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore