

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for hearing HB 148, for which I am here to ask for your Favorable vote. This legislation closes a loophole Family Law, Section 10—203 and would prevent consecutive sentencing in child support enforcement action. The law currently provides a maximum penalty of 3 years incarceration or \$100 fine. However, parents with more than one child, most often have more than one child support case. Under the current law, those parents are able eligible for the maximum penalty in each case, and those sentences may be issued consecutively.

I do not believe this was the legislative intent of Family Law, Section 10—203. Moreover, it does not serve the best interest of children or families. Lengthy, and excessive jail terms for failure to pay support prevents parents from being meaningful emotional or financial resources for their children. It is costly to the State to incarcerate parents for failure to pay support. It is costly to the State and local governments to provide extended subsidies during lengthy periods of parent incarceration for failure to pay. In addition, loss of parents from the home have of host of collateral consequences on the well-being of the children that child support cases of intended to make whole.

This legislation will prevent egregious discrepancies in sentencing and establish a ceiling for time incarcerated. HB 148 will continue to allow for consequence, when the courts and practitioners find them appropriate, to enforce child support orders, and also promote the financial well-being of children, parents, and the State. I am grateful to the Judiciary Committee for hearing this bill and I hope that the Committee will vote Favorable. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today.