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The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support (FAV) – HB 261 – Estates and Trusts – Priority of Claims in an Estate – Unpaid Child Support

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

I write in support of House Bill 261 and ask for a favorable committee report on this important legislation.

My name is Alexis Burrell-Rohde. I am the Register of Wills for Baltimore County and am testifying in favor of House Bill 261.

Under current law, statute sets forth the priority of the payment of claims in an estate. This statute comes into play when an estate does not have enough assets to cover all claims - the claims with a higher priority are paid first. Right now, unpaid child support and alimony fall have the lowest priority "All other claims." This is the same priority as unsecured debt, such as credit cards. The state's children deserve better.

I respectfully recommend a favorable report on House Bill 261 and appreciate the Committee's thoughtful attention.

Best regards,

Alexis Burrell-Rohde

Alexis Burrell-Rohde
Register of Wills
Baltimore County