



OUT FOR JUSTICE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 15/ HOUSE BILL 681

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

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

FROM: Khimauni Selden

My name is Khimauni Selden. I reside in District 42 in Baltimore County and support Senate Bill 15/ House Bill 681.

I am a father of two beautiful little girls I love and care for. My eldest daughter's mother placed me on child support when our baby was only a few months old. At the time, I was shocked at the situation – given that I had repeatedly offered to provide for our daughter and assured her mother that all she had to do was ask for what she needed. It became clear that she was unwilling to compromise unless I put cash directly in her hands or that I was on child support.

At my first court hearing, I arbitrarily agreed to pay roughly \$350 a month in child support on the assumption that I would be able to further negotiate in front of the judge. It quickly became apparent that no further discussion was allowed on the matter – no one was willing to hear anything I had to say. Since that initial court decision, my monthly child support allocations have increased to \$511 a month without allowing me to speak on the matter. Specifically, the court has not considered that I am a custodial parent for my youngest daughter and the breadwinner of my household.

Since I was first placed on child support, I have looked far and wide for a well-paying job to support my children and my current household. However, because my license has been suspended, I have been unable to make meaningful changes to my living situation. The only well-paying job I could find—working for Amazon—was outside my neighborhood. However, with a suspended license, I could not work this job and took a lower-paying local job with insufficient hours.

Further, I desire to have a relationship with my eldest daughter, whom, despite all the child support I pay, I am not allowed to see. I was told to go to court and obtain visitation rights—but how? I have no car, a job, or a family to support without the added Uber fees that it would require. Heading to court is a hefty undertaking that, without a license, I frankly cannot do at this time.



While I can acknowledge that some fathers may be unwilling to provide for and support their children, there should be compassionate and appropriate avenues for the fathers who care to be able to speak for themselves and find a middle ground on child support. This situation, and the stagnation caused by my lack of a driving license, has taken a hefty toll on my family's mental health.

Senate Bill 15/ House Bill 681 tremendously aids lower-income constituents like myself by allowing exemption license suspensions for those making less than \$38,000 annually. This move would prevent the years of difficulties I experienced. For this reason, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 15/ House Bill 681.

Sincerely,

Khimauni Selden