

HB 289 – FAVORABLE

Topic: Video Lottery Facility Payouts – Intercepts for Restitution, Child Support, and State Debt

The McDonald Mandate: Prioritizing Families and Victims

To the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

My name is **Ms. McDonald**. I am a candidate for Delegate in District 45. I am here to testify as **FAVORABLE** on HB 289. This bill is about simple accountability: putting children and victims at the front of the line.

1. Families Come First

HB 289 establishes a clear priority for intercepting casino winnings, and I support that **Child Support is the number one priority**. In District 45, we have too many households struggling because they aren't receiving the support they are owed. If an individual has the disposable income to gamble at a video lottery facility, they have the income to meet their obligations to their children. This bill ensures that "windfall" money goes where it is needed most—to the families.

2. Restitution is a Debt of Justice

By including **Restitution** as the second priority, this bill honors the victims of crimes. Justice isn't just about a court date; it's about making the victim whole. If someone wins a jackpot while they still owe restitution for the harm they caused, that money belongs to the victim, not the winner.

3. Efficient Accountability

The State is often "slick" at collecting taxes, but we need that same efficiency when it comes to Child Support and Restitution. I support the **Child Support Administration** and the **Central Collection Unit** having the tools to certify these debts and intercept these payouts immediately. We need a system where responsibility is not optional.

THE CONTRAST: WHAT THE CITIZENS GET VS. WHAT THE STATE MUST DO

WHAT THE CITIZENS GET (The Benefits of HB 289):

- **Direct Payments:** Arrears for Child Support paid directly to the custodial parent.
- **Victim Restitution:** Criminal restitution paid to victims from gambling windfalls.
- **Debt Resolution:** A clear path to settle state debts through non-essential income.

WHAT THE STATE MUST STILL DO (The McDonald Mandate):

- **Hold Vendors Accountable:** Use this same "intercept" energy to stop payouts to failing state vendors who are stripping services from the disabled (**SB 742**).
- **Protect the Assets:** Stop the "Fire Sale" of properties like **2100 Guilford Avenue**. If we are holding citizens accountable for their debts, we must hold the State accountable for its stewardship of our land.
- **Rainy Day Transparency:** Use the **\$2.2 Billion Rainy Day Fund** to restore the services that were cut, while we use bills like HB 289 to ensure personal responsibility.

Conclusion

I urge a **FAVORABLE** report. Let's make sure that before a single dollar of a jackpot is spent, the children and the victims are paid first. Let's bring real accountability to Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. McDonald

Candidate for Delegate, District 45

By Authority of: Nichole McDonald for District 45, Lonetta Mason, Treasurer