

Qur-an Webb

**Testimony Regarding: Raised Bill No. 5887 “An Act Concerning Payment of Personal Service Contracts”**

I feel that agencies attempting to provide services for the community should be compensated accordingly for their services. Providers are depending on the revenue that they generate from conducting business with state agencies to keep the agencies afloat. Especially in the human services and child protection sectors that provide housing support, mental and behavior health services, substance abuse services, social activities, academic assistance (to name a few) for underprivileged individuals in our state. Non-payments or excessive tardiness of payments can either jeopardize or even close an operation because of financial problems that officials there blamed on inconsistent and late payments from the state government.

State agencies may have dilemmas in providing anticipated funding to the agency on a scheduled monthly basis. As a result, programs have been unable to satisfy many, if not all, of its monthly financial obligations in a timely manner, thus having to maxed out our line of credit at the bank and/or even having to apply for a credit lines. Ultimately, creating cuts in staffing, supplies, and not being to adequately provide a service that was contracted for.

Placing the onus on state agencies would give a contractor the ability to provide services with the understanding that they will be compensated. This also allows state agencies to assess a contract given to them in a reasonable amount of time allocated to decide whether or not to approve a contract or not.