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January 28, 2022

House Committee on Children and Seniors
Re: Hearing on HB2525 – Monday, January 31, 2022 @ 1:30pm

Dear Chairwoman Concannon and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this written testimony in support of HB2525. As a longtime advocate for children and the current Board President for The Family Resource Center and former sixteen-year member of the Pittsburg Community School's Board of Education, I wholeheartedly support this bill.

The intent of the Child Support program to mandate child support as a requirement for food and child care assistance eligibility and school enrolled criteria is well meaning in trying hold adults accountable for their basic responsibilities for their children. However, in most cases these rules negatively affect individuals experiencing sustained and intermittent poverty. Removing the barriers outlined in HB2525 is not about the adults, it is about the children. If we want to hold individuals accountable for child support, then let's invest in the judicial system as a solution.

Our society consistently creates barriers for low-income parents to move out of poverty such as high housing rent, lack of comprehensive transportation, an imbalance in the percentage of child care costs to income and lower wages. This bill takes away restrictions that keep families from accessing vital services, such as a safe and secure environment for their children.

Not only would the citizens of our community benefit from the changes outlined in this bill, so would our economy. As a current 4-year Commissioner for the City of Pittsburg, supporting individuals with their education and training through access to quality child care helps to ensure their success in achieving a place in our workforce.

Our local and state systems should support individuals as they protect their children while trying to improve their lives for the future. I appreciate your consideration of HB2525.

Respectfully,



Dawn McNay