



**HB 412 - Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses**  
**House Judiciary Committee**  
**February 12, 2026**  
**SUPPORT**

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 412. This bill ensures that the Child Support Enforcement Administration must first verify that a license suspension is appropriate and consider factors such as whether suspending the license would prevent a parent from working, whether the parent is complying with a payment plan, or whether the child primarily resides with the parent. The bill also strengthens notice and appeal rights before a license is suspended and allows work-restricted licenses under certain circumstances.

The CASH Campaign of Maryland promotes economic advancement for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Baltimore and across Maryland. CASH accomplishes its mission through operating a portfolio of direct service programs, building organizational and field capacity, and leading policy and advocacy initiatives to strengthen family economic stability. CASH and its partners across the state achieve this by providing free tax preparation services through the IRS program 'VITA', offering free financial education and coaching, and engaging in policy research and advocacy. **Almost 4,000 of CASH's tax preparation clients earn less than \$10,000 annually. More than half earn less than \$20,000.**

Child support debt can trigger severe enforcement actions such as driver's license suspension, arrest, or incarceration. These penalties that often make it harder, not easier, for low-wage workers to meet their child support obligations. These punitive measures directly undermine a parent's ability to secure and maintain employment, particularly in a state like Maryland where reliable transportation is essential to economic participation. This challenge is more pronounced for low-income communities of color, where fewer jobs are accessible by public transit. **Thus, for economic sustainability for low-income workers, both a valid driver's license and a vehicle are necessary.**

HB 412 aligns Maryland's child support system with evidence showing that punitive enforcement practices, including suspension of driver's licenses, do not improve outcomes and often make financial stability harder for low-income parents and their families. Unrealistic support orders combined with harsh enforcement practices can push parents deeper into debt, limit employment opportunities, and reduce their ability to support their children. <sup>1</sup>

Research shows that long-term compliance with child support payments is greatly determined by enforcement practices. <sup>1</sup> HB 412 introduces procedures that require review of enforcement actions, verification of necessity, and provide clearer notice and appeal rights before punitive measures are implemented. These changes are consistent with evidence showing that enforcement tools should be

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<sup>1</sup> Abell Foundation. Reforming Child Support to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families. <https://abell.org/publication/reforming-child-support/>



applied in ways that do not undercut a parent's ability to work and pay support. By promoting fair and effective enforcement, the bill strengthens family stability and supports better outcomes for children.

**Thus, we encourage you to return a favorable report for HB 412.**

*Creating Assets, Savings and Hope*