

GARY SIMMONS
Legislative District 12B
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure

Family and Juvenile Law



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 152
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3581 • 301-858-3581
800-492-7122 Ext. 3581
Gary.Simmons@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 20, 2024

Dear Chairman and members of the committee

Re: Testimony in Support of HB1045 - Positive Changes to State Child Support Guideline

I am writing to express my support for HB1045, a bill that proposes valuable changes to the definition of "adjusted actual income" under the State child support guidelines. The alterations outlined in this bill, including an allowance to support each child in the parent's home, represent a positive and necessary step towards fair and equitable child support determinations.

The proposed legislation, which requires the deduction of an allowance for support for each child in the parent's home who is not subject to a support order, demonstrates a thoughtful approach to the financial realities faced by parents responsible for the care of multiple children. By acknowledging parents' financial obligations towards all their children, including those not covered by a support order, HB1045 ensures that child support calculations more accurately reflect the economic circumstances of the paying parent.

Additionally, the provision that this allowance be subtracted from a parent's actual income before the court determines the amount of a child support award aligns with the principle of fairness and ensures that child support orders are based on a more realistic assessment of the parent's ability to contribute financially.

The current child support guidelines sometimes fail to consider the holistic financial responsibilities of parents with multiple dependents. By recognizing and accounting for the financial needs of all children in a parent's household, HB1045 not only promotes fairness in child support calculations but also serves in the children's best interests.

I commend the legislators behind HB1045 for their efforts to refine and improve our state's child support guidelines, making them more responsive to today's diverse family structures and financial obligations. This bill represents a thoughtful and compassionate approach to child support, ensuring that the calculations are accurate and reflective of any parent's real-life financial situations.

Please consider the positive impact that HB1045 can have on our community by fostering a fair and balanced child support system. I wholeheartedly support the passage of this bill and appreciate your dedication to addressing the evolving needs of families in our state.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Simmons', written over a white background.

Delegate Gary Simmons