

Dear Members of the **House Judiciary Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with Out for Justice. I am a resident of **District 46**, and I am testifying in **support of HB0110, Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses**.



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Under the current system, noncustodial parents who are 60 days behind on child support are automatically entered into the suspension program with limited opportunity to contest or show that they are eligible for one of the exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments, and it can cause someone to lose their job, which is counterintuitive when the whole point is to encourage someone to come into compliance with their child support obligations. Some surveys have shown that 42 percent of people with a history of suspension lost their jobs when they had their driving privileges suspended. Job loss was experienced across all income and age groups; however it was most significant among low-income and younger drivers.¹

A license allows parents to get to work so they can actually pay what they owe. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work. Public transit is not necessarily a substitute, either. A typical Baltimorean can only get 8.5% of the region’s jobs in under an hour using transit, and Central Maryland has lower-than-standard reliability.² In most of the state, it is simply impossible to reliably get to work without a car.

HB0110 would require that people in arrears be notified of an impending suspension, and given an opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. This would provide people facing license suspension with important due process protections, while keeping Maryland compliant with federal law which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases."

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses (HB0110)**.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Keipper
2425 Fleet St., Baltimore
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ <https://www.nj.gov/transportation/business/research/reports/FHWA-NJ-2007-020-V1.pdf>

² <https://cmtalliance.org/download/2023-transportation-report-card/>