

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO

Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Hagston Way
Reed ✓ Benami

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: _____

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

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Schedule? Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: What is this U.S. Comm.
on Child & Family
Welfare?



2000 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Ste. 148
Washington, D.C. 20006
703-255-2428 : 206-272-2152

7/5/94

JUL 6 REC'D

Carol Rasco
Domestic Policy Office
The White House
Washington DC -

RE: Welfare Reform

FROM: Bill Harrington
206-587-4714

Comment: FYI



2000 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Ste. 148
Washington, D.C. 20006
703-255-2428 : 206-272-2152

July 5th, 1994

Hon. Sam Gibbons, Acting Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

RE: Testimony on Welfare Reform
Welfare Reform is for Fathers Too !!!

Dear Acting Chairman Gibbons:

This is a formal request for a panel of witnesses from the American Fathers Coalition to be invited and to give testimony on male positive and father inclusive policies in national welfare reform legislation currently being considered by Congress.

Fathers are half of the parents and welfare issues directly affecting fathers need to be addressed in a positive way. This would be the thrust of our testimony.

The American Fathers Coalition has had three (3) White House meetings, two (2) meetings with the Welfare Reform Working Group, and again, two (2) meetings with the new Deputy Director of the Office of Support Enforcement, Judge David Gray Ross. Attached is the package of our proposals presented to the Welfare Reform Working Group dated December 16th, 1993. Several of the proposals we recommended were included in the Working Group draft sent to the White House for formal presentation to Congress.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS - 1

Additionally, I was appointed by Speaker Foley on March 22, 1994 as a member of the new U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare created under PL 102-521.

Why invite fathers specifically?

Well, in 1974, and again in 1984 and 1988, Congress enacted major legislation on family policy. In our opinion this legislation has not been as successful as originally intended in large part because the focus was anti-father. We were fearful this would happen again in 1994 and fathers have participated in this current process with the White House to develop positive father oriented policies. Our priority has been simple: CHILDREN NEED BOTH PARENTS. The attached statement on page #37 from the Working Group Welfare Reform draft document is why testimony is needed from fathers. The reality is that HHS has no idea what problems are faced by non-custodial fathers who want day to day parental involvement with their children. YET, Congress is being formally requested by the Clinton Administration to go forward with new legislation WITHOUT father oriented research needed to address America's greatest social catastrophe - THE ABSENT FATHER SYNDROME. The question to be asked by members of the Committee on Ways and Means is really simple: Will this legislation help or hinder more father parental involvement in the day to day lives of children?

An invitation for positive father oriented testimony would greatly assist Congress in addressing the greatest need for American children: the ongoing love and affection, and day to day parenting, by both parents.

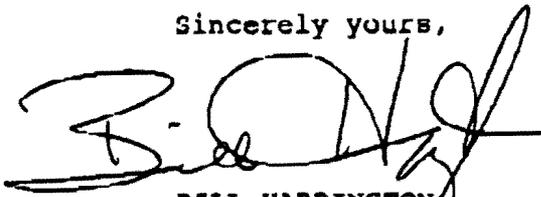
In our opinion, the Clinton Administration deserves credit for the inclusion of a few of our recommendations in H.R. 4605. However, if Congress is to do justice to this family policy legislation, Congress needs to hear from the other half of the directly involved parents - the fathers.

Our witnesses would be as follows:

BILL HARRINGTON, WASHINGTON STATE, COMMISSIONER, U.S. COMMISSION ON CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE and NATIONAL DIRECTOR, AMERICAN FATHERS COALITION; JAMES COOK, CALIFORNIA, PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT CUSTODY ASSOCIATION; CHARLES BALLARD, OHIO, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD; AND PHILIP HOLMAN, MICHIGAN, VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR MEN AND CHILDREN.

An invitation to testify would be greatly appreciated, and we believe, beneficial to all members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Sincerely yours,



BILL HARRINGTON
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

The Speaker's Rooms
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20516

March 22, 1994

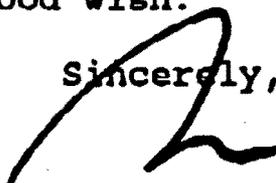
Dear Mr. Harrington:

Today I had the pleasure of appointing you to the Commission on Child and Family Welfare.

I am delighted that you will be serving on the Commission, and I am confident that you will make an important contribution to its work.

With every good wish.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Foley
Speaker

Mr. Bill Harrington

P6/(b)(6)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ P25

WELFARE REFORM ISSUE PAPER

Prepared for February 26, 1994
Meeting of the Working Group on
Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence

~~CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT - For Discussion Only~~ R21**Issue: Enhancing Responsibility and Opportunity for Noncustodial Parents**

Under the present system, the needs, concerns and responsibilities of noncustodial parents are often ignored. The system needs to focus more attention on this population and send the message that "fathers matter". We ought to encourage noncustodial parents to remain involved in their children's lives—not drive them further away. The well-being of children who live only with one parent would be enhanced if emotional and financial support were provided by both of their parents.

Ultimately, the system's expectations of mothers and fathers should be parallel. Whatever is expected of the mother should be expected of the father, and whatever education and training opportunities are provided to custodial parents, similar opportunities should be available to noncustodial parents who pay their child support and remain involved in the lives of their children. If they can improve their earnings capacity and maintain relationships with their children, they could be a source of both financial and emotional support.

Much needs to be learned about noncustodial parents, partly because we have focused relatively little attention on this population in the past, and we know less about what types of programs would work. We propose the following approaches:

Work opportunities and obligations for noncustodial parents. A portion of JOBS and WORK program funding would be reserved for training, work readiness, educational remediation and mandatory work programs for noncustodial parents of AFDC recipient children who cannot pay child support due to unemployment, underemployment or other employability problems. In addition, States may have an option for mandatory work programs for noncustodial parents. States would have considerable flexibility to design their own programs.

Grants for access and parenting programs. We propose grants to States for programs which reinforce the desirability for children to have continued access to and visitation by both parents. These programs include mediation (both voluntary and mandatory), counseling, education, development of parenting plans, visitation enforcement including monitoring, supervision and neutral drop-off and pick-up, and development of guidelines for visitation and alternative custody arrangements.

We also propose demonstration grants to States and/or community-based organizations to develop and implement noncustodial-parent (fathers) components in conjunction with existing programs for high-risk families (e.g. Head Start, Healthy Start, family preservation, teen pregnancy and prevention). These would promote responsible parenting, including the importance of paternity establishment and economic security for children and the development of parenting skills.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL-AGE PARENTS

The program of transitional assistance followed by work that was outlined earlier in this document focuses on the responsibilities of custodial parents, especially young parents, to work and prepare for work as a condition of receiving benefits. All young parents seeking government assistance would be expected to prepare for and go to work. Like the child support provisions, the obligations inherent in the program send a clear message about the consequences of parenthood, ensuring that welfare receipt does not release either parent from their responsibilities to work and support their children.

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

FROM:

Bill Harrington

Law Offices of Douglas D. Sulkosky
5631 Tacoma Mall Blvd.
Tacoma, WA 98409
Phone: (206) 473-5570
Fax: (206) 473-5572

TO:

Bruce Reed

Re: Commission on Child & Family Welfare
Appointment of Bill Harrington as member
Fax No. _____

DATE:

3/23/94

NO. OF PAGES:

5, including this page.

CONTENTS:

press release & notation of
FOLEY appointments in the
Congressional Record

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TRANSMITTING FROM: 473-5572

AMERICAN FATHERS COALITION
BOX 5345
TACOMA, WA. 98415
206-272-2152

MARCH 24TH, 1994

APPOINTMENT BY HOUSE SPEAKER THOMAS FOLEY OF
BILL HARRINGTON FROM TACOMA-SEATTLE TO NEW NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE

SPEAKER THOMAS FOLEY, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 22, APPOINTED BILL HARRINGTON AS ONE OF FOUR APPOINTMENTS TO THE 15 MEMBER NEW COMMISSION ON CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE. HARRINGTON SERVES AS NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN FATHERS COALITION. ONE OF THE OTHER FOUR APPOINTMENTS WAS ALSO FROM WASHINGTON STATE, TEN APPOINTMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN MADE WITH FIVE REMAINING TO BE ANNOUNCED. THE COMMISSION WILL FORMALLY CONVENE IN JUNE OR JULY AND SERVE FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS CONCLUDING WITH A REPORT TO CONGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW FAMILY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL WELFARE REFORM PROPOSALS.

HARRINGTON SAID IT IS A DISTINCT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE SELECTED OUT OF MANY APPLICANTS FROM ALL OVER AMERICA. I APPRECIATE THE CONFIDENCE OF SPEAKER FOLEY IN BELIEVING I CAN MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE POLICY AFFECTING MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AND TROUBLED FAMILIES. I AM ALSO PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAS PUT FAMILY POLICY AND WELFARE REFORM ON THE NATIONAL POLITICAL AGENDA.

PRESS RELEASE - 1
APPOINTMENT TO COMMISSION ON CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE

ADDITIONALLY, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE, AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE OF NORM DICKS, BOTH IN TACOMA AND WASHINGTON DC. IT WAS CONGRESSMAN NORM DICKS WHO MADE MY FORMAL NOMINATION TO SPEAKER FOLEY.

MY APPOINTMENT REFLECTS ONE MORE TIME THAT THE POLITICAL PROCESS CAN WORK FOR THE COMMON MAN, SAID HARRINGTON. ALL I DID TO GET THE APPOINTMENT WAS USE THE GOOD OLD WORK ETHIC. I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE POSITION, THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS, IDENTIFIED NECESSARY PEOPLE FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT, GATHERED THE LETTERS, PRESENTED THEM TO CONGRESSMAN DICKS, AND THEN ENCOURAGED HIM TO GO TO SPEAKER FOLEY. THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS WAITING FOR THE YEAR AND A HALF FOR THE DECISION, BUT IT WAS WORTH THE EXPERIENCE.

HARRINGTON ANNOUNCED HIS WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK TO DIVERSE INTEREST GROUPS THAT HAVE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN NATIONAL FAMILY POLICY ISSUES. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING PEOPLE CAN DO IS WRITE TO ME ABOUT THEIR IDEAS. FORMAL POLICY PROPOSALS WILL BE BEST WITH IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH SOURCES.

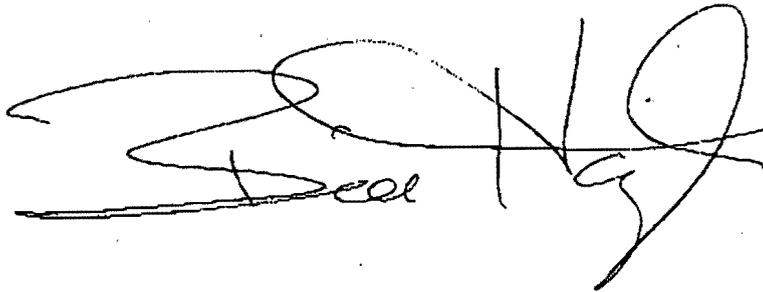
"I PROMISE" SAID HARRINGTON, "THAT THE ISSUE OF FATHERLESSNESS IN OUR SOCIETY, FATHERLESS CHILDREN, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FATHER\CHILD RELATIONSHIPS WILL AT LEAST BE CONSIDERED AND REVIEWED BY THE COMMISSION, AS ONE COMPONENT OF HELPING TROUBLED CHILDREN. FATHERS WILL NOT BE LEFT OUT AS THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN."

"HOWEVER", SAID HARRINGTON, "I AM ALSO A NATIONAL COMMISSIONER AND MY MIND IS OPEN TO ALL POLICY PROPOSALS FROM DIFFERING

PERSPECTIVES." I PLAN TO LEARN FROM OTHER COMMISSIONERS AND WITNESSES AS MUCH AS I WILL TRY TO EDUCATE FELLOW COMMISSIONERS ON FATHERS POLICY ISSUES THAT I FEEL STRONG ABOUT."

HARRINGTON LIVES IN TACOMA ON THE HILLTOP AND WORKS IN SEATTLE AS A PARALEGAL WITH THE KELLEHER LAW OFFICES. HARRINGTON TOOK EVENING CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BRANCH CAMPUS IN TACOMA FROM 1991-1993.

HARRINGTON, 47, IS DIVORCED WITH TWO CHILDREN, A DAUGHTER, AGE 12, AND A SON, AGE 10. "I LIVE WITH THESE ISSUES EVERY DAY AND I UNDERSTAND THE EMOTIONAL TOLL IT TAKES TO STAY INVOLVED AS A PARENT."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean H. Harrington". The signature is stylized with large loops and a horizontal line crossing through the middle.

March 22, 1964

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H1863

I appreciate the gentleman from North Carolina and his arguments and certainly those who have been supportive, but I appreciate more the benefit of making this argument so that the American people will have an opportunity to understand there is a desperate need to keep consumers in legislation.

□ 1910

Mr. NEAL of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would point out there are a number of important consumer protections for less-advantaged people in the bill. There is a number of consumer benefits for all Americans in the bill; there is a number of benefits for business in the bill. Taxpayers come out way ahead because it reduces the likelihood that banks will get in trouble. Credit crunches will not occur as often because geographically strong banks will not be dependent on one part of the country. Banks will benefit, everyone benefits from this legislation.

We have known it for about 30 years; this should have passed years ago. It has always failed because of someone's idea of just something else we could add to it, some little thing would make it different or make it better. This is the best we could do. I am happy to look at other issues at any time, but this is very much in the American interest, and I urge my colleagues to pass this very good bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ESBROO). The time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NEAL) expired.

Mr. MYJME. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman have an additional 30 seconds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEAL of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. MYJME. Madam Speaker, do I still understand, as we close the date, the willingness of the gentleman to revisit in the form of hearings may of the concerns that I and Mr. WYNN and Mr. KENNEDY have tried to articulate in the amendments we offered previously?

Mr. NEAL of North Carolina. I said before, I do not want to say that I am going to go back and try to change the interstate banking legislation because that is not what we are about, but in terms of trying to improve the American banking system inasmuch as I can help with that, I will try at any time. If that is not adequate, I can expand upon it. But I want the system to work for all Americans.

Mr. MYJME. We do too, and I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. NEAL of North Carolina. We will try to help you.

Mr. FAZIO. Madam Speaker, I have strong support of H.R. 3841, the Interstate Banking Efficiency Act. This legislation is a critical component of our efforts to keep the national economic recovery moving forward.

Our Nation's bank regulatory system is riddled with cumbersome Congressional requirements for interstate banking activities which add significant costs to banks that operate in more than one State. Today, 174 multiple bank holding companies are required to set up separate and distinct organizational structures for each State in which they operate. They must have their own executives and boards of directors, undergo separate examinations and audits, maintain separate records and maintain separate capital resources. Those unnecessary expenditures are required even if the bank affiliates are operating essentially as branches. Clearly, these requirements are an administrative burden which carries a heavy price in overhead.

H.R. 3841 seeks to rationalize interstate banking and branching regulations to eliminate unnecessary administrative requirements without compromising the safety and soundness of our Nation's financial institutions. H.R. 3841 will eliminate these regulatory burdens by enabling banks to own branches and provide banking services across State boundaries without having to establish separate capital and organized banks in each State as is required under current law.

The major benefit of the legislation is that it will ease up approximately \$7 billion annually in capital that the banking industry now spends on administrative overhead costs. This is \$7 billion that can be used to make loans. Projections suggest that this bill can make approximately \$10 billion into the economy on an annual basis in the form of loans to small businesses, real estate ventures, or other investments—all of which are key to keeping our economy moving forward.

Interstate banking and branching are long overdue. This bill is important to improving the efficiency and competitiveness of our financial institutions. Further, the bill will provide an economic stimulus to our country's capital markets. The one big thing to make interstate banking and branching a reality. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 3841.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I like to support of H.R. 3841. While I have reservations over amending legislation of this importance under suspension of the rules, I believe the time for interstate banking and branching has come and the House should act on the bill.

I am convinced that our States should have adequate time to decide if they want to participate in interstate banking. As Chairman NEAL knows, I believe that States should have a 3-year period before interstate banking through consolidation of subsidiaries is permitted. While the bill has a 3-year waiting period for regular branching, it would allow subsidiaries of bank holding companies to be converted into branches after 18 months. Congressman CRAIG THOMAS and I offered an amendment in committee to equate the time period for branching and consolidation.

I would have liked to have the full House consider this issue, but to enable the interstate bill to move forward, I am not demanding the coadjunction of the bill under suspension of the rules. Chairman GOODE and Mr. LEACH agree with my view of the consolidation issue and I hope Chairman NEAL will remain open to discussion on this issue when the bill goes to conference.

I want to thank Chairman GOODE, Chairman NEAL of the subcommittee and Mr. LEACH and Mr. McCOLLUM for taking the time to

clarify the bill language relating to a State's authority. The bill and report protect a State's authority to set the standards which bank holding companies. I appreciate my colleagues' cooperation on the important issue. I support approval of H.R. 3841.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ESBROO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3841, as amended.

The question was taken, and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4002, TO CONTROL AND PREVENT CRIME

Mr. MOAKLEY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 103-46) on the resolution (H. Res. 346) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4002) to control and prevent crime, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ESBROO). Without objection, pursuant to the provisions of section 1(b)(1) of Public Law 88-161, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the Commission on Child and Family Welfare:

Mr. Donald R. Barthol of Tallahassee, FL;
Mr. George C. Gilpin of Spokane, WA;
Mr. John Goldsfield of East, OH; and
Mr. Bill Hockington of Tacoma, WA.
There was no objection.

EDUCATION BILL FUNDS SHOULD NOT GO TO PROMOTE HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE

(Mr. HANCOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will consider my amendment to H.R. 4. To refresh the memory of my colleagues, my amendment provides that no school which receives funds under H.R. 4 be allowed to have a program or activity which promotes homosexuality as a positive alternative lifestyle.

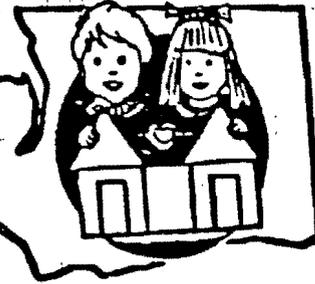
Some opponents of the amendment have tried to characterize the effect as, stating we would shut down AIDS education, sex education, and sex school counselors from providing factual information. All of these claims are false.

We are supporting the instant amendment of the homosexual lifestyle. Thank

FATHERS' RIGHTS

OCT 19 1993

Keed/Way/fyi
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BOX 5345
TACOMA, WA. 98415
206-572-7340

OCTOBER 12TH, 1993

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington DC, 20500

RE: OCT. 7TH WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH FATHERS
AMERICAN FATHERS COALITION
COMMISSION ON CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE
WELFARE REFORM WORKING GROUP

Dear President Clinton:

Thank you for providing the opportunity for a delegation of 15 American fathers to meet with Dr. William Galston, to discuss family policy issues from the father's and child's perspective. Dr. Galston was a gracious host to our delegation. He was a good listener and he gave us suggestions for submitting a summary of our issues and research documentation for your use.

We presented a list of formal executive requests for you to undertake to gather more information for your domestic policy staff, to give you the widest policy options available when it comes to making new legislative recommendations to Congress. Our goal is to be a positive and constructive part of your information gathering process. Children of divorce need both parents, their

PRESIDENT CLINTON - 1 .

fathers as much as their mothers. The Absent Father Syndrome is America's greatest social catastrophe. We want to be a positive part of reducing the frequency of absent fathers in contemporary family life in America.

We also appealed to you, to restrain your use of the denigrating terms of "DEADBEAT DADS - DEADBEAT PARENTS" as they do not offer the positive encouragement that modern parents need to fulfill their parental responsibilities to their children. The cover page of the USA Weekend paper of Aug. 22, 1993, showing a father in handcuffs as possible criminals, undermines children's confidence in all parents, and not as positive role model parents to respect who are trying to do the best they can. New family policy legislation needs to focus on positive parenting challenges to troubled parents, not totally destroying one of the parents, usually the father. FINANCIAL SURVIVABILITY of both parents, in cases of separation and divorce, should be our priority.

Mr. President, our delegation of fathers came from all over America. We are most active at the state and local level. We came to the White House as representatives of responsible fathers; the large majority of fathers, like you and Vice President Gore, those fathers wanting more direct parenting time with their children. We formed a new national political coalition, the AMERICAN FATHERS COALITION. We will coordinate positive legislative suggestions, recommendations, and testimony from the responsible fathers movement, fathers from all over America.

There was one success we shared at the meeting with Dr. Galston. The new Commission on Child and Family Welfare, authorized under S.1002, has now been funded by Congress. This was in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. The Conference Report dated Oct. 5th, 1993 provided startup funding of \$250,000. Our fathers delegation strongly supported the creation and funding of this Commission. Senator Kohl was the leader of this effort and we applaud his concern for children and his effectiveness in getting the funding secured.

The structure of this Commission will offer the fathers movement one or two parental advocate representatives, who will work together with a variety of other individuals, to develop and make recommendations to Congress and the White House, on new family policies that cover all family issues. We are excited by the possibilities that this Commission offers, and we will forward to your personnel office names of people for you to consider for your three appointees.

WELFARE REFORM WORKING GROUP

Finally, Mr. President, is the work of the Welfare Reform Working Group. We spoke at length with Dr. Galston about this issue. None of the 15 fathers at the Oct. 7th meeting have been invited to testify at any of the WRWG hearings. Our delegation of responsible fathers have a strong desire to offer positive father-

parenting testimony and recommendations for consideration before the WRWG makes its recommendations to you. We are prepared to discuss paternity issues, welfare policies, as well as marriage and divorce reform recommendations.

FATHERS' RIGHTS has written two letters to Dr. David Ellwood and Bruce Reed, the two men serving as co-chairmen of the WRWG. Neither letter has been answered. We have formally requested a one day hearing for our delegation of responsible fathers, and our varied numbers of supporters, to present positive family policy options for consideration. American fathers have never been heard, never testified, at the national level in any serious way. This is our fathers failure and our responsibility. We accept this fact. Previously there has not been a fathers organization with a national legislative focus. However, we are here now, and you can benefit from our collective testimony.

We appeal to you, President Clinton, to direct the Welfare Reform Working Group, to give the responsible fathers movement this request for one full day of hearings. It seems as if Congressional hearings on these issues will be delayed because of the health care debate that will last well into 1994. Therefore, we have no need to rush the WRWG recommendations. Your Administration can benefit from allowing responsible fathers to talk about positive father parenting. By recognizing our responsible fathers movement, you will give encouragement to marginal fathers to remain involved with their children, rather than dropping out totally, and avoiding

their parenting responsibilities. Just allowing this one day of hearings can provide some incentive to fathers to recognize our government is not totally anti-father. Your leadership and your voice Mr. President, can make a big difference.

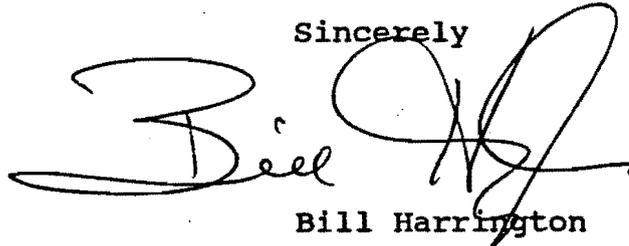
Mr. President, the only other suggestion we have to offer to you personally, is really a request directed to your staff. We are asking you to encourage your male staff members who are fathers, to verbally participate in staff meetings on health, family, and children's issues. These issues are not just women's issues. It is a well known fact that men generally do not talk about their personal and relationship feelings very well. This is the most legitimate criticism that women have about men. You can help break this lockout by encouraging your "fathers" staff members to talk. Maybe you can break the ice by asking questions of the father staff members rather than making them volunteer their comments. Perhaps with a richer discussion of family issues from all your staff members, you can pull together the content for an effective family policy address to the Congress and to the Nation.

As America's #1 father, we appeal to you to increase your staff support to Dr. Galston so he can effectively coordinate family policy legislation to positively assist the troubled families of America. All we ask, Mr. President, is for you to put some policy recommendations and programs behind your Father's Day Proclamation. You have already stated the value of fathers. All we need, and all we ask, is for official government support to

maintain father involvement in the lives of their children. These are the large majority of separated and divorced fathers who want to be day to day parents, involved in their children's education, and just not weekend Disneyland dads that the Courts create through every other weekend limited contact. Fathers, in cases of separation and divorce need help. We are asking for that help NOW, from you Mr. President, and from Congress.

Thank you again for the Oct. 7th meeting with our American Fathers Coalition of responsible fathers and for considering our recommendations. By working together, we can help make a difference for America's millions of innocent children of divorce.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Harrington". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Harrington

President

cc: Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Senate Finance Committee
Congressman Harold Ford, Subcommittee on Human Resources
House Ways & Means Committee

DEMILITARIZING DIVORCE

Denying fathers access to children as harmful as failure to pay support

By Jenni Bergal
Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

It's probably blasphemous to say this, but I'm beginning to think the whole deadbeat dad thing has been blown way out of proportion.

There's no question a lot of bums out there father a kid and don't pay a dime in child support. Some take off and are never heard from again. Others live in the neighborhood but have no interest in seeing their own child.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates one-quarter of the 6 million women who were supposed to get child-support payments received nothing in 1989. Another quarter got only partial payments.

That's a terrible situation which can't be justified by anyone. But there's another side to the story that's rarely told.

It's about dads who do care about their children and pay their support faithfully and follow all the rules, but don't get to see their kids.

Many of these cases involve divorces in which the children become pawns in the bitter battle between parents.

Women who are frustrated and angry at their ex-husbands frequently cut off access to the kids as retribution.

"Divorce is a devastating situation. It brings out feelings of denial, anger, sometimes revenge," says David L. Levy, president of the Children's Rights Council, a national advocacy group aimed at helping children of separation and divorce.

"People focus on their own problems. It's hard for them to separate their children's needs from their own."

So the custodial parent, usually the woman, blocks or discourages the other parent from visiting the children.

Levy's group estimates about 6.6 million children live with a parent who has stopped or partially interfered with visitation.

This obviously doesn't apply to all divorced moms. Many encourage their kids to maintain positive, healthy

Failing to pay child support is wrong. But it's just as wrong to sever a child's right to enjoy the company of both parents.

relationships with their fathers.

Nor are all the parents who block visitation women.

The Census Bureau says 15 percent of homes are now headed by single fathers. That means there are about 2 million non-custodial mothers out there, some of whom are being refused visitation.

But the simple fact is that the woman usually ends up with physical custody of a child after a breakup. They are the ones most likely to bar their ex-husbands from seeing the kids. This should never happen unless there are reports of child abuse or the father's home environment is completely unsuitable for a child.

And it's not a good enough excuse when women argue that they've cut off access just because their ex-husband has failed to make child support payments.

One issue has nothing to do with the other.

"We've got to demilitarize divorce and provide mediation and incentives for cooperation," Levy says. "Parents may be divorcing themselves, but they're not divorcing their children."

Slowly, a few states have begun to recognize that obstructing visitation is as serious a problem as failing to pay child support. Last year, Virginia passed a law giving the court discretion to change custody when a parent intentionally

withholds visitation.

"In Virginia, there has been a growing awareness that it's important to collect child support, but it's also important for a child to have two parents," says Lawrence Gaughan, a family law attorney in Fairfax.

In New Jersey, a 1990 law makes interfering with access or visitation a crime. Violators face a maximum of five years in jail and a \$7,500 fine. But the law is rarely, if ever, enforced by prosecutors, much to the dismay of child advocates.

"It's a gender issue. It's easier to throw men in jail than women," says Bruce Gillman, past president of the New Jersey Council for Children's Rights. "It's part of the bias that surrounds all these issues. No one really cares about the father-child relationship."

While jailing mothers who block visitation may seem to be an extreme measure, more and more fathers who fail to pay child support are ending up in the slammer.

So why should the law treat interference with visitation any differently?

The real national disgrace is that although there's staff in every state to enforce child support laws, no such units have been set up to deal with access problems.

"There are no programs and no money. There's very little mediation," says Levy, of the national children's rights group.

So how does a father feel when he pays child support, maintains a nice house, does everything by the book and still doesn't get to see his kids?

Hopeless and frustrated, that's how. Failing to pay child support is wrong. But it's just as wrong to sever a child's right to enjoy the company of both parents. Children need to learn from and love their mother and their father.

Those who aren't given the chance are the ultimate losers.

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OPINION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1992

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THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW Spokane Chronicle

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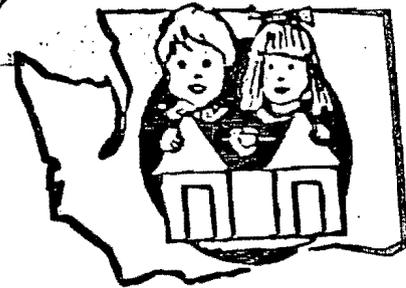
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SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1993

Carol Rosco, Staff Director
Domestic Policy Office
The White House
Washington DC, 20500

RE: OCT. 7TH - WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH DIVORCED FATHERS
ROSCO NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ABOUT MODERN FATHERING
REDBOOK MAGAZINE JUNE, 1993 ARTICLE ON MODERN FATHERING

Dear Ms. Rosco:

Your comments reported in the Tacoma newspaper, 9/29/93, A-5,

"I can talk about going to the pediatrician and buying antibiotics as I assume some fathers could" Rosco said, "But they never do." emphasis added.

reflect the "MYTH" about fathers as non-parents. Your comment is reasonably accurate about pre-1970 fathers, men who took family relationships somewhat for granted, but your statement is totally inaccurate for fathers post-1970, the modern father, like your boss, President Bill Clinton, and his able Vice President Al Gore, men who are both actively involved fathers, who are among the majority of responsible fathers, and not exceptions.

CAROL ROSCO - 1

These recklessly used anti-father myths is one reason that a delegation of 15 divorced fathers will be meeting with William Galston on October 7th at the White House, to begin the process of setting the record straight about modern fathers. Perhaps you might want to sit in on the meeting and learn about modern fathers, and what we are trying to do for the millions of children of divorce who are wrongly deprived of parenting by the fathers because of governmental policies based on myths about the non-value of direct parenting by fathers to their children.

Our reference to challenge the accuracy of your comments about fathers, doctors, and children, is the June 1993 Redbook magazine poll on modern father parenting of their minor children. The specific comment to rebut your assertion that fathers do not take their children for medical attention is found on page 82. See attached article and poll results. Redbook is hardly a gender biased pro-father publication so the information is credible.

It is the hope of our delegation of fathers to urge President Clinton to back up his Father's Day Proclamation with positive domestic and family policies, father-friendly family policies, relying on "current" social research about positive fathering, rather than relying on outdated "myths" about non-parenting by pre-1970 fathers.