

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION



PHONE: (202)690-7858 FAX: (202)690-7383

Date: 6/8/94

From: Geri

To: Kathy May/Bruce Reed

Division: _____

Division: _____

City & State: _____

City & State: _____

Office Number: _____

Office Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Number of Pages + cover 2

REMARKS: _____

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Washington, D.C. 20201

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Ellwood, Mary Jo Bane and Bruce Reed

FROM: Paul K. Legler

SUBJ: House Women's Caucus Press Briefing

DATE: June 8, 1994

By and large, the Child Support Act: being introduced by the House Women's Caucus today is very similar to legislation the Administration anticipates introducing in the weeks ahead. Both proposals aim to improve and strengthen our country's child support collection system through the use of central case registries, which would contain complete payment records and facilitate monitoring of child support orders, and a National Directory of New Hires, which would allow the tracking of obligors across state lines. Moreover, both proposals include many of the same enforcement tools, such as amending the Fair Credit Reporting Act to make available for the Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) all information from consumer reporting agency files; requiring the recording of parent social security numbers on child birth records and child support and paternity orders; increased use of wage withholding; easing statute of limitation rules in child support cases; and providing for attachment of bank accounts and retirement funds.

While the two proposals clearly have much in common, certain provisions present only in the Administration version make it much stronger in cracking down on delinquent parents and thus strengthening our child support system. One main difference is in the Administration's strong emphasis on paternity establishment. Our proposal will streamline the legal process, provide performance incentives to States for paternity establishment and require full cooperation in paternity establishment prior to receipt of welfare benefits. Also, the Administration proposal is more comprehensive in its attempt to centralize collection and disbursement of child support payments. Modeled after the Massachusetts program, such a system allows states to quickly discover delinquent accounts and impose administrative enforcement remedies. Finally, the Administration proposal replaces the existing discredited funding scheme with one that offers both a higher base matching rate and performance-based incentives.