

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

Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses

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

FROM: **Markus V. Robinson**

I support Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 110, which would ensure that driver's license suspensions for inability to pay child support are used only in appropriate cases.

I have lived in Maryland, specifically Prince George's County, since 2000. I have been a non-custodial parent in the child support enforcement process since approximately 2015. Since then, I have had several experiences with child support determination and subsequent enforcement that do not provide equity or fairness to the non-custodial parent.

Making all the changes needed to achieve parental equity in child support in Maryland is indeed a large and complex task, but one that is not impossible. It reminds me of the old joke, "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer is "one bite at a time." Senate Bill 106/House Bill 110 is one of those bites.

With the strongest urging possible, I say this effort must pass and be enacted by the state legislature. Vehicle transportation is a pillar in the lives of so many parents; to strip it away by suspending the ability to drive back and forth to employment that allows them to comply with court-ordered support without a judicial review of the circumstances is counterproductive to the desired outcome.

Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 will ensure that before the Child Support Enforcement Administration notifies the MVA of an obligor in arrears, a circuit court hearing needs to be established to determine if the suspension is appropriate. It is not wise to remove transportation access for people who may or may not owe money as it prevents them from paying. This is a rational approach to ensuring that the state is not needlessly endangering the well-being of families by limiting the obligor's access to employment and quality time with their child. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report.