

Good afternoon Senators, my name is Chris Seymore, I am a resident of District 43A and I am here to ask you to support Senate Bill 16.

I want to be clear about something that matters deeply to me: I want to support my children. That has never been in question. I love them, I care about their future, and I believe providing for them is part of my purpose as a father. At the same time, I am struggling under a system that has become overwhelming to the point where it is affecting my ability to live, function, and move forward in a healthy way. Right now, the financial burden of wage garnishments leaves me constantly behind, anxious, and feeling trapped. I am working, I am trying, but the pressure is so heavy that it feels like no matter how hard I push, I cannot catch my breath. I am not asking to walk away from my responsibilities—I am asking for a realistic path that allows me to support my children without being crushed in the process.

5 years ago I was badly injured in a workplace accident and overprescribed pain killers. Years of struggling with the consequences of addiction has led me to be more than 50k in child support arrears. After my second successful attempt at rehab and completing a workforce development program, I am finally working in a conventional 9 to 5 job. I earn \$19.50 an hour as a bank teller. A 65% garnishment rate would mean I'm left with \$5.45 an hour (about \$750 per month) to pay rent, buy groceries, and pay for transportation to and from work.

Lucky for me, I am able to live with my mom right now so I can barely scrape by. If she ever changes her mind, I'm afraid I'll be forced to decide between keeping my job that's allowing me to pay child support regularly for the first time in years, or working under the table and paying when I can. Supporting my children should not mean losing myself entirely. I am asking for understanding, fairness, and the opportunity to move forward in a way that benefits everyone involved—especially my kids. Please vote yes on SB 16.

Thank you.