

Testimony in Support of HB1490
Hearing in the House Appropriations Committee
March 11, 2026

My name is Salieta Glenn. I'm a Baltimore City resident. I'm currently applying for TCA and I've received it in the past. I've received TCA on and off over the past few years.

TCA helps me meet my kids' needs. It helps us get to appointments, helps me get medicine for my daughter, it keeps the lights on, it helps me buy their school uniforms. Bills come out at the end of the month and this support is very important for not accumulating late fees. I get food stamps, but that usually runs out before my next payment comes. TCA helps bridge that gap so I don't run out of food. We try to eat healthy, and my daughter needs nutritional supplements and formulas. It's expensive, and TCA helps cover it.

When I applied for TCA, it was a difficult process. When you're applying, social services will find any reason to hold your application up. Each department has their own rules and regulations and they don't talk to each other.

Social services never told me there were good cause exemptions for things like applying for child support or work activity. They didn't offer the flexibility they were supposed to because I was living in a shelter. They made me go to the work activity even when I didn't have anyone to watch my daughter. If social services were more transparent, the process would be very different. I know I qualify for this help, but they make it such a challenging process. The wording is confusing and you have to do so much and come to many appointments in order to apply. I'm grateful I had an advocate in my corner to help me understand the process.

In the past, they sent me to an office in Towson to apply for child support. I lived in Towson, so I knew where to go, but this time I had to apply in Baltimore and I wasn't familiar with the city or where to go. I had to go to Mondawmin to the child support office to get the paperwork I needed- I didn't even know there was a child support office there. When I got to the office at Mondawmin, I had to deal with rude and unprofessional workers at the counter. I finished my application, and they made me fill out a second application for the other parent. They had the wrong information even though they had my application on paper and on the computer. I don't have the information they needed from the other parent, I've never had it, but they wouldn't process the application without his info. They wanted me to go on the Maryland Case Search to find his information. I was finally able to

get an employee who was willing to help me, and I was incredibly grateful. My case has finally moved forward, but I should not have had to go through such a struggle.

Please vote for this bill. There are a lot of people depending on social services. We might not want to be dependent, but we're mothers and we have to take care of our children. This is our only option. If there's help out there, we need to know about it! This bill will make it easier to apply and help people not feel so intimidated by the process. Good cause exemptions are important. Case managers need to be more transparent with recipients, they need to better understand our situation and give us the help and flexibility we need. We're not just a number or a case ID. The money people get from TCA helps them go to school so they can earn an income and not be dependent on services. It helps provide a better life for our children.

Please vote for HB 1490 and help make this program better for everyone. It could be someone in your family that needs this assistance. We're all just one crisis away from ending up in this situation. Please help our children get the help they need to have a better future. Thank you.