

PROPONENT TESTIMONY REGARDING HOUSE BILL 366  
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee

Reverend Eli Williams  
Urban Light Ministries  
May 14, 2018

Good morning Chairman Kevin Bacon, Vice Chair Matt Dolan, and Ranking Minority Member Cecil Thomas. I am Eli Williams, president of Urban Light Ministries, a non-profit, faith-based organization that serves children, fathers and families in Dayton and West Central Ohio. I've been working with low income families since 1987. I am a member of the board of Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families. I am also the author of the book Father Love – The Powerful Resource Every Child Needs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 366 that will offer much needed revisions to Ohio's child support guidelines. I also support the deviation for extended parenting time, as currently stated in the bill.

My heart breaks for the hundreds of noncustodial parents – mostly fathers who reach out to Urban Light and organizations like ours seeking help. Often times through tears, they tell of their struggle to meet their child support obligation, provide in other important ways for their child, and take care of their own needs. These are not deadbeat dads. They are nearly dead broke, but are dead set on doing the best they can for the children they love. The severely overdue improvements being considered will ensure that establishment and modification of child support obligations are timely and reflect Ohio's modern economy. This measure will increase the likelihood that child support obligations are met. That's in the best interest of children.

Chairman Bacon, and members of the Committee, thank you for considering this testimony as you deliberate HB 366. Thank you for your service.

Signed



Date

5/14/18