

June 23, 1998

**Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998
Bill Signing Ceremony**

Date: June 24, 1998
Location: Oval Office
Time: 9:45 am
From: Larry Stein
Bruce Reed

I. Purpose

To sign the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 into law.

II. Background

Today you will announce new statistics highlighting the success of Administration child support enforcement efforts and will sign into law tough new penalties for parents who repeatedly refuse to pay child support. First, you will announce that a new child support collection system launched nine months ago has already located one million delinquent parents. The National Directory of New Hires was created under the new welfare reform law to compile all new hires and all wage and unemployment compensation records and match those records against delinquent parents. Since approximately one-third of child support cases are interstate, the directory is a key tool in our efforts to track down these parents. These one million matches would not have been found without it. Second, you will announce that the child support enforcement program established a record 1.3 million paternities in 1997. Overall, 68 percent more child support was collected in 1997 than in 1992.

The bill you are signing into law, the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998, is based on your 1996 proposal for tougher penalties for parents who repeatedly fail to support children living in another state or who flee across state lines to avoid supporting them. You repeated your call for this bill in the 1997 State of the Union. The bill was sponsored in Congress by Reps. Hyde and Hoyer and Sens. DeWine and Kohl and was backed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in both houses.

This new law will establish two new felonies in order to deal more effectively with egregious child support evaders. First, traveling across state or country lines with the intent to evade child support payments will now be considered a felony if the obligation has remained unpaid for a period longer than one year or is greater than \$5,000. Additionally, when the obligation has remained unpaid for a period of longer than two years or is greater than \$10,000, willful failure to pay child support to a child residing in another state will be considered a felony. Those convicted under the new law will be subject to a maximum two year prison term.

Finally, you will reiterate that bankruptcy reform legislation should not make it harder to collect child support and alimony.

III. Participants

Pre-Brief

Larry Stein

Bruce Reed

Attorney General Janet Reno

Cynthia Rice

Event

Members of Congress (to be filled in by Leg Affairs)

Attorney General Janet Reno

Judge David Ross, Commissioner, Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS

Sonia Evans and her twin sons Jesse and Jonathan

IV. Press Plan

Open Pool Press

V. Sequence of Events

YOU will be introduced by Sonia Evans.

YOU will make remarks.

YOU will sign bill.

VI. Remarks

Provided by speechwriting.

**President Clinton Hails Child Support Progress and Signs into Law
Tough New Penalties for Deadbeat Parents**

June 24, 1998

Today, President Clinton will announce new statistics highlighting the success of Administration child support enforcement efforts and will sign into law tough new penalties for parents who repeatedly refuse to pay child support. At an Oval Office ceremony, the President will announce that a new child support collection system launched nine months ago has already located one million delinquent parents and the child support enforcement program established a record 1.3 million paternities in 1997. Overall, 68 percent more child support was collected in 1997 than in 1992. The bill he will sign into law, the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998, is based on his 1996 proposal for tougher penalties for parents who repeatedly fail to support children living in another state or who flee across state lines to avoid supporting them. Finally, the President will reiterate his position that bankruptcy reform legislation should not make it harder to collect child support and alimony.

New Hire Directory Finds One Million Delinquent Parents. Today, the President will announce that the new National Directory of New Hires had located one million delinquent parents since its October 1, 1997 launch. The directory, proposed by the President in 1994 and enacted as part of the 1996 welfare reform law, helps track parents across state lines and withhold their wages by enabling child support officials to match records of delinquent parents with wage records from throughout the nation. Approximately one-third of all child support cases involve parents living in different states.

A Record Number of Paternity Establishments. The President will also announce that the child support enforcement program established a record 1.3 million paternities in 1997, two and a half times the 1992 figure of 510,000. Much of this success is due to the in-hospital voluntary paternity establishment program begun by the Clinton Administration in 1994 which encourages fathers to acknowledge paternity at the time of the child's birth.

A Record Increase in Child Support Collections. In 1997, the state and federal child support enforcement program collected a record \$13.4 billion for children, an increase of 68% from 1992, when \$8 billion was collected. Not only are collections up, but the number of families that are actually receiving child support has also increased. In 1997, the number of child support cases with collections rose to 4.2 million, an increase of 48% from 2.8 million in 1992.

New Felony Penalties for Egregious Failure to Pay Child Support. The President called for these tough new penalties in July 1996 and again in his 1997 State of the Union address. This new law creates two new categories of felonies, with penalties of up to two years in prison, for more egregious child support evaders:

- Traveling across state or country lines with the intent to evade child support payments will now be considered a felony if the obligation has remained unpaid for a period longer than one year or is greater than \$5,000.

- When the obligation has remained unpaid for a period of longer than two years or is greater than \$10,000, willful failure to pay child support to a child residing in another state will be considered a felony.

This bill was sponsored in Congress by Representatives Hyde and Hoyer and Senators DeWine and Kohl, and had overwhelming bipartisan support in both houses.

Responsible Bankruptcy Reform that Doesn't Hurt Children. Finally, the President will reiterate his position that bankruptcy reform legislation should not make it harder to collect child support and alimony. The Administration will work with Congress to produce a bankruptcy reform bill that asks responsibility of both creditors and debtors, while stemming abuse. In those discussions, the President will continue to make protecting child support and alimony a top priority. The House and Senate bills still raise the concern that additional debts will survive bankruptcy and compete with child support and alimony payments for scarce funds.

**Number of Delinquent Parents Located
through National Directory of New Hires
10/01/97 - 6/11/98**

State	TOTAL Estimated NDNH Case Hits
AK	3,823
AL	13,753
AR	13,205
AZ	44,449
CA	123,313
CO	23,513
CT	19,967
DC	4,617
DE	3,607
FL	33,230
GA	14,423
GU	153
HI	6,339
IA	22,141
ID	4,886
IL	26,837
IN	15,437
KS	18,165
KY	12,622
LA	14,935
MA	25,114
MD	13,878
ME	6,038
MI	50,146
MN	15,228
MO	42,349
MS	21,287
MT	5,701
NC	14,391
ND	3,846
NE	24,603
NH	7,440
NJ	20,413
NM	2,726
NV	5,433
NY	55,447
OH	34,719
OK	8,627
OR	8,494
PA	25,464
PR	1,031
RJ	2,653
SC	8,895
SD	3,643
TN	16,658
TX	75,962
UT	16,096
VA	23,928
VI	28
VT	2,128
WA	21,452
WI	32,706
WV	10,702
WY	5,151
TOTAL	1,032,352

NOTE: A locate case may get a match against all three NDNH databases (NH, QW, UI). The TOTAL NDNH Case hits by State is the estimated number of unduplicated hits.

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DRAFT 3:00 pm 6/23

Sonia Evans

Sonia Evans is a mother of twin nine year old boys. Their father fled before his children were born and moved from state to state (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Colorado) for many years refusing to pay child support. About two years ago, when he returned to Minnesota, she was able to get support withheld from his paycheck until he lost his job and disappeared again. Just two months ago, using new computer databases created by the 1996 welfare reform act, the Minnesota child support office was able to find him and begin garnishing his wages again. Now, Sonia has received three child support checks in a row and she couldn't be happier. "I never would have found him without help from the child support office," she said. Sonia strongly supports the provisions of the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act, which the President signed into law today, saying she thinks a threat of a felony will keep her children's father from fleeing again. Sonia lives in Blaine, Minnesota, just north of the Twin Cities, and works in the financial services industry as a quality control auditor. Her twin sons, Jonathan and Jesse, will join her today in introducing the President.

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Child Support Q&A
June 24, 1998

Announcement

Q: What did the President announce today?

A: Today, President Clinton announced new statistics highlighting the success of Administration child support enforcement efforts and signed into law tough new penalties for parents who repeatedly refuse to pay child support.

At an Oval Office ceremony, the President announced that a new child support collection system launched nine months ago has already located one million delinquent parents and the child support enforcement program established a record 1.3 million paternities in 1997. Overall, 68 percent more child support was collected in 1997 than in 1992.

The bill he signed into law, the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998, is based on his 1996 proposal for tougher penalties for parents who repeatedly fail to support children living in another state or who flee across state lines to avoid supporting them.

Finally, the President reiterated his position that bankruptcy reform legislation should not make it harder to collect child support and alimony.

New Child Support Data

Q: How have you located a million delinquent parents in nine months?

A: The 1996 welfare reform law contain many proposals made by the President to help track deadbeat parents across state lines. One of those provisions is the New Hire Directory, which enables child support officials to match records of delinquent parents with wage records from throughout the nation. This information helps child support agencies not only locate deadbeat parents, but garnish their wages for the child support owed. The national directory went on line October 1, 1997 and has already helped locate over one million delinquent parents, many of whom had been on the run for years.

Q: What data is collected by the National Directory of New Hires?

A: Whenever a new employee is hired, employers will report six types of data -- employee name, address, Social Security number and employer names, address, and federal employer identification number -- to a state new hire database. Each of the fifty states will then report that data to the National Directory of New Hires, where it will be matched against records of parents who owe child support to locate and begin collection

procedures against them.

Q: What happens when a match occurs?

A: When a match occurs between employment information submitted to the NDNIH and child support case/order data, the information is returned to the state child support enforcement agency for processing. The agency will then initiate the next appropriate action, which could include establishing paternity, obtaining an order for support, or immediately issuing an income withholding order to have child support payments automatically withheld from the noncustodial parent's wages or other form(s) of income.

Q: Aren't there privacy concerns raised by such a database?

A: Federal law requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish safeguards to protect privacy and ensure the data are used only by authorized persons for authorized uses. These issues were reviewed in great detail as the child support legislation was considered in the last Congress, and there was strong bipartisan support for the establishment of the new hire directory and other new child support enforcement measures.

Q: Why has there been such an increase in paternities established?

A: Improving paternity establishment has been a top priority for the Clinton administration and a major issue for the nation's children in need. For children born out of wedlock, paternity establishment is the crucial first step to obtaining the child support they need and deserve. We have been moving forward aggressively on this issue by stronger enforcement tools and easier means to establish paternity, and the new data released by the President today show a remarkable rise in paternity establishments, from 510,000 in 1992 to nearly 1.3 million today.

Q: How much child support does the federal government collect each year for families?

A: In 1997, the state and federal child support enforcement program collected a record \$13.4 billion for children, an increase of 68% from 1992, when \$8 billion was collected. Not only are collections up, but the number of families that are actually receiving child support has also increased. In 1997, the number of child support cases with collections rose to 4.2 million, an increase of 48% from 2.8 million in 1992. (These data were released earlier this year, but have not received much attention.)

Q: What is behind the increases in collections?

A: There are a number of reasons for the record increase in collections. With passage of the new welfare law (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of

1996), states were provided tough new tools to go after those who choose to walk away from their children. These tools included the new hire reporting, which requires that employers report all new hires to state agencies to compare against outstanding child support orders. Those records are also shared with the new National Directory of New Hires to find those parents who may have crossed state lines to avoid paying support. The new law also untangles the different state procedures for interstate collections which will make it easier to collect faster. As over 30 percent of child support cases are interstate, these two measures will ensure that a delinquent parent can no longer hide by moving to a different state. States are also using license revocation to boost child support payments and improved automation to make the program run more efficiently and effectively. Lastly, the huge increase in paternity establishments means that more fathers are now legally obligated to pay support.

Q: What else has the Administration done to increase child support collections?

A: The President has used executive authority to increase child support collections. He directed the Treasury Department to collect past-due child support from federal payments, including federal income tax refunds and employee salaries. The administration has taken steps to deny federal loans to any delinquent parents and make the federal government a model employer in child support enforcement.

Q: Didn't the President direct the federal government to become a model employer in terms of child support at one time. What ever happened to this pledge?

A: The goal of President Clinton's February 1995 Executive Order was to make the federal government a model employer with respect to child support. Following the order, HHS and the Office of Personnel Management undertook an extensive orientation for federal agencies to inform and make child support a priority. The main provisions directed federal agencies to cooperate and expedite the processing of state child support orders, ensuring that federal paychecks were withheld to get support to children, and to allow HHS to match records of federal employees with outstanding state orders. Both of these requirements were implemented. In fact, the federal government was a leader in the matching of employee records as it is now part of the requirements for all employers under the new welfare law. The Order directed further study in other areas to ensure more federal efforts, some are now features of the child support measures included in the new welfare.

Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act

Q: What does the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act do?

A: This bill creates two new categories of felony offenses, subject to a two-year maximum prison term: (1) Traveling in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to evade a support obligation if the obligation has remained unpaid for a period longer than one year or is greater than \$5,000. (2) Willfully failing to pay a support obligation regarding a child residing in another State if the obligation has remained unpaid for a period of longer than two years or is greater than \$10,000.

Q: Where did this legislation come from?

A: This bill results from the President's directive to the Attorney General of July 21, 1996 which asked the Attorney General to take several specific steps to strengthen child support enforcement efforts including "to draft legislation to amend the Child Support Recovery Act to establish a felony offense for a person who willfully fails to pay child support for a child in another State where there has been an egregious failure to meet child support obligations." In response, the Department of Justice transmitted legislation accomplishing this goal to the 104th Congress. The Department of Justice transmitted a similar bill this Congress and worked with Congress to produce this bill now being signed into law.

Q: What does the current law provide?

A: Current law makes it a federal offense willfully to fail to pay a child support obligation with respect to a child who lives in another State if the obligation has remained unpaid for longer than a year or is greater than \$5,000. A first offense is subject to a maximum of six months of imprisonment (a misdemeanor), and a second or subsequent offense to a maximum of two years (a felony).

Q: Why is this bill necessary?

A: The bill addresses the law enforcement and prosecutorial concern that the current statute does not adequately address more serious instances of nonpayment of support obligations. For such cases, a maximum term of imprisonment of just six months does not meet the sentencing goals of punishment and deterrence. Aggravated offenses, such as those involving parents who move from state to state to evade child support payments, require more severe penalties.

Q: Why is there a need for federal prosecution in child support cases?

A: The Department of Justice's prosecution effort is designed to create maximum deterrence by aggressive criminal enforcement of the most egregious cases to not only punish defendants in those cases, but also influence the conduct of many other potential defendants who have failed or might otherwise fail to pay child support. Often, the threat

of prosecution is enough to force a parent to pay child support.

Q: How often has the Department of Justice prosecuted under current statute?

A: Overall, the Department of Justice has prosecuted approximately 437 child support cases. We are happy to report that the number of Child Support Recovery Act cases filed and the number of convictions obtained has increased every year since the Act's enactment.

Other Child Support Issues

Q: Rep. Hyde and some advocates believe that the child support enforcement program would work better if it was federalized with either the IRS or Social Security. Do you agree?

A: No. The federal/state partnership in child support enforcement has made substantial gains in securing support for children. Since 1992, there's been a 68 percent increase in collections, a 48 percent increase in the number of families receiving support, and as announced today record numbers of delinquent parents found through the new hire reporting directory and more children than ever having paternity established. The new welfare law gave this partnership the toughest enforcement measures ever to ensure that parents meet their financial and emotional obligations to their children. We know that there are still children deprived of support and programs that can improve their services. Yet, the new measures are just now going into effect and we expect even greater accomplishments. Our goal is to achieve over \$20 billion collections by the year 2000 and we're well on the way. We're in the right direction with the state and federal partnership, we need not change course.

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10/01/97 - 6/11/98**

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IL	26,837
IN	15,437
KS	18,165
KY	12,822
LA	14,935
MA	25,114
MD	13,878
ME	6,038
MI	50,146
MN	15,228
MO	42,349
MS	21,287
MT	5,701
NC	14,391
ND	3,846
NE	24,603
NH	7,440

NJ	20,413
NM	2,726
NV	5,488
NY	55,447
OH	34,719
OK	8,627
OR	8,494
PA	25,464
PR	1,031
RI	2,853
SC	8,895
SD	3,643
TN	16,658
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WV	10,702
WY	5,151
TOTAL	1,032,352

MEMO

To: Erskine Bowles, Bruce Reed
From: Lauren Choi, Counsel on Judiciary Committee
Subject: Los Angeles County - Child Support Enforcement System Requirement
Date: May 4, 1998

Senator Feinstein would like to arrange a phone appointment with you this week to discuss the issues outline in the attached letter.

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

(202) 224-3841

April 8, 1998

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge the Administration to support an exemption for Los Angeles County from the penalties imposed on states for not having a certified child support enforcement system as required under the 1988 Family Support Act and the 1996 Welfare Reform.

As you may know, both the House and the Senate have recently passed different versions of the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act, HR 3130, which lowers the penalties imposed on states who missed the October 1, 1997 deadline.

Neither bill provides exemptions for Los Angeles County despite the fact that L.A. County has successfully completed its system by the October 1997 deadline. In 1989, Health and Human Services provided separate funding for L.A. County and urged L.A. County to create its own system separate from the rest of California because of its large caseload, which is larger than 42 other states. Health and Human Services has also recently recognized that L.A. County's system could be certified separately in its March 2, 1998 proposed rules (42 CFR Part 307).

Both Representative Shaw and Senator Roth's staff have indicated that their members will support a penalty exemption for L.A. County if the Administration demonstrates its support. Your action now is key to continuing the LA County federal success model.

For California, 25 percent of the penalty will be borne by LA County, the largest county in the nation serving 550,000 families.

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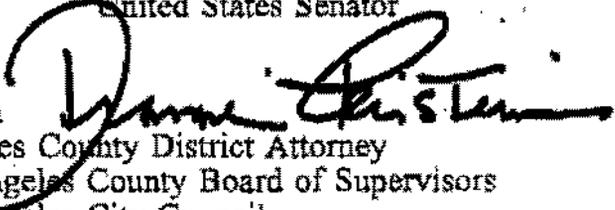
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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
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Mr. President, this is an urgent and time sensitive matter since the Conferees will meet soon to determine whether L.A. County will be exempted from the penalties in the final bill. I urge you to support this provision in conference and I would appreciate your timely response. Please let me know as soon as possible.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



DF:jd

cc: Mayor Richard Riordan
Gil Garcetti, Los Angeles County District Attorney
Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Members of the Los Angeles City Council

*Child Support -
Legis.*

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

CONTACT: ANDREA CAMP 202/225-4431 FOR RELEASE: JUNE 29
MARJORIE SIMS 202/225-6740

HOUSE LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS CONGRESSWOMEN'S PROPOSAL ON CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues Special Task Force on Child Support Enforcement has received support from both the Democratic and Republican House Leadership to quickly move child support enforcement reform legislation this Congress.

Yesterday, Members of the Task Force, led by co-chairs Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-CO) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), met with Speaker Tom Foley to develop a plan of action that would put the Caucus-developed legislation, The Child Support Responsibility Act, on a fast track in the House.

Today at a press conference to discuss their meeting with the House leadership, members of the Task Force, including Schroeder, Snowe and Representatives Marge Roukema (R-NY), Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), Susan Molinari (R-NY), and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) were joined by Minority Whip Newt Gingrich (R-GA), who said that he supported a fast-track strategy for passage of child support enforcement reform.

Schroeder said, "We expect hearings to begin on our bill as soon as Congress returns from the July 4 recess. This is a bipartisan effort to make sure that children are held economically harmless in divorce. With a unified effort from such a broad coalition of Members of Congress, I'm confident we will be successful in strengthening child support enforcement in this country."

Attached is a synopsis of the Child Support Responsibility Act, as well as an earlier press release describing the genesis of the bill.



Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

June 8, 1994

CHILD SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1994

Highlights of Legislation

[Note: This proposal is based on legislation introduced by Reps. Patricia Schroeder (H.R. 915), Marge Roukema (H.R. 1600), Barbara Kennelly (H.R. 1961), Olympia Snowe (H.R. 2396), and Lynn Woolsey (H.R. 2346).]

Establishes a Federal Child Support Registry for all child support orders issued or modified by any state court. The federal registry is required to compare information on all W-4 forms with information in child support orders and notify state registries of child support obligations of employees.

Expands the Parent Locator Service to provide for a national network which allows the states to access the records in other state agencies and federal sources to locate information directly from one computer to another.

Establishes State Central Registries for all child support orders issued or modified and the collection of obligations.

Requires Reconciliation of Child Support Obligations and payments on income tax returns.

Establishes a National Child Support Guidelines Commission to study the desirability of a national guideline for child support orders.

Establishes Full Faith and Credit for Child Support Orders to facilitate the enforcement of child support orders among the states.

Requires States to Conduct Surveys of Populations Underserved by child support services and to develop outreach programs in locations such as child care centers, parenting classes, prenatal classes, and unemployment offices.

Requires States to Provide for Hospital-Based Paternity establishment and the establishment of paternity outreach programs.

Enhances Paternity Establishment Procedures --

Requires state agencies responsible for maintaining birth records to offer voluntary

paternity establishment services.

Creates a national paternity acknowledgement affidavit for the use of voluntary acknowledgement of paternity.

Establishes that a signed paternity acknowledgement affidavit is conclusively presumed to prove paternity by creating a legal finding that has the effect of a final judgement at law.

Mandates Direct Wage Withholding of Child Support Obligations by employers when child support orders are issued or modified by state courts.

Creates a Uniform Child Support Order to be used in all cases in which income is to be withheld for the payment of child support.

Requires States to Adopt the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA).

Restricts Professional, Occupational, and Business Licenses of noncustodial parents who have failed to pay child support.

Restricts Driver's Licenses and Vehicle Registration of noncustodial parents who fail to appear in child support proceedings.

Requires Reporting of Delinquent Child Support Payments to Credit Bureaus.

Requires States to Establish Procedures for Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments of Child Support Awards.

Requires Annual Exchange of Financial Information between custodial parents and noncustodial parents subject to a child support order.

Requires Guidelines be Established for Health Care Coverage to be included in Child Support Obligations.

Establishes State Grants for Child Support Assurance Demonstration Projects to encourage states to provide a guaranteed minimum level of child support for every eligible child not receiving support.

[Original cosponsors as of June 8, 1994 -- Reps. Patricia Schroeder, Olympia Snowe, Marge Roukema, Barbara Kennelly, Lynn Woosley, Connie Morella, Cynthia McKinney, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Corrine Brown, Rosa DeLauro, Anna Eshoo, Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, Nita Lowey, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Carolyn Maloney, Carrie Meek, Jane Harman, Nancy Johnson, Nancy Pelosi.]

PAT SCHROEDER

2208 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

1600 Emerson St.
Denver, Colorado 80218

Contact: Andrea Camp 702/225-4431 FAX 702/225-4431

For Release: June 8, 1994

SCHROEDER LEADS CONGRESSWOMEN'S EFFORT FOR STRONG CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colorado), co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and former chair of the House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families today announced an effort by a bipartisan coalition of Congresswomen that would improve child support enforcement.

Their bill, the CHILD SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITY ACT, is based primarily on the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Interstate Child Support and bills the Representatives Schroeder, Marge Roukema (R-NJ), Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) have introduced in Congress.

Schroeder said, "We decided it was time for women to speak with one voice on child support enforcement. Our collaborative bill puts the Congresswomen's stamp on the child support enforcement debate. We want to hold children harmless in the economics of divorce."

Referring to the amount of child support owed to American children, Schroeder said, "For many American mothers, the \$34 billion question is where is my child's support payments?"

Schroeder said that the Congresswomen want to move quickly on their bill and not wait for welfare reform to move child support enforcement for two reasons. First, it enjoys bipartisan support. Second, strong child support enforcement affects the economic situation of all women, not just poor women.

The Child Support Responsibility Act will tighten the child support enforcement program and close loopholes through which non-custodial parents are able to shirk their financial duty to their children.

Schroeder added, "We also create a Federal Child Support Registry for W-4 reporting of child support obligations so that we can get to the problem of parents who cross state lines to avoid paying child support. We don't want non-custodial parents playing economic hide-and-seek from their kids."

Below are highlights of the Child Support Responsibility Act:

- Require national reporting of child support obligations by all employees.
- Reconcile of child support obligations and payments on income tax returns.

- Establish uniformity in child support orders.
- Require states to adopt the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA).
- Eliminate the statute of limitations in child support cases.
- Restrict professional, occupational, and business licenses for nonpayment of child support.
- Report delinquent child support payments to credit bureaus.
- Set cost-of-living adjustments for child support awards.
- Establish mechanisms to modify child support orders.
- Establish child support assurance demonstration projects.

Child Support -
legis.

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

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MARJORIE SIMS 202/225-6740**

**HOUSE LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS CONGRESSWOMEN'S PROPOSAL ON
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT**

Members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues Special Task Force on Child Support Enforcement has received support from both the Democratic and Republican House Leadership to quickly move child support enforcement reform legislation this Congress.

Yesterday, Members of the Task Force, led by co-chairs Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-CO) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), met with Speaker Tom Foley to develop a plan of action that would put the Caucus-developed legislation, The Child Support Responsibility Act, on a fast track in the House.

Today at a press conference to discuss their meeting with the House leadership, members of the Task Force, including Schroeder, Snowe and Representatives Marge Roukema (R-NY), Barbara Kennelly (D-CT), Susan Molinari (R-NY), and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) were joined by Minority Whip Newt Gingrich (R-GA), who said that he supported a fast-track strategy for passage of child support enforcement reform.

Schroeder said, "We expect hearings to begin on our bill as soon as Congress returns from the July 4 recess. This is a bipartisan effort to make sure that children are held economically harmless in divorce. With a unified effort from such a broad coalition of Members of Congress, I'm confident we will be successful in strengthening child support enforcement in this country."

Attached is a synopsis of the Child Support Responsibility Act, as well as an earlier press release describing the genesis of the bill.



Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

June 8, 1994

CHILD SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1994

Highlights of Legislation

[Note: This proposal is based on legislation introduced by Reps. Patricia Schroeder (H.R. 915), Marge Roukema (H.R. 1600), Barbara Kennelly (H.R. 1961), Olympia Snowe (H.R. 2396), and Lynn Woosley (H.R. 2346).]

Establishes a Federal Child Support Registry for all child support orders issued or modified by any state court. The federal registry is required to compare information on all W-4 forms with information in child support orders and notify state registries of child support obligations of employees.

Expands the Parent Locator Service to provide for a national network which allows the states to access the records in other state agencies and federal sources to locate information directly from one computer to another.

Establishes State Central Registries for all child support orders issued or modified and the collection of obligations.

Requires Reconciliation of Child Support Obligations and payments on income tax returns.

Establishes a National Child Support Guidelines Commission to study the desirability of a national guideline for child support orders.

Establishes Full Faith and Credit for Child Support Orders to facilitate the enforcement of child support orders among the states.

Requires States to Conduct Surveys of Populations Underserved by child support services and to develop outreach programs in locations such as child care centers, parenting classes, prenatal classes, and unemployment offices.

Requires States to Provide for Hospital-Based Paternity establishment and the establishment of paternity outreach programs.

Enhances Paternity Establishment Procedures --

Requires state agencies responsible for maintaining birth records to offer voluntary

paternity establishment services.

Creates a national paternity acknowledgement affidavit for the use of voluntary acknowledgement of paternity.

Establishes that a signed paternity acknowledgement affidavit is conclusively presumed to prove paternity by creating a legal finding that has the effect of a final judgement at law.

Mandates Direct Wage Withholding of Child Support Obligations by employers when child support orders are issued or modified by state courts.

Creates a Uniform Child Support Order to be used in all cases in which income is to be withheld for the payment of child support.

Requires States to Adopt the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA).

Restricts Professional, Occupational, and Business Licenses of noncustodial parents who have failed to pay child support.

Restricts Driver's Licenses and Vehicle Registration of noncustodial parents who fail to appear in child support proceedings.

Requires Reporting of Delinquent Child Support Payments to Credit Bureaus.

Requires States to Establish Procedures for Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments of Child Support Awards.

Requires Annual Exchange of Financial Information between custodial parents and noncustodial parents subject to a child support order.

Requires Guidelines be Established for Health Care Coverage to be Included in Child Support Obligations.

Establishes State Grants for Child Support Assurance Demonstration Projects to encourage states to provide a guaranteed minimum level of child support for every eligible child not receiving support.

[Original cosponsors as of June 8, 1994 -- Reps. Patricia Schroeder, Olympia Snowe, Marge Roukema, Barbara Kennelly, Lynn Woosley, Connie Moralla, Cynthia McKinney, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Corrine Brown, Rosa DeLauro, Anna Eshoo, Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, Nita Lowey, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Carolyn Maloney, Carrie Meek, Jane Harman, Nancy Johnson, Nancy Pelosi.]

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For Release: June 8, 1994

SCHROEDER LEADS CONGRESSWOMEN'S EFFORT FOR STRONG CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

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