

Testimony in Support of HB1490

Hearing in the Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2026

My name is Arieonna Jefferson and I currently receive TCA. I live in Baltimore City. I've been receiving TCA for a few months now. It helps me get clothes and groceries, and I rely on it to pay for my utilities.

I was denied 3 times when I applied for TCA. I had to pursue child support to get TCA. As soon as you leave, they give you the paperwork to go apply. I was never told about any good cause exemption. My baby's father isn't in her life. The process to get approved is difficult- it's a long process, you have to make many calls. This is what led to my denials. It was a huge waste of time. I applied in Spring and it wasn't until September that I got approved- it took about 8 months to get through the application process. I was struggling to put food on the table- they cut my food stamps at the same time.

This process should be more transparent. People need to know about these exemptions and the process shouldn't take so long! We need this support to feed and clothe our children. They take forever, they lie to customers about requirements, and they're cutting people off without a good reason. My food stamps are getting cut and I don't receive enough to feed myself and my daughter. You can go through all this work to get your benefits and they'll still cut you off. I'm trying to care for my 5 year old, it's a lot to make ends meet. I'm spending cash throughout the month while I'm waiting for my benefits check.

Please vote for HB1490 and help make this difficult process a little easier.