

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 139/ HOUSE BILL 813

Driver's Licenses - Suspension for Child Support Arrearages - Exception

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

FROM: **Lindsey Hensley**

My name is Lindsey Hensley, I live in District 41, and I support(s) SENATE BILL 139/ HOUSE BILL 813 to repeal the punitive practice of driver's license suspensions for lower-income obligors.

My brother-in-law is 40 years old, on dialysis, has experienced kidney failure, and is on child support for his five children. Despite that, he stays working three jobs, raises all five of his kids, and catches the bus to get around town despite having had access to a vehicle.

Ever since he and his wife split, things have been challenging for him. She put him on child support for the kids even though they agreed to raise them together- a bargain that he still manages to maintain. She managed to get the maximum amount of money garnished from his accounts, leaving him destitute and working multiple jobs to survive **while he still spent equal time raising his kids.**

When the garnishments became too much, he switched jobs and tried to get the order modified. This did not work and led to his license being suspended. Since then, he pulled back from trying to secure better jobs and stuck to only what was available in his area by bus, which was a little. He wanted to testify but allowed me to speak on his behalf because he was still working. He can't secure better employment or participate in his kid's life more productively without access to transit. He takes buses everywhere and can't even take his kids on trips to get groceries or to school because of the suspended license.

How is a person supposed to see the child, support the child or go to work under the current system? It doesn't make sense to me, and I think House Bill 813 will at least aid my brother-in-law with all this chaos. I urge a favorable report on SENATE BILL 139/ HOUSE BILL 813.