

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: **Corrine Berry**

I am a resident of District 25, and I support Senate Bill 139/ House Bill 813 to ensure that driver's license suspensions for inability to pay child support are used in appropriate cases. I think the system is currently unfair and has been used by scorned lovers for vengeance, which is what happened in my case.

I have a seven-year-old son who I am currently paying child support for. I am currently \$2200 in arrears and being charged \$300 monthly in child support.

My child's father placed me on child support out of revenge because he was toxic, and I did not want to be with him. We were happily together for about six years when my son was born. Thanks to his abusive character, drinking habits, and general disrespectfulness, I chose to separate from him. While I was struggling with breast cancer, he filed paperwork to take full custody of my son.

Thankfully, the judge granted us joint custody during the summer of 2022. During 2023, my ex claimed I was doing little to help my son as I didn't have the resources to provide since my job at the post office cut my hours. And he decided to file for child support. I was already taking care of my son and after I was put on child support. My payments was directly for child support - none of those payments counted towards my arrears.

I support Senate Bill 139/ House Bill 813 as it would prevent vengeful people like my ex from taking advantage of the child support system to harm their significant others.