

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: **Lindsey Hensley**

My name is Lindsey Hensley, I live in District 41, and I support(s) SENATE BILL 15/ HOUSE BILL 681 to repeal the punitive practice of driver's license suspensions for lower-income obligors.

My brother-in-law is 40 years old, on dialysis, has experienced kidney failure, and is on child support for his five children. Despite that, he stays working three jobs, raises all five of his kids, and catches the bus to get around town despite having had access to a vehicle.

Things have been challenging for him since he and his wife split. She put him on child support for the kids even though they agreed to raise them together—a bargain that he still manages to maintain. She also garnished the maximum amount of money from his accounts, leaving him destitute and working multiple jobs to survive while he still spent equal time raising his kids.

When the garnishments became too much, he switched jobs and tried to get the order modified. This did not work and led to his license being suspended. Since then, he pulled back from trying to secure better jobs and stuck to only what was available in his area by bus, which was a little. He wanted to testify but allowed me to speak because he was still working. He can't secure better employment or participate in his kid's life more productively without access to transit. Because of the suspended license, he takes buses everywhere and can't even take his kids on trips to get groceries or to school.

How is a person supposed to see the child, support the child or go to work under the current system? It doesn't make sense to me, and I think House Bill 681 will at least aid my brother-in-law with all this chaos. I urge a favorable report on SENATE BILL 15/ HOUSE BILL 681.