

Dear Senator Smith and the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Demetrious Jones, a resident of District 40. I am asking you to support SB 16.

This bill matters to me because it would allow non-custodial parents an opportunity to maintain the basic necessities of life while paying child support. With a 25% cap on garnishment, low-income obligors could pay their rent, keep their utilities on, buy groceries, and afford transportation to and from work. Right now, when the system takes 50-65% of their paychecks, they are forced to choose between these basic needs and staying employed.

Putting a 25% cap on support garnishment would actually encourage non-custodial parents to maintain their child support payments. When people can afford to survive, they stay in their jobs and pay consistently. When the garnishment is so high that they face homelessness or hunger, many feel forced to leave their jobs or find work that pays under the table just to meet their basic needs.

Senate Bill 16 would discourage non-custodial parents from leaving formal employment for lower-paying jobs or under-the-table work. It would allow them the opportunity to be financially consistent in their children's lives. Consistency is what children need most—not just one large payment followed by months of nothing because their parent lost their job.

Low-income obligors want to support their children through formal employment where payments are regular and reliable. This bill would make that possible.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 16. It will help non-custodial parents stay employed, stay housed, and stay consistent in supporting their children.

Please vote yes.