

# **SB 110 Favorable Alexis Burrell Rohde.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alexis Burrell-Rohde

Position: FAV



## ALEXIS BURRELL-ROHDE

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January 21, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Support (FAV) – SB 110 – Estates and Trusts – Priority of Claims in an Estate – Unpaid Child Support**

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

I write in support of Senate Bill 110 and ask for a favorable committee report on this important legislation.

My name is Alexis Burrell-Rohde. I am the Register of Wills for Baltimore County and am testifying in favor of Senate Bill 110.

Under current law, statute sets forth the priority of the payment of claims in an estate. This statute comes into play when an estate does not have enough assets to cover all claims - the claims with a higher priority are paid first. Right now, unpaid child support and alimony fall have the lowest priority "All other claims." This is the same priority as unsecured debt, such as credit cards. The state's children deserve better.

I respectfully recommend a favorable report on Senate Bill 110 and appreciate the Committee's thoughtful attention.

Best regards,

*Alexis Burrell-Rohde*

Alexis Burrell-Rohde  
Register of Wills  
Baltimore County

# **SB110 FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christopher West

Position: FAV

CHRIS WEST  
Legislative District 42  
Baltimore and Carroll Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 23, 2025

The Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
2 East Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 110: *Estates and Trusts – Priority of Claims on an Estate – Unpaid Child Support***

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Under current Maryland law, when distributing money from a decedent's estate, there's an established list of payment priorities. As long as the estate's money lasts, the following claims against the estate are paid in this order: fees due to the Register of Wills, the costs and expenses of the administration of the estate, funeral expenses, the expenses of the estate's personal representative, a certain family allowance, taxes that are due, medical expenses associated with the decedent's last illness, up to three months rent, money for services performed for the decedent for the three months immediately prior to death, claims for certain public assistance, and finally all other claims.

Currently, unpaid child support falls into the "all other claims" category and is paid, if at all, on a pro rata basis with "all other claims", including such items as credit card balances, electric bills and the like.

The basis for this bill is the fact that unpaid child support is far more important to be paid than credit cards bills, electric bills, rent and even taxes.

Senate Bill 110 simply inserts claims for unpaid child support into the priority list prior to taxes, medical expenses, rent, services performed for the decedent public assistance claims and all other claims.

This is a simple but necessary bill that will help to better ensure Maryland's children are properly cared for. These children have suffered the death of a parent; they should not simultaneously suffer the loss of child support to which they are entitled for the period prior to the parent's death.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 110 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

# **SB110**

Uploaded by: Rachel Sledge Government Affairs

Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

January 23, 2025

The Hon. Will Smith, Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB0261 - ESTATES AND TRUSTS - PRIORITY OF CLAIMS ON AN ESTATE - UNPAID CHILD SUPPORT POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide favorable testimony for House Bill 261 (HB 261).

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS empowers Marylanders to reach their full potential by providing preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities. The Child Support Administration within our department implements the child support program which is affected by HB 261.

Currently, child support balances are submitted to estates for payment, but are not given priority over other claims. HB 261 ensures that when surviving family is allocated a part of an estate, child support arrears also receive priority to provide for the deceased's surviving children. This proposed legislation mirrors the priority order reflected in federal bankruptcy statute.

HB 261 invests in surviving children because custodial parents and their children may be more likely to receive unpaid child support from the estate if it is considered ahead of other debts. The bill would prioritize the family allowance followed by unpaid child support. Prioritizing financial support for families demonstrates that in Maryland, family matters.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at [rachel.sledge@maryland.gov](mailto:rachel.sledge@maryland.gov).

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael López', written in a cursive style.

Rafael López  
Secretary

**SB 110.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tonaeya Moore

Position: FAV





**SB 110 - Estates and Trusts - Priority of Claims on an Estate - Unpaid Child Support**  
**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**January 23, 2025**  
**SUPPORT**

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 110. This bill will prioritize the payment of unpaid child support in estate claims.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

Currently in the event of death, unpaid child support is considered a debt and is paid during the estate administration process. However, unpaid child support is prioritized at the lowest level when it comes to debt settlement. As a result, children of the deceased and their caretakers may find themselves unable to receive the unpaid support that would be crucial for their well-being. Child support is intended to help cover the costs of raising a child, including basic necessities like food and stable housing. It can also assist with educational expenses, both during the K-12 years and for post-secondary education

Since child support remains unpaid, the child and their caretaker are left to bear the full financial burden without assistance from the other parent. Research indicates that unpaid child support has detrimental effects on both the custodial parent and the child. Taking on the entire cost of raising a child increases the likelihood of poverty and results in missed opportunities.

SB 110 will increase the priority of unpaid child support and increase the priority of children in the state of Maryland. The lump sum amount of unpaid child support could be used to eliminate debts, invest in education, and provide relief and overall support.

***Thus, we encourage you to return a favorable report for SB 110.***

*Creating Assets, Savings and Hope*