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Higher Education— *Ranking Member*
Primary & Secondary Education
Economic & Workforce Development
Broadcast Educational Media Commission
Joint Legislative Committee on E-School Funding

State Representative Catherine D. Ingram

Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 622
Civil Justice Committee
December 03, 2020

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown and all other members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 622.

House Bill 622 is a bill to suspend child support obligations for obligors during the COVID-19 emergency.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a record number of individuals have been laid off, terminated, furloughed or otherwise lost their primary source of income meaning they have been unable to fulfill financial obligations they otherwise would be able to fulfill. This includes the ability to fulfill an obligation pursuant to a child support order including cash medical support and healthcare coverage.

House Bill 622 will require the obligor seeking relief from a child support order to notify the child support enforcement agency and provide proof of the loss of income. It will also require the child support enforcement agency to conduct an investigation to confirm the obligor's inability or ability to fulfill their child support obligation.

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If the agency determines the obligor is able to fulfill their child support obligation, the obligor will be notified by the agency and the child support order shall remain in effect. If the agency determines the obligor is unable to fulfill their child support obligation, the order is suspended during the period of the State of Emergency.

This bill will also suspend default proceedings if a final and enforceable determination has not been made as well as prohibit the suspension, refusing to issue or renewal of a license and other penalties.

The reason for this bill is to help those affected financially during the pandemic and global health emergency related to COVID-19. In this unprecedented health crisis, we must resolve to provide relief to the most disenfranchised amongst us.

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown and all other members of the House Civil Justice Committee I thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.