



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [SENATE BILL 15](#)**

**Child Support - Driver's License Suspension for Arrearages and Court Orders**

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

FROM: Dwan Burton, Deputy Director of Out for Justice

As Deputy Director of Out for Justice, an organization dedicated to advocating for individuals impacted by the legal system. I am writing to express our strong support for **Senate Bill 15 (SB 15)**, which seeks to amend the conditions under which the Child Support Administration (CSA) can notify the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend an individual's driver's license due to child support arrearages. Specifically, SB 15 proposes to exclude obligors whose income does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty guidelines from such notifications under certain circumstances.

Our member base primarily consists of individuals who have been impacted by the criminal legal system. These individuals often face significant barriers to securing meaningful and adequate employment due to their criminal records. One of the critical factors that can mitigate these employment challenges is access to affordable and legal transportation. For many, a valid driver's license is essential for commuting to work, attending job interviews, and fulfilling family responsibilities.

Suspending driver's licenses for low-income obligors who are unable to meet child support payments exacerbates their financial instability. Without a license, these individuals may struggle to maintain employment or secure new job opportunities, further hindering their ability to fulfill child support obligations. This creates a detrimental cycle where the lack of a driver's license impedes income generation, leading to increased arrearages and potential legal consequences.

By implementing SB 15, Maryland would take a compassionate and pragmatic approach to child support enforcement. Excluding obligors earning up to 250% of the federal poverty level from driver's license suspensions acknowledges the economic realities faced by many and prevents further marginalization. This policy change would not only support the financial stability of low-income parents but also promote consistent child support payments, as individuals are more likely to meet their obligations when they have the means to do so.



Moreover, this legislation aligns with broader efforts to humanize and reform systems that disproportionately impact marginalized communities. It deters the further criminalization of individuals for economic hardships beyond their control and fosters an environment where they can contribute positively to society and their families.

In conclusion, Out for Justice strongly urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 15. This bill represents a meaningful step toward equitable child support enforcement and the removal of unnecessary barriers that prevent individuals from achieving economic self-sufficiency and supporting their children.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this critical issue. For these reasons and more, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 15.