



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett
Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Bartlett and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 142 - Child Support - Earnings Withholding Limits. This legislation promotes economic stability for working parents, strengthens family well-being, and improves the effectiveness of Maryland's child support system by ensuring that earnings withholding practices remain fair, realistic, and sustainable.

House Bill 142 addresses a critical issue facing many noncustodial parents: excessive earnings withholdings that undermine their ability to meet basic needs, maintain employment, and remain financially stable. When child support obligations are set or enforced at levels that leave parents unable to afford housing, transportation, or food, the result is often job loss, disengagement from the formal workforce, and reduced long-term support for children. By establishing reasonable limits on earnings withholdings, HB 142 helps prevent these counterproductive outcomes.

This bill is particularly important for Black Marylanders and other communities of color, who are disproportionately impacted by wage garnishment, low-wage employment, and systemic barriers to economic mobility. Without appropriate limits, earnings withholdings can deepen financial hardship and increase the risk of noncompliance, and ultimately harm the very children the child support system is designed to protect. House Bill 142 advances equity by aligning child support enforcement with economic reality and promoting consistent, sustainable contributions from parents.

Ultimately, House Bill 142 reflects a balanced, common-sense approach to child support enforcement, one that prioritizes accountability while recognizing the importance of economic stability and workforce participation. By ensuring that earnings withholdings are fair and reasonable, Maryland can improve compliance, strengthen families, and better serve children across the state.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland urges favorable consideration of House Bill 142.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland