

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Homeland Security Committee

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB29. This legislation will create much-needed reform in enforcing Child Support in correlation to Driver's license suspension.

The purpose of HB 29 is to fix what others may see as a broken enforcement system in Ohio that often leaves parents, children, families, and many employers facing inequities in our child support enforcement system. HB 29 strives to create a fair and just system for parents who are paying for their obligations of and in child support enforcement. We know that a driver's license suspension for child support is merely a way to get a parent's attention. We want parents to pay their support and their fair share of caring for their children.

But not granting an individual, with sufficient evidence of current employment or an account in a financial institution with the appropriate withholdings, along with individuals who have become present in their defaults, from working- creates more of a system of winners and losers, and more often leads to a counterproductive outcome in collections.

When people lose their jobs or miss work, the local economy suffers. With less income, families spend less—which hurts local businesses—while also paying the community less in taxes. In addition, job loss means the state must spend more on unemployment and other programs.

Having a license is a requirement for many jobs. Many industries, like healthcare aides and construction trades, depend on semi-skilled workers who often must have Driver's licenses as a condition of employment. 11 For example, the following professions often require people to drive: automotive technician, cable installation technician, caregiver, construction worker, housecleaner, HVAC technician, landscaping crew member, maintenance worker, plumber, pressure washer, truck washer, unarmed security officer, and warehouse worker.

Having a license is necessary for daily commutes to work. Even when a job doesn't directly require a car, not having driving privileges makes getting to work impossible. In many metropolitan areas of Ohio, many skilled industry jobs – are accessible by public transit within 90 minutes.

And most importantly, losing a license can drive unemployment – and lost income. Loss of job and income means loss of money- resulting in rearranges in child support.

Therefore, our legislation will encourage child support enforcement and allow individuals to work and continue to provide support and payment into the child support system.

Finally, we hope you and others support our efforts and move forward in helping move Ohio's economy forward by allowing people to continue to work, as we know poverty should never be a determining factor in who is allowed to drive.

I appreciate your consideration.