



OUT FOR JUSTICE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106 / HOUSE BILL 110:

Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses

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

FROM: David Reed, Out for Justice Member

My name is David Reed, and I am here to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 106, which addresses the suspension of driver's licenses for individuals in arrears on child support payments.

My personal experience demonstrates the severe and unnecessary hardship caused by the current system. In 2019, my driver's license was suspended due to child support arrears. This decision was made without proper notice—no letter, phone call, or communication. I discovered the suspension only when I was pulled over by law enforcement while on my way to work.

At the time, I had been living at the same address for two years, yet I never received any notice in the mail about the impending suspension. Ultimately, my license was restored, but not without significant time, loss of wages, and unnecessary inconvenience. I had to navigate a complex process, visiting both the Motor Vehicle Administration and the child support office, just to prove that my license should not have been suspended due to my disability status and reliance on government benefits.

This ordeal exposed significant flaws in the current system:

1. **Lack of Communication:** There was no prior notification before my license was suspended, even though my address was up to date, and I had resided at the residence for two years up to that point.
2. **Financial and Emotional Strain:** The suspension forced me to depend on others for transportation and caused unnecessary stress.
3. **Ineffectiveness as a Collection Tool:** Rather than investigating, suspending my license created barriers to earning income.

Under Senate Bill 106, these harmful consequences can be mitigated. By eliminating driver's license suspensions as a punitive measure for child support arrears, this legislation ensures that individuals can continue working and meeting their obligations.



It is important to note that the current system disproportionately impacts low-income individuals and those who rely on their vehicles for work and family responsibilities. SB 106 promotes a more equitable approach, allowing individuals to address their financial obligations without punitive measures that jeopardize their ability to do so.

I urge this committee to pass SB 106 to create a fairer and more just system that prioritizes communication, accountability, and the economic stability of Maryland residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
David Reed