



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 15/ HOUSE BILL 681:

Driver's Licenses - Suspension for Child Support Arrearages - Exception

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

FROM: Aprille Hamilton

My name is Aprille Hamilton, a resident of District 8, and I support Senate Bill 15 to ensure that driver's license suspensions for inability to pay child support are used in appropriate cases.

I have an 11-year-old daughter from a previous relationship and a one-year-old I am raising alone. I left my last relationship after surviving multiple domestic violence situations with my ex, the 11-year-old's father, and then moved out. It was not easy. I struggled to secure housing and ended up in a shelter.

At this point, I lost custody of my daughter, and my ex then placed me on child support, where I had my wages garnished and my license suspended. My quality of life plummeted significantly, and I had to reach back out to him, my abuser, and plead with him to drop the order, which he eventually did. I am blessed that the situation worked the way that it did, but no one should have to plead with their abuser to repeal a child support case.

Years later, I moved to Alaska to work as a waitress on a cruise ship. During this time, he placed me on child support again for my daughter, and because I was not in the state, I did not receive the court order to push back. I owe him over \$20,000 in arrears, and there is **no way** that I can pay this debt. My license has been in a constant cycle of suspension with a looming threat of incarceration for inability to pay.

I am also watching the DHS' Child Support Bill closely and disagree strongly with taking personal injury awards for inability to pay. I have a settlement coming my way from my former workplace for damages done to me, and I don't think that it is just to have that money forwarded immediately to my abuser.

I have been frantically searching for employment opportunities but am constantly denied because I do not have a license. If this bill were to pass, I could make a case in court, retrieve my license, and support my son. Please pass these bills!