

Date: February 22, 2023

Bill Number: SB711

Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill Title: Child Support- Sports Wagering and Fantasy Competition Intercept **Position:**
Support

On behalf of the Dorchester County Department of Social Services, along with the Maryland Association of Social Services Directors, I respectfully request your support of Senate Bill 711. The Local Departments of Social Services play a critical role in administering the child support program at the local level, ensuring that families receive the support they need to promote child well-being and strengthen families.

Child Support is an effective anti-poverty program that ensures that children receive the financial support they need to thrive, even when their parents are no longer together. Since July 1988, children in Maryland have benefitted from Lottery Intercept enforcement that has allowed the state to collect from non-custodial parents with arrears balances that exceed \$150. Dorchester County was able to intercept \$5000.00 from lottery and casino winnings in Federal Fiscal Year 2022.

Senate Bill 711 would amend current law by expanding it to include the interception of winnings from sports wagering and fantasy competition, which was legalized in the state in May 2021. The interception of winnings from sports wagering and fantasy competitions would serve as an additional tool for child support enforcement, as these activities can generate substantial winnings for participants. By intercepting winnings from sports wagering and fantasy competitions, Dorchester County can help to ensure that noncustodial parents meet their child support obligations and that children receive the financial support they need and deserve.

Child Support is an important source of income and provides a vital safety net for children, ensuring they receive the financial support they need to not only meet their basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter but to thrive. Again, I respectfully request your support to Pass Senate Bill 711 which enhances Maryland's child support enforcement capabilities.