



Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform

Dear Delegate

House Judiciary: Luke Clippinger, Vanessa Atterbeary, Adrienne Jones
Senate Judicial Proceedings: William Smith, Jr., Jeff Waldstreicher, Bill Ferguson

Support HB580/SB402 with the amendment that addresses the Federal Code AND bring it to the committee for a vote.

Please bring HB580/SB402 to a vote in your committee by Tuesday March 16th, with the amendment (300% FPL). When amended, this bill will stop the automatic suspension of driver's licenses for low-income individuals. This amendment will bring the bill in accord with Federal Code 42 U.S.C.A. section 666, and thus preserve Federal funding.

Currently, Maryland automatically suspends the driver's licenses of those who are behind on their child-support payments. This is a crisis for low-income individuals who are already struggling financially and need their driver's licenses to become or stay employed.

People who need to drive to work may be imprisoned if they drive with a suspended license. It is particularly counter-productive because the state's strongest tool for child support enforcement is wage garnishment. Loss of the ability to drive can throw people into poverty and reduce the likelihood that they can provide child support payments in the future.

For more information see the fact sheet developed by the Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) at <https://www.ma4jr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JOTF-Drivers-License-Facts.pdf>, and here is a copy of their testimony: <https://www.ma4jr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JOTF-Testimony.pdf>

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,