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Written Proponent Testimony House Bill 198
House Civil Justice Committee
June 11, 2019
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Chair Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 198.

Families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits must cooperate with child support establishment and enforcement efforts. But, these families must assign their rights to child support payments to the state and the state is permitted to keep the money to reimburse itself and the federal government for the public assistance benefit.

States do have the option to allow some of the child support payment to pass through to family and not count it as income against the TANF benefit.

Half of the states pass through some child support without reducing the family's TANF assistance. Currently, Ohio is not one of them.

HB198, as introduced, would allow the first \$100 of child support to pass through to a family with one child and \$200 for a family with two or more children.

In Ohio, OWF benefits alone are inadequate to meet families' needs. Child support can provide much needed additional income to these families living far below the federal poverty level.

According the Center for Law and Social Policy, passing through additional revenue is beneficial for the both the family and the state. Parents subject to a child support order are more likely to pay when they know their children will benefit directly from the payment.

We ask that you support House Bill 198.