

Tuesday, February 18, 2025



## Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear the Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore, a group of individuals working to mobilize white people in a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with Out for Justice, which advocates for the reform of policies and practices that adversely affect incarcerated people's successful reintegration into society. I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am testifying in **support of HB0275: Child Support Multifamily Adjustment.**

Due to a variety of factors, a parent may be supporting both children who live in their home, and children who do not. Currently, the determination of the amount of child support a parent can afford does not take into account whether they are also supporting children in their household. These children may not necessarily be biologically their own, but such blended families are common, and these children are not any less deserving of support from their caretakers. The more children that are being raised, the more expensive it is to support the family. When the court does not take these situations into consideration, the resulting child support award may force the person paying the support to pay less than is ordered, or to shirk their responsibility for the other children in their household. In either case, the obligation to provide financial support falls more heavily on the other parents or caretakers.

HB0275 would mandate that the court considering a child support award consider any children in the household of the payor, and grant an allowance for such children in their calculations. This will not only lead to more equitable results, it will increase the likelihood of consistent and full child support payments.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to **vote in support of HB0275: Child Support-Multifamily Adjustment.t.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katherine Blaha

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