

# **HB 110-Due Process- FAV-MLA-2025.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ameer Vora

Position: FAV

**House Bill 110**

Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses  
In the Judiciary Committee  
Hearing on February 20, 2025  
Position: FAVORABLE

*Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) submits its written and oral testimony on HB 110.*

MLA appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of this vital legislation. MLA is a private, nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services to thousands of low-income Maryland residents in civil matters. MLA represents both custodial and non-custodial parents in family law cases. In doing this work, we have found that wrongful driver’s license suspensions for alleged child support arrears are a recurrent and widespread problem. Driver’s license suspensions disproportionately harm low-income families, and the Maryland Child Support Enforcement Agency (“CSA”)’s automated driver’s license suspension system fails to reliably provide notice and the opportunity for a hearing prior to license suspension.

Driver’s license suspensions are not effective as a child support enforcement mechanism for those who are living in poverty and do not have the ability to pay. License suspensions create a barrier to employment and make it difficult to be an involved and active parent. Once a parent’s driver’s license is suspended, they are unable to contribute in other ways—for example, transporting their child to school, doctor’s appointments, visits with family, etc. Further, most child support is collected through wage garnishment and tax refund intercepts. These collection mechanisms both require the parent to have lawful, steady employment—to which driver’s license suspension is an impediment.

Three bills have been introduced to Maryland’s legislative body this session presenting potential solutions to this problem. This bill, **HB 110**, directly addresses MLA’s concerns about the lack of due process within the current suspension system. It presents a systemic fix, where a parent’s driver’s license could only be suspended after a judicial determination of appropriateness has been made, based on a number of factors that take into account the parent’s ability to pay and the individual circumstances of the family as a whole. **HB 681** does not directly address the due process concerns, but it creates a much-needed exemption to license suspension for low-income parents that, if implemented correctly, would help MLA clients and low-income communities tremendously. **HB 218** also addresses the harms of license suspensions for low-income families, but, rather than creating an affirmative exemption to screen out low-income parents as HB 681 does, it allows parents to request an investigation of the suspension based on their low-income status.

HB 110 ensures parents are provided due process (**notice and the opportunity for a hearing**) before their driver’s license is suspended. It establishes criteria for when suspending a

license for alleged child support arrears is **appropriate**, pursuant to the controlling federal law (discussed further below). And, it specifies that license suspension is only appropriate for those who have the **ability to pay** but are making the free and conscious choice to withhold payments, or are voluntarily impoverishing themselves.

This bill will help children and families by making license suspensions **more effective** as a child support enforcement mechanism—by targeting those who have the ability to pay, rather than ensnaring every parent who has 60 days or more of arrears into a system that (currently) automatically refers them to the MVA for license suspension, without regard for whether they fit into an already enumerated exception in the law.

In 2023, the MVA, at the express direction of CSA, suspended 20,512 licenses for alleged child support arrears. **Of those 20,512 suspensions, only 34 hearing requests** were made to the Office of Administrative Hearings (“OAH”). This astonishing disparity is a predictable consequence of CSA’s consistent failure to inform parents of their rights<sup>1</sup> to request an investigation, to receive a decision with the results of said investigation in writing, and to appeal that decision to OAH. Failure to inform parents of those rights violates constitutional due process, Md. Code, Family Law § 10-119, and COMAR 07.07.15.05. Certainly, if parents were informed of their right to request a hearing with OAH prior to suspension, more than 34 hearing requests would have been made out of the 20,512 suspensions in 2023.

**“Adequate notice is integral to the due process right to a fair hearing because the ‘right to be heard has little reality or worth unless one is informed.’” *Mullane v. Cent. Hanover Bank & Tr. Co.*, 339 U.S. 306, 314 (1950).**

HB 110 will significantly reduce the number of license suspensions in Maryland by implementing a judicial process where driver’s license suspensions are only used *when appropriate*, rather than as a blanket punishment for all parents who fall behind on their child support. This bill creates a safeguard that is desperately needed against erroneous and egregious license suspensions.

***Many parents have no idea their license is suspended until they are pulled over for a traffic stop.***

What would have been a minor traffic violation then turns into a criminal citation. A criminal citation serves as another barrier to employment and carries with it collateral consequences ranging from their car being impounded, job loss, missed shifts and lost wages, court dates, points on their license, increased insurance costs, fines, and even incarceration.

***The current automated system keeps many low-income parents in a perpetual cycle of threatened or actual license suspension.***

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<sup>1</sup> Md. Code, Family Law § 10-119 and COMAR 07.07.15.05

On its face, the current law already has enumerated exceptions that limit when CSA can suspend driver's licenses. The text of Md. Code, Family Law § 10-119 has exceptions for parents with a disability, parents who are making consistent payments on their arrearage balance per a payment agreement, and parents who need their license for employment. But MLA regularly sees clients who fit squarely into an exception and still have their driver's license suspended.

MLA assists clients who fall under exceptions in the law with license reinstatement. However, reinstatement is merely a temporary solution. If the parent still has an arrearage balance of 60 days or more, it is only a matter of time before they are re-selected and again referred to the MVA for suspension. Replacing the current automated system with the judicial process set forth in HB 110 will enable CSA to reduce their time and resources spent on handling reinstatements of inappropriate and erroneous license suspensions. Rather, they could focus their resources on pursuing those specific cases where the parent has the ability to pay but is purposefully hiding or withholding money, or voluntarily impoverishing themselves.

***The current system does not protect parents from license suspension when custody has changed and the former non-custodial parent is now the primary caretaker of the child.***

Child custody can change rapidly in low-income families. For example, custody may vary depending on which parent has more reliable housing or income at any given point in time. While a change in custody might happen overnight, a legal modification of a custody or child support order in the Circuit Court takes at minimum a year, and often longer. It is sometimes while waiting on this lengthy court process that MLA clients (who now have custody of their child) have their license suspended.

***MLA clients have their licenses suspended and are often denied reinstatement requests by CSA, even when:***

- Custody has changed, and the child now lives with them;
- They are making payments towards their arrearage balance;
- They need their driver's license for their current job or a potential job opportunity or interview;
- The suspension causes them to lose their job;
- They have a verified disability and inability to work and make payments; and
- They need their license to be an involved and active parent.

***The following are examples of MLA clients who have suffered the harmful consequences of improper and inappropriate driver's license suspension:***

- Mr. R is an MLA client who was granted sole custody of his daughter in the Juvenile Court, after the mother was found to be unfit due to abuse and neglect. He provided a copy of the custody order to CSA, showing that custody had changed and he is now the custodial

parent. **Mr. R's driver's license was still suspended**, which he learned only after being pulled over for a minor driving infraction. Mr. R received a criminal citation for driving on a suspended license.

- Mr. P is an MLA client who was granted sole custody of his son in the Circuit Court. The Circuit Court also granted Mr. P's request to officially terminate his obligation to pay child support, in light of the change in custody. Mr. P provided copies of the court orders to CSA, but **his driver's license was still suspended**. Mr. P drives trucks for a living, and **he was terminated from his job** due to his suspended license.
- Mr. G is an MLA client who drives rideshare. Mr. G provided proof to CSA of his weekly Uber rides and the fact that his license suspension would cause him to lose his employment and therefore his income, but **CSA refused to lift his license suspension unless he made a large lump sum payment**.
- Mr. M is an MLA client whose children are all now adults. He still owes child support arrears, but he has a disability and his only source of income is Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") disability benefits. Mr. M has been threatened with license suspensions **five times in a one-year period**. Each time, he goes to his local child support office and provides proof of his disability and continued receipt of SSI. CSA requires him to make a lump sum payment to have his license reinstated, despite the fact that he is supposed to be excepted from license suspension under Maryland law, and SSI is exempt from collections for child support under both Maryland and federal law.

***HB 110 will ensure Maryland's compliance with federal law.***

Concerns have been raised about Maryland's federal funding, but this bill will in no way negatively impact Maryland's federal funding. The controlling federal laws, 42 U.S.C. §§ 666(a)(16) and 654(20), require only that states have the authority to suspend or restrict driver's licenses "*in appropriate cases*," to "increase the effectiveness of the program." This bill establishes criteria for when suspending a license for child support is *appropriate*—keeping Maryland very much in line with the controlling federal laws. This bill will help to stop the inappropriate and erroneous suspensions that have harmed MLA clients, such as the ones described above. The Maryland judiciary and federal experts on child support have also advised that nothing in this bill would violate any federal laws or rules.

HB 110 calls for the implementation of a system of due process that will in fact ensure the constitutionality of Maryland's procedures for suspending driver's licenses for alleged child support arrears. **The U.S. Supreme Court has found that driver's licenses are essential in the pursuit of a livelihood** and cannot be taken away without the procedural due process required by

the Fourteenth Amendment.<sup>2</sup> This bill is also in line with the 2020 legislation introduced by then-Attorney General Frosh and passed by the Maryland legislature that stopped the MVA from suspending driver's licenses for fines and fees. The logic behind the passage of that legislation was simple: people need driver's licenses to secure and maintain employment so that they are able to pay their fines and fees. That simple logic applies here: **parents need driver's licenses to secure and maintain employment so that they are able to pay their child support.**

The current driver's license suspension system perpetuates the cycle of poverty, but, if this legislation passes, it will have long-term positive impacts on low-income communities and on Maryland's economy as a whole. MLA thanks you for the opportunity to provide input and urges the committee to **pass** HB 110. If you have any questions, please contact me at [avora@mdlab.org](mailto:avora@mdlab.org)

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<sup>2</sup> *Sniadach v. Family Finance Corp.*, 395 U.S. 337, 89 S.Ct. 1820, 23 L.Ed.2d 349 (1969); *Goldberg v. Kelly*, 397 U.S. 254, 90 S.Ct. 1011, 25 L.Ed.2d 287 (1970); *Bell v. Burson*, 402 U.S. 535, 539, 91 S. Ct. 1586, 1589, 29 L. Ed. 2d 90 (1971).

**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_AprilleHamilton (3).pdf**

Uploaded by: Aprille Hamilton

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110:**

**Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

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(s) Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 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 that 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 due to not having 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!



**HB0110\_ArielleJuberg\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg

Position: FAV

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 8. 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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.<sup>1</sup>

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup>

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone's license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,  
Arielle Juberg  
3411 Upton Road  
Baltimore, MD 21234

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

<sup>2</sup> JOTF fact sheet

<sup>3</sup> <https://cmtalliance.org/download/2023-transportation-report-card/>

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Barbara Hauck

Position: FAV

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 45. I am a voter, homeowner, and active community member. 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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.<sup>1</sup>

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup>

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone's license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It is also in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,  
**Barbara Hauck**  
**3420 Harford Road**  
**Baltimore, MD 21218**  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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

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<sup>2</sup> JOTF fact sheet

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<sup>3</sup> <https://cmtalliance.org/download/2023-transportation-report-card/>

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Brytani Fraser

Position: FAV

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

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. We are working in collaboration with Out for Justice. I am a resident of **District 45**. I am testifying in **support of HB0110, Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses**.



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed child support payments. 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.<sup>1</sup> A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup>

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone's license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,

**Brytani Fraser**

**Baltimore, MD 21214**

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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

2

JOTF fact sheet

3

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

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Christina Nemphos

Position: FAV

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 40 in Baltimore City. 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 many exemptions provided in the law. **Taking away a driver's license does not resolve missed payments.** 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.<sup>1</sup>

**A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support.** More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup>

While Baltimore and the metropolitan region have a variety of transit options, they are often not suitable for daily commuting to the workplace. Local transit may not be aligned (both in terms of timing and locations) with the work commuting needs of lower income communities; it may assume lengthy amounts of time to commute which may not be feasible for working families who are raising children; and as delays are commonplace, local transit is not always reliable enough for strict work schedules. **From my own experience, it is not uncommon for bus transit in Baltimore to take upwards of three times as long as car commuting and require long wait times for transferring between lines, not to mention inevitable delays. For individuals and families coordinating childcare and varied work and school schedules -- transit is not currently a direct substitute for driving in the Baltimore area.**

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone's license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,  
Christina L. Bell  
1301 W 42nd St., Baltimore, Md 21211  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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

<sup>2</sup> JOTF fact sheet

<sup>3</sup> <https://cmtalliance.org/download/2023-transportation-report-card/>



**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_SignOn.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christopher Dews

Position: FAV



## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110:**

### **Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

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

FROM: Christopher Dews, Policy Consultant (Representing Out for Justice)

Out for Justice, Inc. (OFJ) is an organization comprised of individuals directly and indirectly impacted by the criminal legal system. It advocates for reforming policies and practices that adversely affect successful reintegration into society. OFJ supports Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 110 to ensure that driver's license suspensions for inability to pay child support are used only in appropriate cases.

Mobility is key in Maryland's regional economy. The Census Bureau reported that almost [40% of Marylanders travel outside their county for employment](#). This statistic is more pronounced for lower-income communities of color where there is a scarcity of jobs available by public transit. [Only 8.5% of jobs in the Baltimore region can be reached within one hour, one way by public transit](#). Thus, a valid driver's license and a vehicle are necessary for economic sustainability.

[Federal Code 42 U.S.C.A. § 666 \(a\)](#) demands that all States have laws that "increase the effectiveness of the [child support enforcement] program which the state administers" and allows the State to withhold, suspend, or restrict licenses of individuals owing child support in "[appropriate cases](#)" (16). To this end, [Maryland Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119](#) states that upon 60 days of nonpayment of child support, an obligor shall have their license or privilege to drive suspended, regardless of their circumstances or ability to pay. The suspension mechanism is automated through the Child Support Enforcement Agency, and **no** determination is made as to whether or not a suspension would be appropriate. Maryland Legal Aid and the University of Baltimore have reported individuals who are disabled, *not* in arrears, or with primary custody of their children, having their licenses suspended.

Additionally, [a report cited](#) by the Abell Foundation found that **42% of individuals who had their licenses suspended lost jobs as a result of the suspension, 45% of those who lost jobs could not find another job, and 88% of those who were able to find another job reported a decrease in income.**

Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 seeks to resolve this by ensuring that before the Child Support Enforcement Administration notifies the MVA of an obligor in arrears, a circuit court hearing needs to be established to determine if the suspension is appropriate. It proceeds to determine that a suspension is not appropriate for the obligor if:

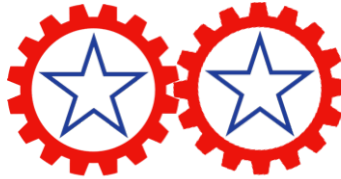
1. The minor lives mainly with the obligor;
2. The obligor is disabled and unable to work;
3. The suspension would risk the loss of employment or job opportunities;
4. The obligor could not pay or is making arrangements to pay;
5. The Administration has agreed with the obligor through the payment incentive program.
6. The transportation needs of the child would not be met;
7. If the suspension would place an undue hardship on the family; or
8. The reported arrearage amount is not accurate.

Out for Justice believes this is a rational approach to ensuring that the state is not needlessly endangering the well-being of families by limiting the obligor's access to employment and quality time with their child. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

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**The Undersigned Organizations Support Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Out for Justice (OFJ)                 | 15. Helping Oppressed People Excel             |
| 2. Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF)   | 16. Helping Ourselves Transform                |
| 3. BetterU Construction Training         | 17. Public Justice Center                      |
| 4. Maryland Legal Aid                    | 18. Civic Works Center for Sustainable Careers |
| 5. University of Baltimore School of Law | 19. 1199 SEIU                                  |
| 6. Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service    | 20. Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition         |
| 7. Showing Up for Racial Justice         | 21. PIVOT Program                              |
| 8. Office of the Public Defender         | 22. Economic Action Maryland                   |
| 9. Life After Release                    | 23. Northeast Catholic Community               |
| 10. CASH Campaign of Maryland            | 24. Baltimore Mutual Aid for Mental Health     |
| 11. America Works                        | 25. Marylanders Against Poverty                |
| 12. Court Watch PG                       | 26. Cornerstone Full Gospel Church             |
| 13. Consumer Auto                        | 27. Fines and Fees Justice Center              |
| 14. HTP Homes                            | 28. Baltimore Action Legal Team                |



AMERICA WORKS  
Network of Companies

COURTWATCH PG



MARYLAND  
LEGAL AID



**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_CorrineBerry.docx (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Corrine Berry

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110:**

**Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

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

FROM: **Corrine Berry**

I am a resident of District 25, and I support Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 to ensure that driver's license suspensions for inability to pay child support are used only in appropriate cases. The system is currently unfair and has been used by scorned lovers as a tool of vengeance and control, as in my case.

I have an eight-year-old son who I am currently paying child support for. My child's father placed me on child support out of revenge when after we broke up. We were happily together for about six years when my son was born, but thanks to his abusive character, drinking habits, and general disrespectfulness, I chose to separate from him. While I was struggling with breast cancer, he filed paperwork to take full custody of my son.

Thankfully, the judge granted us joint custody during the summer of 2022. In 2023, my ex claimed I was doing little to help my son as I didn't have the resources to provide since my job at the post office cut my hours - a job that I have since lost due to an injury and constantly going back to the courts at his command to fight over custody. He then decided to file for child support and kept me away from my son for nine months. To be clear, I was already taking care of my son and complying with the court orders despite my injuries and dealing with cancer. Yet, I was on still placed on child support, accumulating arrears and had my taxes intercepted. Moreover, when I did pay, my payments were directly for child support - none of those payments counted towards my arrears - creating a mountain of debt.

I am currently \$17,033 in arrears and being charged \$711 monthly in child support. My license has been suspended, and it has been challenging for me to get to interviews, comply with my custody orders, transport my son, or generally live independently. I've been leveraging family and friends, but it won't be long until they are overburdened, and I will have to risk driving on a suspended license to survive.

I support Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 as it would prevent vengeful people like my ex from taking advantage of the child support system to harm others.

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Daryl Yoder

Position: FAV



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 44A and a longtime volunteer with Out for Justice. 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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.<sup>1</sup>

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup>

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone's license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,  
Daryl Yoder  
309 Glenmore Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

---

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

2 JOTF fact sheet

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

**DADVOCATE 02 18 Family Law - Judiciary .pdf**

Uploaded by: Eric Smith

Position: FAV

## The Real Dadvocate



**Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody, Incorporated**

Contact Number – 443- 768-8158

Post Office Box 23062

Baltimore, Maryland 21203

Email: [winningstrategies.fcc@gmail.com](mailto:winningstrategies.fcc@gmail.com)

[Http://www.winningstrategiesfcc.org](http://www.winningstrategiesfcc.org)

[Therealdadvocate.com](http://Therealdadvocate.com)

February 18, 2025

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Subject: BUDGET & TAXIATION COMMITTEE - N00B**

The Honorable [Recipient's Name]

[Recipient's Title]

[Recipient's Office]

[Recipient's Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Support for Legislative Measures Addressing Child Support Arrearages and Fairness in Enforcement

Dear [Recipient's Name],

On behalf of Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts and Custody, and the citizens who support our guiding principles, we are writing to express our strong support for legislative measures aimed at reforming Maryland's child support enforcement system. Specifically, we urge the passage of House Bill 681 (Driver's License Suspension for Arrearages and Court Orders), House Bill 110 (Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses), House Bill 218 (DHS' Child Support Enforcement Act), and House Bill 881 (Family Investment Program and SNAP Benefits). These bills are critical in ensuring that child support policies are fair, effective,

## The Real Dadvocate

and do not impose undue hardship on fathers who are actively working toward financial stability and parental responsibility.

A key issue that must be addressed is the accuracy of child support arrearages assigned to fathers. It is essential that enforcement agencies conduct thorough investigations to determine the actual amounts owed, ensuring that fathers are not burdened with erroneous or inflated arrearages. Additionally, we advocate for a legislative review of the current policy that limits mothers to receiving only two-thirds of the arrearages owed to them. The full amount of arrearages should be paid to the custodial parent, rather than a portion being redirected elsewhere. These adjustments will promote transparency, fairness, and confidence in the child support system. Given the urgency of these matters, we request that your committee work toward implementing these changes within the next nine months. Timely action is crucial in preventing further financial and personal hardships on parents and children alike. Reforming these policies will not only support fathers in meeting their obligations but also ensure that children receive the financial support they need without unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles. We appreciate your attention to these critical issues and look forward to your leadership in advancing these reforms. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and collaborate on solutions that benefit Maryland families. Please feel free to contact us at your earliest convenience to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,  
eric d. smith  
Executive Director,  
The Real Dadvocate  
443-768-8158

Other emails of support:

Family Law Reform  
Inbox  
Search for all messages with label Inbox  
Remove label Inbox from this conversation

**Cyrus Tittle JR.** <tittlesllc@gmail.com>  
to me

Mon, Feb 17, 2:24 PM (1 day ago)

## The Real Dadvocate

I support House Bill 110 Stopping Drivers License - Child Support Suspension of Driver's License

I support House Bill 0681 Start investigating Child Support Driver's License for Arrearages and Court Orders

I support HB 0275 - Multifamily Adjustment

I support House Bill 881 Giving Mothers 100% of the money they are owed Family Investment Program and SNAP Benefits

I support the following

Inbox

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**Stevie monie**

Mon, Feb 17, 9:38 AM (1 day ago)

to me

Hello my name is Steven Vaughn I am a father of 4

I support HB 110 - Child Support Suspension of Driver's License

I support HB 0681 - Child Support Driver's License for Arrearages and Court Orders

I support HB 0275 - Multifamily Adjustment

I support HB 881 -Family Investment Program and SNAP Benefits

Sent from my iPhone

Thank you Steven Vaughn

Family Law Bills

Inbox

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**Winning Strategies <winningstrategies.fcc@gmail.com>**

Sun, Feb 16, 10:56 AM (2 days ago)

to corwin.melvin, Stevie, Richard, g.chavae, Gregory, Regina, Leatrice, Goldenkendra88, Lotty, btimes, devon, Brandon, t\_bones28, Phillip, Berni, Chantell, Amy, antbrooks64, fgilliam1109, Donta, Donaniece, Donitra, Donawiggins, Donta, DawnJackson3211, Baltimore, s.sanders704, Sadiq, Sahmra, Sherree, sheltonflemming, Shana y, Gwendolin

## **The Real Dadvocate**

Our nonprofit wants to impact legislation for fatherhood fairness bills. The bills listed help to make fathers coparents and there is a bill that helps mothers get 100% of the child support they are owed. (Please share this with your friends and family)

We need the email by Monday night at 11:59pm.

Please send me an email stating-

I support HB 110 - Child Support Suspension of Driver's License

I support HB 0681 - Child Support Driver's License for Arrearages and Court Orders

I support HB 0275 - Multifamily Adjustment

I support HB 881 -Family Investment Program and SNAP Benefits

Cc: File

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Erica Palmisano

Position: FAV

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 12A. 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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.<sup>1</sup>

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup>

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone's license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,  
Erica Palmisano  
5580 Vantage Point Rd, Apt 5, Columbia, MD 21044  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

---

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

<sup>2</sup> JOTF fact sheet

<sup>3</sup> <https://cmtalliance.org/download/2023-transportation-report-card/>



**testimony2025hb110.pdf**

Uploaded by: Franz Schneiderman

Position: FAV



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**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee**  
**HB 110 — Child Support –Suspension of Driver’s Licenses**  
**Position: Favorable**

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Cc: Members, House Judiciary Committee

Feb. 20, 2025

I’m a consumer advocate and Executive Director of Consumer Auto, a non-profit group that works to foster safety, transparency, and fair treatment for Maryland drivers and car buyers.

We support **HB 110** because it takes strong and pro-active steps to protect drivers who are obligated to pay child support against the often burdensome and counter-productive punishment of losing their license to drive – a sanction that not only can put drivers at risk of serious further punishment but undermines their ability to earn a living – and to meet their child support and other family obligations.

Unlike some bills that seek to reform this practice that this committee has considered in recent years, which have sought to set conditions or limits on driver’s license suspensions, **HB 110** addresses the problem in a more fundamental way: By authorizing the MVA to be notified of a child support arrearage only if a court affirmatively finds that a license suspension is appropriate.

Paying child support is of course an important obligation. But for many MD parents, it’s a difficult one to meet. As a 2019 Abell Foundation report found, many noncustodial parents “struggle to find and maintain full-time work at sufficient wages to support themselves and pay their child support obligations.”<sup>1</sup> Since Abell found in 2019 that the median income of non-custodial parents statewide was less than \$23,000 and that 25% of them were receiving supplemental food benefits<sup>2</sup>, it’s not surprising that many parents fall behind in their child support payments.

And when they do, Maryland law makes it very easy for them to lose their licenses, allowing licenses to be suspended when parents are 60 days behind in their payments. And when a parent loses the right to drive, it’s often much harder for him or her to get to work and access the job opportunities that help them meet their needs and child support obligations or to visit their children and uphold other family obligations.

Once a person’s license is suspended, he or she is also subject to a up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine for driving on a suspended or revoked license. When people violate the law by driving – as many do, in part

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<sup>1</sup> [https://abell.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Child20Support20Report202\\_20\\_202020edits2020-20web20version.pdf](https://abell.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Child20Support20Report202_20_202020edits2020-20web20version.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*,



**Auto Consumer Alliance**  
13900 Laurel Lakes Avenue, Suite 100  
Laurel, MD 20707

because they need to drive to get to work and meet their obligations – that often extends a cycle of financial shortfalls and punishment that leaves people with even greater legal difficulties and more deeply in debt.

This cycle, predictably, often leaves debtor's less able to pay their child support and meet other needs.

And in those cases where a parent actually is earning significant income, but is not using that money to pay child support, that income can often be withheld or garnished to help meet those debts. So, in most cases it's hard to see how making it more difficult for that person to earn a living by suspending a debtor's driver's license does anything but hurt his or her ability to pay child support – and thus also hurt the child and the custodial parent who need support.

**HB 110** would interrupt this destructive cycle by authorizing the MVA to be empowered to suspend licenses only after a court hearing (with appropriate notice to the debtor) has determined that a license suspension is appropriate. The bill mandates that the court may only make such a finding only if it finds that the debtor has the funds to pay his or her obligation or has voluntarily impoverished himself to avoid payment. It prohibits such an order if the debtor can establish (among other conditions), that a license suspension would interfere with his/her employment or ability to visit or help transport the child, that the child being supported is living with the debtor, or that the debtor has a documented disability that interferes with his/her ability to work.

Under our current practices, thousands of Marylanders each year lose their driving privileges because they're struggling to pay their child support – and some have their licenses suspended without even knowing that this has happened. This causes greater financial and legal jeopardy for many Marylanders – and doesn't help children get the support they need.

**HB 110** would add protections that promise to limit those suspensions to a much smaller (and more appropriate) set of cases in which a court has found that a non-custodial parent is genuinely making a conscious and irresponsible choice not to pay their child support.

We support **HB 110** and ask that you give it a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Franz Schneiderman  
Consumer Auto

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Holly Powell

Position: FAV

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**. 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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.<sup>1</sup>

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup>

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone’s license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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.

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1

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

2

JOTF fact sheet

3

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

Sincerely,

**Holly Powell**

**2308 Cambridge Street**

**Baltimore, Maryland 21224**

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: John Ford

Position: FAV

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

This testimony is being submitted with 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. I am also writing in collaboration with Out for Justice. I am a resident of **District 46**. **I am a workforce development professional in the City of Baltimore and I am a board member in my local Canton community association. I am testifying in support of HB0110, Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses.**

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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.<sup>1</sup>

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given substitute, either. I know from my work in Baltimore City workforce development that 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.<sup>3</sup> A recent Banner investigation tracking children’s commutes to school found that a quarter of them had a late or missing bus and took on average half an hour (outdoors) to make a connection. I experience this personally commuting from Canton to my office downtown.

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone’s license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,

**John Preston Ford**  
**529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224**

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

2 JOTF fact sheet

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



**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_OFJ\_JonathanWilliams (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Jonathan Williams

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/HOUSE BILL 110**  
**Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

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

FROM: Jonathan Williams

My name is Jonathan Williams, and I live in Baltimore City. I support Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 110 to ensure that driver's license suspensions for inability to pay child support are used in appropriate cases.

I am a father of a 5-year-old whose mother placed me on child support. After we signed the child support order, we had to wait 6 months for the judge to sign before the order went into effect. I was initially given misleading and/or incomplete information. I was told that I would be unable to make child support payments until the judge signed the order and that payments would not start until the order was signed. The judge eventually signed the order in August of 2017. It wasn't until I got a notice that my license for child support arrears of over \$9000 was suspended. When I signed the order, I knew my monthly payments would be \$840, and court fees would be included. Once the court fees were paid, the costs would drop down to \$640 per month.

At the time, I was bringing home around \$2600 monthly as an IT Site Coordinator. I started driving for Uber part-time to supplement my income and help pay my child support when the time came. Both jobs required that I have a valid driver's license. My expenses at the time included a \$1200 mortgage, \$500 car payment, \$160 car insurance, \$250 utilities, \$200 for gas, groceries, and miscellaneous purchases. At the end of the month, I had about \$300 left over. While driving for Uber, I averaged about \$20 per hour, which would have given me a max of \$800 per month in extra income.

The immediate arrival of a \$9000+ bill was a huge setback. It was unexpected and instantly put me in a financial bind.

When I contacted The Department of Human Resources, no one I talked to cared even to listen and understand my situation. I would get similar statements - "You can get your license reinstated when you pay all of your back pay," or "You should have saved the money during those months." It appeared that I wouldn't get any assistance until I paid what was owed. At this point, I gave up because doing the right thing seemed more like a punishment than getting monetary help for my son.



The website even states: *“You have the right to request a review for a modification if there has been a change in circumstances since the order was entered, or if three years have passed since the order was entered or last reviewed for modification. Examples of changes in circumstances that may be grounds for a modification are significant changes in income, changes in work-related daycare costs, changes in health care costs, a change in custody, or a change in the child's financial needs. Contact the Customer Care Center at 1-800-332-6347 for additional information.”*

Nothing in this paragraph was even considered for discussion when I called DHS.

The result was that I had to short-sell my house before it went into foreclosure, and my car was voluntarily repossessed. I can't drive my car because my license is suspended, so I can't drive for Uber to earn the extra money to afford my house and car and pay my child support. Not having a license has prevented me from finding a high-paying job because those jobs are not readily available in Baltimore City.

The repossession resulted in an extra \$9000 of debt over the \$8000 I already owed. At this point, I'm now \$17000 in debt and have lost two jobs. I've lost my home, car, and job and am in debt. This domino effect had me a couple of steps away from going to jail for not paying child support. How can someone pay child support when they have lost every means of paying it?

My testimony sheds some light on and understanding of what many parents have gone through and are going through. The rules and regulations, as they currently are, in some situations, hurt more than help. Please consider that some parents want the best for their child(ren) and that situations like mine are sensitive and need the flexibility to be negotiated. Situations like this can be avoided in the future if more than just income is factored into the child support process so a better judgment can be made before punishment is handed down that is a detriment to all parties involved. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 fixes the issue by ensuring due process before a driver's license is taken. The court has a hearing and determines the appropriateness. This is a good move to prevent catastrophes like the one I experienced. I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110.

# **HB 110 - Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Li**

Uploaded by: Kam Bridges

Position: FAV

# JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

*Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes*

## Testimony for House Bill 110

### Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses

TO: Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Job Opportunities Task Force

DATE: February 20, 2024

POSITION: Support

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops and advocates policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-wage workers and job seekers in Maryland. **JOTF supports House Bill 110.**

Many jobs for those living in Baltimore city are in surrounding counties and consequently to get to these jobs, a car and a driver's license is required. If a person does not have a car or a driver’s license they cannot get to their job, and without their job they have no income, and without their income they cannot pay their child support. Thus taking a low income person's driver license away is harmful to the obligor, the custodial parent and the child. More than 20,000 obligors had their driver’s license suspended in FY 23, harming them and their families pursuant to existing law. It also harmed their employers, the state’s economy, and the state’s tax base. It is counterproductive.

A Report from the Abell Foundation ([see here](#)) discusses in detail how suspending the driver's license of a low income individual hurts the obligor, the child and the family.

House Bill 110 changes the procedure for the Child Support Administration to suspend an individual’s license for child support arrears. Currently, the Administration can suspend the license for an individual with arrearages, and the burden falls on the individual to contact the administration to request an investigation to appeal the decision. House Bill 110 would allow the Administration to suspend an individual’s license only after the administration provides clear and convincing evidence in court that the obligor has the funds to pay and is consciously withholding payment or is voluntarily impoverished.

JOTF contends that the current system does not adequately differentiate between non-custodial parents who are purposefully withholding child support and ones who are simply poor. Placing the burden of proof on the administration in identifying who is purposefully withholding payment by a fair standard will ensure that poverty is not being unfairly criminalized.

**For these reasons, JOTF supports House Bill 110 and urges a favorable report.**

**For more information, contact:**

Kam Bridges / Public Policy Advocate / [Kam@jotf.org](mailto:Kam@jotf.org)

# **HB110 - Child Support - Driver's LicensesDel Simps**

Uploaded by: Karen Simpson

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Favorable: HB 110 – Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses**

Hearing on 2/20/2025 at 1:00pm

Honorable Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and treasured Fellow Members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for your commitment to a child support system that works for the children it is intended to support.

The goal of HB 110 – Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses is to ensure that our driver’s license suspension tool is only used when appropriate and necessary to serve the best interest of the child. Specifically, in compliance with [Federal Code 42 U.S.C.A. § 666 \(a16\)](#), driver’s license suspension is appropriate when the obligor has the funds to pay the arrearage but is making a free and conscious choice to withhold payment or is voluntarily impoverished.

This bill was introduced in 2024 to address the significant number of licenses suspended in error that led to the loss of jobs, income, car insurance, missed work, and negative impact of a child’s welfare. (See below)

In Summary, HB110 improves program effectiveness in the following:

**Due Process:** HB110 will improve our system by ensuring due process- the right to notification, including electronic notification, and the right to a hearing before their protected right to drive is impaired. Maryland’s Courts have indicated that this bill is consistent with the role and the court and can be implemented within the existing resources.

Due process increases collections by making sure the obligor is aware of the possible consequence and is given the opportunity to pay before their license is suspended. While HB110 requires court approval for suspension, it does not require court approval for reinstatement.

**Raises Delinquency Threshold:** HB110 extends the arrears period from 60 to 120 days to give Maryland time to utilize other more effective collection tools in our toolbox, such as wage garnishment and income interception.

**Reduce Incarceration:** HB110 intends to reduce the strain on the courts, and our community of individuals incarcerated for driving on a suspended license. Adding due process will verify obligors are notified of their obligation, provided the opportunity to pay their obligation, and informed by the courts before their license is suspended due to failure to pay support.

**Federal Funding:** Federal law requires states to have a license suspension program, and no state has lost funding for making changes to their program. HB110 improves our driver’s license suspension program.

In conclusion, I respectfully request a favorable report for HB 110 – Child Support – Driver’s Licenses to reduce erroneous driver’s license suspension and keep the best interests of Maryland’s children at heart. Thank you for your time and consideration in improving our Child Support Enforcement Administration and supporting our youth.

Data from Kevin Knight, MDOT Deputy Director, Office of Legislative Service & Policy Development

There were approximately 7,000 erroneous suspensions in CY2022 that were resolved electronically with another 937 requiring manual processing, however.

The requested county information for CY2023 is available below (as noted in our call last week, the methods for counting may result in slightly different totals than the statewide numbers previously provided):

**Child Support Unique Customer Counts by County  
Calendar Year 2023**

County	Distinct Count
ALLEGANY	248
ANNE ARUNDEL	1407
BALTIMORE	2589
BALTIMORE CITY	4393
CALVERT	201
CAROLINE	138
CARROLL	303
CECIL	292
CHARLES	588
DORCHESTER	224
FREDERICK	516
GARRETT	87
HARFORD	550
HOWARD	331
KENT	67
MONTGOMERY	1087
No County/NULL	178
PRINCE GEORGE'S	3154
QUEEN ANNE'S	98
SOMERSET	138
ST. MARY'S	422
TALBOT	92
WASHINGTON	841
WICOMICO	450
WORCESTER	145

Note: Count of Customers are distinct to County.



# **Testimony in Support of HB1110\_Blaha\_SURJ.pdf**

Uploaded by: Katherine Blaha

Position: FAV

Tuesday, February 18, 2025



## Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear **Members of the Ways and Means 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 HB1110 - Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration.**

Because persons serving jail sentences for felony convictions are prohibited from voting, the current law requires that the courts provide lists of convicted persons to the Board of Elections, who must then strike those individuals from the voter rolls. While the process of un-registering these voters is thereby made automatic, there is no comparable automatic process for re-registering people who are being released from prison and becoming eligible to vote again. Instead, released people must take affirmative steps to re-register, a requirement that can get lost in the overwhelming tasks required of a person re-entering society after incarceration.

While finding a job, a place to live, and a new sense of stability may be the returning citizen's first priorities, re-establishing their ability to vote should be one of the first priorities of the society they are returning to. The more people who vote, the stronger our democracy is.

HB1110 would simply establish a process that reverses the process by which convicted persons are removed from the voter rolls. The bill requires that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services provide regular lists of released persons to the Board of Elections, and that the Board of Elections then re-register persons on the list who were previously registered before their incarceration. This would make the process of adding

returning citizens back to the voter rolls as automatic as the process of taking incarcerated citizens off the rolls. This is more equitable than the current system and demonstrates an appropriate prioritization of citizens' right to vote.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB1110 - Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Katherine Blaha  
5706 Cross Country Blvd  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_KhimauniSelden.docx (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Khimauni Selden

Position: FAV



**OUT FOR JUSTICE**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110**

**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 106/ House Bill 110.

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.

Under House Bill 110, these harmful consequences can be mitigated. I urge this committee to pass this bill to create a fairer and more just system for fathers like myself. For this reason, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110.

Sincerely,

Khimauni Selden

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper

Position: FAV

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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> 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

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

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



**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_LH.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lindsey Hensley

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110**

**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 106/ HOUSE BILL 110 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 110 will at least aid my brother-in-law with all this chaos. I urge a favorable report on SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110.

**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_MarkusRobinson.docx (3).pdf**

Uploaded by: Marcus Robinson

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110:**

**Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

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

FROM: **Markus V. Robinson**

I support Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 110, which would ensure that driver's license suspensions for inability to pay child support are used only in appropriate cases.

I have lived in Maryland, specifically Prince George's County, since 2000. I have been a non-custodial parent in the child support enforcement process since approximately 2015. Since then, I have had several experiences with child support determination and subsequent enforcement that do not provide equity or fairness to the non-custodial parent.

Making all the changes needed to achieve parental equity in child support in Maryland is indeed a large and complex task, but one that is not impossible. It reminds me of the old joke, "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer is "one bite at a time." Senate Bill 106/House Bill 110 is one of those bites.

With the strongest urging possible, I say this effort must pass and be enacted by the state legislature. Vehicle transportation is a pillar in the lives of so many parents; to strip it away by suspending the ability to drive back and forth to employment that allows them to comply with court-ordered support without a judicial review of the circumstances is counterproductive to the desired outcome.

Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 will ensure that before the Child Support Enforcement Administration notifies the MVA of an obligor in arrears, a circuit court hearing needs to be established to determine if the suspension is appropriate. It is not wise to remove transportation access for people who may or may not owe money as it prevents them from paying. This is a rational approach to ensuring that the state is not needlessly endangering the well-being of families by limiting the obligor's access to employment and quality time with their child. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report.

# **HB 110 - Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Li**

Uploaded by: Mark Woodard

Position: FAV

# JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

*Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes*

## Testimony for House Bill 110

### Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses

TO: Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Job Opportunities Task Force

DATE: February 20, 2025

POSITION: Support

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops and advocates policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-wage workers and job seekers in Maryland. **JOTF supports House Bill 110.**

Many jobs for those living in Baltimore city are in surrounding counties and consequently to get to these jobs, a car and a driver's license is required. If a person does not have a car or a driver’s license they cannot get to their job, and without their job they have no income, and without their income they cannot pay their child support. Thus taking a low income person's driver license away is harmful to the obligor, the custodial parent and the child. More than 20,000 obligors had their driver’s license suspended in FY 23, harming them and their families pursuant to existing law. It also harmed their employers, the state’s economy, and the state’s tax base. It is counterproductive.

A Report from the Abell Foundation ([see here](#)) discusses in detail how suspending the driver's license of a low income individual hurts the obligor, the child and the family.

House Bill 110 is another approach to address the punitive and counterproductive current law and practice. It provides due process and a hearing before a court prior to suspending an obligor's driver's license. It places the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence on the Department. If the obligor establishes any one of several grounds by preponderance of the evidence, the court may not suspend the obligor's driver's license. One of those grounds is that it would harm the obligor's current or potential employment. As House Bill 110 does not have an income limitation, it may affect even more obligors. Consequently, JOTF thinks that HB 110 and HB 681 are complementary approaches to a successful child support policy that keeps obligors driving so they can continue working and paying their child support.

**For these reasons, JOTF supports House Bill 110 and urges a favorable report.**

**For more information, contact:**

Mark Woodard / Public Policy Advocate / [Mark@jotf.org](mailto:Mark@jotf.org)

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Melissa Badeker

Position: FAV

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 8. 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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.<sup>1</sup>

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work<sup>2</sup>. Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup>

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone’s license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,

Melissa Badeker  
3020 Linwood Avenue, Parkville MD 21234  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

1

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

2

JOTF fact sheet

3

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



**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_MichaelRoss.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Ross

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110:**

**Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

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

FROM: Michael Ross

DATE: February 20th, 2025

**My name is Michael Ross.** I am a resident of **District 46** in Baltimore and support(s) SENATE BILL 106 / HOUSE BILL 110 to ensure Due Process before a driver's license is taken.

In 2009, my daughter was born to me and my then-girlfriend. We stuck it out together to raise our child until 2012, when it was discovered that she had severe mental health issues. Life happens to us all, but where it became painful was that she refused to let me see my daughter even though there was no hearing for custody. She placed me on child support for the sole purpose of securing state assistance which would have been fine if she had informed me of her plan and not led to garnishments in my wages. My license was suspended immediately since I was unaware of the payments, and my wages were garnished. Again, there was no court order or hearing that I was informed of, but before I knew it, I was driving illegally. In 2015, CPS picked up my daughter from her mother, stating that her mental state continued to deteriorate. At this point, I decided enough was enough and fought in court to receive custody of my daughter, which I achieved in October 2015.

I thought that would end the drama, but it did not. My wages continued to be garnished, and my license stayed suspended despite my having full custody of my daughter. My wages and taxes were intercepted through 2019, again, despite having full custody of my daughter. For years, I spoke with the child support administration to sort out my case - showing them that I have full custody of my daughter, but the suspension was never lifted. This put me in danger whenever I stepped outside to take her to the doctor, school, or even to visit her mother since it is illegal to drive on a suspended license.

In 2019, Maryland Legal Aid sorted out my situation and fought the Child Support Administration to lift my license suspension and receive the intercepted taxes. Stacy Bensky of Legal Aid has helped me secure \$4360 in tax intercepts and 4-5 backed child support payments, and we are still fighting for the rest. Child Support has been brutal - but my biggest concern was the loss of my license and wages. I'm currently a facilities manager at a high-rise building in Baltimore, but we travel often. I can't continue to risk losing



access to my license. If I can't drive, then I can't work; if I can't work, NO ONE will take care of my daughter.

SENATE BILL 106 / HOUSE BILL 110 helps parents like me protect our access to employment from what can be a needlessly predatory system (the child support system). These bills allow the courts to properly examine if a suspension is justified for the individual parent and the individual family. I urge a favorable report on SENATE BILL 106 / HOUSE BILL 110 for these reasons and more.

**2025 02 18, HB 110\_FLSC\_Fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michelle Smith

Position: FAV

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**To:** Members of The House Judiciary Committee

**From:** Family Law Section Council (FLSC)

**Date:** January 18, 2025

**Subject:** House Bill 110:  
Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses

**Position:** FAVORABLE

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The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) FLSC **supports House Bill 110.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family Law Section Council (“FLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FLSC is the formal representative of the Family Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,100 attorney members.

Maryland Code, Family Law Article § 10-119 allows for the Maryland Child Support Enforcement Agency (“the Agency”) to suspend driver’s licenses if an obligor has been out of compliance with their child support order for more than 60 days. Driver’s license suspension is an enforcement tool that carries enormous collateral consequences, such as the inability to go to work or participate in a child’s life. While Federal law requires states to have procedures for suspending driver’s licenses when there has been noncompliance with a child support order, it also cautions that this tool should be used only in “appropriate cases.” 42 U.S.C. § 666(a)(16). Indeed, Maryland law itself states that license suspension may not be appropriate in cases where it would be an impediment to current or future employment, or where the obligor is disabled. *See* Md. Code Fam. Law § 10-119(c).

However, under the Agency’s current procedures for referring noncompliant child support obligors to the Motor Vehicle Administration (“MVA”) for driver’s license suspension, there is no way to identify and separate the cases where driver’s license suspension would be appropriate from those in which suspension would be inappropriate. Currently, the Agency uses an automated

system to transmit a random selection of noncompliant obligors to the MVA for license suspension each month. Under this automated system, the Agency lacks the ability to sift through all of the cases in which payment has not been made in 60 days to determine which cases involve circumstances where it would be appropriate to suspend the obligor's license.<sup>1</sup>

As a result, driver's license suspension has been used imprecisely and ineffectively as an enforcement mechanism. In a number of cases, the Agency has erroneously suspended the licenses of individuals who are disabled, those who require driver's licenses for work, and those who are actively making payments to catch up with delinquent orders. Furthermore, because the Agency uses an automated system that does not allow for the selective referral of cases for license suspension, custodial parents are unable to seek help from the Agency in deploying this enforcement tool in specific cases where suspension *would* be appropriate.

House Bill 110 revamps the Agency's procedures for referring delinquent child support cases for license suspension. It prohibits the Agency's use of an automated lottery system to decide which cases to refer to the MVA each month, instead creating a judicial process whereby the Agency would have to petition the court for approval to suspend an obligor's driver's license in appropriate cases. This bill also explicitly lists specific circumstances in which it would be inappropriate to seek license suspension, such as when the obligor now has custody of the minor child, is disabled, or requires the use of a car for employment. This new system would allow far more control, caution, and deliberation when using driver's license suspension as an enforcement tool, ensuring that this remedy is only sought in cases where it would be appropriate and effective.

For the reason(s) stated above, the MSBA FLSC **supports House Bill 110 and urges a favorable committee report.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Smith at 410-280-1700 or [msmith@lawannapolis.com](mailto:msmith@lawannapolis.com).

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<sup>1</sup> The Agency has acknowledged that it uses an "automated system" that is unable to "identify [cases in] which parents may be at or below the federal poverty level." [Letter of Concern: SB 844, Maryland Department of Human Services, March 10, 2022](#). The Agency currently does not conduct a "manual review of every child support case in the CSA caseload" before deciding which cases should be referred to the MVA for license suspension. *Id.*

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Shillenn

Position: FAV

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 45**. 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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work. Public transit is not a given 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.

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone's license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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,  
**Rebecca Shillenn**  
**5401 Elsrode Avenue Baltimore MD**  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



# **Testimony in support of HB0110 - Child Support - S**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

HB0110\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/20/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0110 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

**TO:** Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#/0110, **Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

This bill will fix a logical fallacy in how we treat individuals in Maryland who have been adjudicated as owing the payment of child support. It is illogical that Maryland then removes that individual's ability to transport themselves to a job to earn the monies needed to satisfy that judgement.

This bill works to correct this paradox by altering provisions of law relating to the authority of the Child Support Enforcement Administration to notify the Motor Vehicle Administration of an individual's child support arrearages for the purpose of suspending the individual's driver's license or privilege to drive under certain circumstances. It will say that Maryland knows you need a car in many cases to travel to a job at which you earn the money to make those payments. Maryland will facilitate an individual's ability to satisfy Child Support obligations instead of the current policy of placing roadblocks in the path of making the payments.

This bill is a proactive approach to solving a logical problem in how people owing money are negatively impacted in their efforts to earn the money to pay what is owed.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0110.**

# **SC FFJC Testimony In Support of MD SB 15\_HB681, SB**

Uploaded by: Sarah Couture

Position: FAV

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF**

**MARYLAND SB 15/HB 681 (Driver's Licenses - Suspension for Child Support  
Arrearages and Court Orders)**

**&**

**MARYLAND SB 106 / HB 110 (Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses)**

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

**FROM:** Sarah Couture, Regional Director, Fines and Fees Justice Center

**DATE:** February 18, 2025

Dear Members of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

**We write in support of Senate Bill 15/House Bill 681 and Senate Bill 106 / House Bill 110.** These bills would make meaningful reforms to reduce the use of driver's license suspensions as a means of punishment and enforcement for unpaid child support in Maryland. This would protect low-income Marylanders from becoming trapped in a cycle of debt and would also remove counterproductive barriers to employment.

The Fines and Fees Justice Center is a national hub for information, advocacy, and collaboration for the reform of fines and fees, including eliminating the onerous collateral consequences that result from nonpayment of fines and fees debt — like driver's license suspensions. Not having a valid driver's license makes life nearly impossible for most people in Maryland, preventing them from going to work, getting a new job, taking their child to school or childcare, and going to medical appointments. Because most people require a car to access the most basic necessities, they have no choice but to continue driving. When they do, they risk additional fines and fees, as well as arrest and jail time for driving with an invalid license.

To accelerate reform nationwide to end debt-based driver's license suspensions, FFJC along with more than 130 ideologically diverse joined forces in 2019 to launch the Free to Drive Campaign.<sup>1</sup> This national campaign brings together policy advocates, research organizations, and businesses committed to the principle that restrictions on driving privileges should only be used for dangerous driving — not to coerce debt payment or to punish people who miss a court appearance.

**The same is true in Maryland as is true across the country: debt-based suspensions harm Black, Brown and low-income communities at disproportionate rates.** In Maryland, Black people are

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, visit [www.freetodrive.org](http://www.freetodrive.org).

nearly five times more likely to have their license suspended than white people.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, these racial disparities have worsened, rather than improved, over a period of five years analyzed.<sup>3</sup>

The Maryland legislature has already recognized the significant harms and inequities associated with debt-based suspensions with the passage of SB 234 in 2020, which ended certain suspensions for nonpayment of fines and fees in Maryland. **The same principles, evidence, and values that led the Maryland legislature to end one form of debt-based driver's license suspension with the passage of SB 234 apply in the context of unpaid child support, as well.**

While federal law prevents any state from completely eliminating license suspensions in the child support context, the law is clear that the state may only impose those suspensions in "appropriate cases."<sup>4</sup> The legislation being considered would limit debt-based suspensions for child support and prevent them from being imposed inappropriately on people whose noncompliance is due to a lack of financial resources, not willfulness. Specifically, SB 15/HB 681 would ensure that people who are low income do not have their licenses suspended for nonpayment of child support by prohibiting the suspension of licenses for those with an income less than 250% of the federal poverty level or \$38,000 annually. SB 106/HB 110 would require a hearing before suspension and prevent suspension in inappropriate circumstances, such as when the person owing child support has a disability or is unable to pay.

**Finally, there is no evidence that supports driver's license suspension as an effective method to collect debts, whether that debt is unpaid fines and fees or unpaid child support.** In fact, debt-based driver's license restrictions make it more difficult to pay one's fines and fees by reducing access to employment. Studies examining the impact on collection have found no significant difference in collection rates as a result of license suspensions and restrictions. In Texas, one study found that municipal courts that did *not* use driver's license restrictions as a collection tool collected \$45 *more* per case, on average, than courts that did use them.<sup>5</sup> In another study comparing data from the years Tennessee did suspend licenses for unpaid fines and fees with the years that Tennessee did not do so, researchers found no statistically significant difference in collection rates during the time periods despite the change in practice.<sup>6</sup>

**Senate Bill 15/ House Bill 681 and Senate Bill 106 / House Bill 110 would advance fairness and equity, as well as remove barriers to work for people who lack the financial resources to resolve their child support debt.** We urge the Committee to support these two important pieces of legislation.

*Sarah Couture*

Sarah Couture  
Regional Director  
Fines and Fees Justice Center  
[scouture@finesandfeesjusticecenter.org](mailto:scouture@finesandfeesjusticecenter.org)

finesandfeesjusticecenter.org | info@ffjc.us | Fines and Fees Justice Center

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<sup>2</sup> Testimony of Univ. of Baltimore School of Law Legal Data and Design Clinic in Support of Maryland HB 580 (2020), *available at* <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1931YyasJqJz1E3L1XUMEALgRfDsPsaGU/view?usp=sharing>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> 42 U.S.C.A. § 666(a)(16).

<sup>5</sup> Texas Fair Defense Project & Texas Appleseed, *Driven by Debt: The Failure of the OmniBase Program* (Aug. 2021), *available at* <https://www.texasappleseed.org/sites/default/files/OmniBaseRevenueReport-Aug11-Final.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> ThinkTennessee, *Reducing the Harms of Court Debt: Driver's License Revocations are an Ineffective Policy for Increasing Court Collections* (Nov. 2022), *available at* <https://www.thinktennessee.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/drivers-license-revocation-report.pdf>.

# Written Testimony - HB 110.pdf

Uploaded by: Shanta Trivedi

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110:**

**Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

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

FROM: **The Sayra & Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts**

Shanta Trivedi serves as the Faculty Director and Aubrey Edwards-Luce is the Executive Director of the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children, and the Courts (CFCC) at the University of Baltimore School of Law. CFCC envisions communities where children and families thrive without unnecessary involvement in the legal system. We engage communities as we work tirelessly to transform systems that create barriers to family well-being. CFCC supports Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 to ensure that driver's license suspensions for inability to pay child support are used in appropriate cases.

Mobility is key in Maryland's regional economy. The Census Bureau reported that almost [40% of Marylanders travel outside their county for employment](#). This statistic is more pronounced for lower-income communities of color where there is a scarcity of jobs available by public transit. [Only 8.5% of jobs in the Baltimore region can be reached within one hour, one way by public transit](#). Thus, a valid driver's license and a vehicle are necessary for economic sustainability.

[Maryland Code Ann., Fam. Law § 10-119](#) states that upon 60 days of nonpayment of child support, an obligor shall have their license or privilege to drive suspended, regardless of their circumstances or ability to pay. The suspension mechanism is automated through the Child Support Enforcement Agency, and **no** determination is made as to whether or not a suspension would be appropriate. Many people are disabled, *not* in arrears, or with primary custody of their children, having their licenses suspended.

Senate Bill 106/ House Bill 110 will resolve this by ensuring that before the Child Support Enforcement Administration notifies the MVA of an obligor in arrears, a circuit court hearing needs to be established to determine if the suspension is appropriate. It is not wise to remove transportation access for people who may or may not owe money as it prevents them from paying. This is a rational approach to ensuring that the state is not needlessly endangering the well-being of families by limiting the obligor's access to employment and quality time with their child. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

# **HB0110 - Child support- drivers license suspension**

Uploaded by: Stephanie Dolamore

Position: FAV



February 20, 2025

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. We are residents of District 43A. We are 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 many exemptions provided in the law. Taking away a driver’s license does not resolve missed payments. 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.<sup>1</sup>

A license allows parents to get to work, see their children, and pay child support. More than half of Marylanders travel outside their county to get to work.<sup>2</sup> Public transit is not a given 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.<sup>3</sup> **In our family, one parent has always had a job that requires travel outside of the City often with a commute of over an hour by car. We could not support our family without a license.**

The new approach offered in HB0110 requires that before someone's license is suspended for failure to pay child support, they must be notified and have the opportunity to request a hearing before a judge. It also is in compliance with the requirements of federal law (42 USC 666(a)) which requires that states have the authority to suspend licenses "in appropriate cases". The current automatic suspension system is neither required or "appropriate" -- It is harmful and counterproductive.

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

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Matthew & Stephanie Dolamore  
3718 Yolando Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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

<sup>2</sup> JOTF fact sheet

<sup>3</sup> <https://cmtalliance.org/download/2023-transportation-report-card/>

**SB0106\_HB0110\_FAV\_TrinaSelden.pdf**

Uploaded by: Trina Selden

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 106/ HOUSE BILL 110:**

**Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**

TO: Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Trina Selden

DATE: February 20th, 2025

I am Trina Selden, founder and executive director of Out for Justice. Usually, I leave it to my team to testify on legislation impacting our members. Still, I wanted to testify as a mother and grandmother to talk about the impact that the child support system has had on my family.

My son and I have been threatened repeatedly by the mother of his child, who has weaponized the child support system to increase his monthly payments, keep him away from his daughter, and take away his driver's license - which he needs to work. The Child Support Administration has been less than helpful in helping our family increase our visitation rights and protect his ability to work. This bill will at least allow him to have a fair hearing regarding his Driver's License so that he may continue to work and support my granddaughter.

Relationships can be messy and complicated. Most of us have experienced this at some point in our lives. However, losing one's Driver's License, having one's wages garnished, and increased threats of incarceration, which are tools that child support uses, are not effective methods of dealing with breakups or ensuring that children are provided for. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have on this bill or child support enforcement's impact on families. I urge a favorable report.

# **HB0110 - LOI - Child Support - Suspension of Drive**

Uploaded by: Matt Mickler

Position: INFO

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
101 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 110 – Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses***

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 110 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 110 would alter the requirements for notifying and the conditions by which the Child Support Administration (CSA) is permitted to require that the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) suspend an Obligor's driving privilege with the MVA. The CSA suspends the driving privileges of an Obligor who is 60 or 120 days or more out of compliance, depending on the type of license held. The proposed legislation would require the standard to be 120 days or more for all types of licenses held.

Currently, when the CSA refers an Obligor to the MVA for driving privilege suspension, the MVA mails a Notice of Suspension to the customer that provides information related to their child support case, contact information for their local child support agency, the date that the suspension will take effect, and notifies the customer that a hearing can be requested within 15 days of the notice only if the identified obliger believes it to be a case of mistaken identity. MVA also sends a courtesy email (if an email is on file with MVA) notifying the Obligor that the notice can be accessed via their secure myMVA online account.

HB 110 would not materially alter the current MVA process for providing notification of child support suspensions.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 110.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer  
Administrator  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090

**HB0110\_INFO\_DHS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel Sledge Government Affairs

Position: INFO



**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

*Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary*

February 20, 2025

The Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building, Room 100  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB0110 - CHILD SUPPORT - SUSPENSION OF DRIVER'S LICENSES - POSITION: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide a letter of information regarding House Bill 110 (HB 110). The proposed bill would transfer to the Circuit Courts the authority for referring a noncustodial parent who is out of compliance with their child support order to the Driver's License Suspension (DLS) program. We met with Senator Muse to discuss the Child Support Driver's License Suspension program after the January 14, 2025 bill hearing on our Department's House Bill 218 (HB 218).

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS empowers Marylanders to reach their full potential by providing preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities. Our Child Support Administration (CSA) implements the child support program affected by HB 110. This legislation impacts the Drivers License Suspension program, a tool leveraged to increase engagement with non-custodial parents who have arrears and are unable to pay. We believe the concerns regarding due process and the referral of parents to the driver's license suspension program are best addressed by HB 218. We are working with both Senator Muse and Senator Watson to develop additional amendments to HB 218 to strengthen and clarify the bill's efforts to modernize child support in Maryland and support parents and their children.

We do not believe the courts are the best government agency to determine whether referral to the Driver's License Suspension program is appropriate for child support cases in arrears. Courts are currently backlogged and burdened with heavy child support dockets as evidenced by the frequency with which child support orders are issued with child support payment amounts backdated months from the date of the order (in accordance with [Family Law §12-101](#)).

Because of docket backlogs, many noncustodial parents are in arrears the day the child support order is issued. Long back-dated orders cause even more debt burden for parents who are unable to pay. Delays would only increase with legal motions to compel or subpoenas to produce financial information necessary to determine if they are able to pay. Moreover, if a parent fails to appear for a court hearing, a warrant could be issued further burdening Sheriff's offices with more service requests and risking parent incarceration.

While HB 110 might appear to provide additional due process, it would do so at the expense of delaying the process and would certainly apply the court's more punitive tools for compelling compliance with judicial processes. In addition, the court's predictable delays risk driving non-custodial parents further into arrears at the very moment when a parent's proactive engagement with the Child Support Administration can make an enormous difference. Finally, removing authority from CSA impedes parental access to employment and supportive services that can help parents struggling to make ends meet connect to employment opportunities so that they can, in fact, provide support for their children.

Critically, House Bill 110 relies on the parent's ability to pay the arrears balance. The ability to pay down arrearages would be a new requirement on parents. Currently, CSA considers a parent's ability to make the court ordered payments. Consistent payment of the court ordered amount is all that is required to avoid collection actions.

We agree it is critical to distinguish between parents who cannot pay child support and parents who will not pay. We agree that parents experiencing poverty should not be penalized with driver's license suspension. However, we are deeply concerned that full judicial proceedings would delay resolution, increase arrearages, and imperil parents already struggling. Critically, a judicial end-run around administrative process also impedes parental engagement with employment development, supportive services, and arrearage forgiveness programs provided through our department.

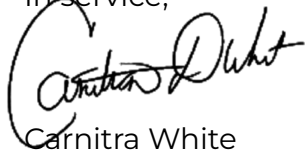
We appreciate the opportunity to offer informational testimony to the Committee as you consider how best to modernize child support in Maryland. Our bill, HB 218, requires more equitable implementation of the Driver's License Suspension program, encourages parental engagement so CSA information is up to date, and



maintains parental opportunities for receiving help. When child support orders are equitable and parents have help when they need it, parents can avoid arrearages and collection actions while improving payment consistency and reliability.

We believe our Departmental bill, HB 218, would effectuate our shared policy objectives, ensure we remain compliant with federal statutory and regulatory requirements, and better serve Maryland's children, parents, and families. If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at [rachel.sledge@maryland.gov](mailto:rachel.sledge@maryland.gov).

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carnitra White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Carnitra White  
Principal Deputy Secretary

**hb110.pdf**

Uploaded by: Will Vormelker

Position: INFO

HON. STACY A. MAYER  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
FREDERICK COUNTY  
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR  
ASSISTANT STATE COURT  
ADMINISTRATOR  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.  
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
P: (410)260-1523

## MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** House Judiciary Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 110  
Child Support – Suspension of Driver's Licenses  
**DATE:** January 15, 2025  
(2/20)  
**INFORMATIONAL COMMENT PAPER**

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The Judiciary respects the separation of powers doctrine and acknowledges that the legislature is the policy-making branch. As such, the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation and defers to the legislative branch on such matters.

The Judiciary writes only to provide information, if useful for the Committee's consideration. A significant number of individuals at risk of losing their license for nonpayment of child support are people who need that license in order to work the job that will permit payment of that child support order.

Removing the Office of Administrative Hearings as the entity that determines whether a license may be suspended and instead requiring the court to make that determination is consistent with the role of the court in determining other aspects of a child support matter – support amount, modification, contempt, etc. The Judiciary anticipates that these cases

will come to court as part of a contempt action that is otherwise already filed against the obligor.

cc. Hon. Karen Simpson  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor