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Page 1 of 1

Testimony Before the House Committee on Judiciary In Support of SB 237 Monday, March 17, 2025

Chairman Humphries, Vice-Chairman Williams, Ranking Member Osman, and Committee:

I support SB 237 because it would provide greater balance to the child support formula and ensure more parental resources are used to support minor children.

The purpose of child support is to ensure minor or dependent children are supported by their parents at the standard of living at which parental incomes and assets support. The establishment of appropriate child support obligations and levels based on the full picture of parental income and assets, after taking into account *appropriate* exceptions and deductions, ensures that children are supported by their parents as their primary providers, and reduces the potential that children and their custodial parents will need to seek state or public assistance.

SB 237 would expand court review of certain assets for parental child support considerations, including certain retirement accounts. The bill would also require a court to order the distribution of child support arrearage as a one-time lump-sum distribution from a retirement account when a distributable event occurs.

Family separation and other one-parent custodial home situations many times put children at a disadvantage. Single parenting is difficult and requires resources and other efforts that create inefficiencies in home economies—inefficiencies that are reduced when courts are forced to consider two-parent income levels and retirement resources to set appropriate child support.

Please support SB 237 to enhance equities in child support calculations and ensure courts consider the entire asset portfolio of parents when determining appropriate child support levels.