



Cynthia A. Rice

01/05/98 02:30:37 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Letter from Senator Feinstein

Happy New Year and welcome back!



fein1204.wp I had emailed Bruce this draft on 12/4 with the note below, but never got a response. Should I put it on letterhead and send it over with the incoming for him to look at?

As you may recall, Senator Feinstein raised the idea of a six month moratorium on child support penalties when she met with the President on crime issues in September, and then she subsequently sent him a letter. I wanted to wait until the end of the session to reply to her.... and finally I've drafted the attached. I think similar language can be used in replies to Rep. Clay Shaw (who sent a letter to the President arguing against Feinstein) and to the LA County Board of Supervisors (who sent a letter making the same arguments as Feinstein). Please comment on this version, and then I will send a revised copy with the incoming letters to you via Cathy.

December 4, 1997

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Also -
write to Shaw

+ CA Board of
Supervisors

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Thank you for sharing your proposal for a six month moratorium on the penalties for states that failed to have effective child support enforcement automated systems in place by October 1st.

States have had nine years to develop these computer systems, and although some states have not met the current deadline, we do not plan to extend it further. Having statewide child support computer systems in every state is essential for the implementation of the tough, new child support enforcement rules enacted last year as part of welfare reform.

We do, however, believe that the current law, which requires us to withhold all federal child support funds when a state misses the deadline, will undermine efforts to collect child support for needy families. Thus, we plan to accept Congressman Clay Shaw's invitation to work to devise new legislation which will create an additional set of penalties for states that have not put in place these critical statewide computer systems. This will ensure that states have strong financial incentives to get their computer systems in place while not hurting overall child support collection efforts by denying all federal funds unless absolutely necessary. We expect new legislation to be enacted before any state completes the appeals process.

We look forward to working with you to improve our child support enforcement program.

Sincerely,

Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

cc: Representative E. Clay Shaw, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the President from Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

I do not believe this letter requires a Presidential response at this time. Please review the attached material and respond directly to the Member(s) of Congress. Please forward a copy of the response to Chris Walker, Office of Legislative Affairs.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris at 456-7500.

Enclosure



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

(202) 224-3841

September 15, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

SEP 19 PM2:09

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing you on an urgent matter that will have a devastating impact on California and at least 11 other states. California and 11 other states are facing an October 1, 1997 Child Support Enforcement System automation deadline imposed by the 1988 Family Support Act.

The 1988 Act and the 1996 Welfare reform require all states to have a child support enforcement system automation plan ready and certified by HHS by October 1, 1997 as part of the state plan requirement for receiving TANF funds.

As you may know, HHS has indicated that only 16 states have currently been certified and 22 states might be certified by December 1997. Twelve or more states, including California, will not meet the October 1, 1997 deadline or be certified by December 1997 and as a result could potentially lose all their TANF funds and the state's child support program funds.

Complete shut down in welfare and child support funding for 12 or more states would have a nationwide impact since 30% of all child support cases are interstate collection cases. This means children in Kansas or Georgia will not be able to get child support from fathers in California or Pennsylvania.

I urge you to support a temporary six month moratorium on the penalties imposed on all states who fail to comply with the system requirement allowing Congress to find a more permanent solution within that time. The 6 month moratorium amendment should be part of the Labor, HHS Appropriations Bill or a CR.

The Honorable William J. Clinton

September 15, 1997

Page 2

FY98 will be the first full year of welfare reform implementation and due to the Child Support Enforcement System deadline, welfare reform implementation will be in jeopardy since so many states will not get their TANF funds under the penalty. Millions of families and children in all the states who rely on TANF and child support for survival will be impacted by these penalties.

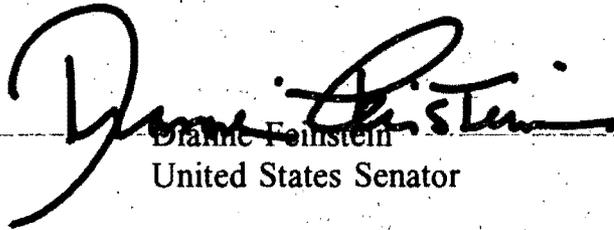
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- For Nevada, loss of TANF and child support funds amount to \$62 million dollars.
- For Pennsylvania, loss of TANF and child support funds amount to \$794 million dollars.
- For the District of Columbia, loss of TANF and child support funds amount to \$100 million dollars.

I believe that imposing extraordinary financial penalties on states that fail to meet this deadline will not hasten the development of workable systems but will result in harming the very people for whom the 1988 Family Support Act and the 1996 Welfare Reform were designed to serve.

The Honorable William J. Clinton
September 15, 1997
Page 3

I hope you will support a temporary 6 month moratorium on the penalties and I look forward to working with you in improving our child support program that would better serve our families and children in California and the Nation.

Sincerely yours,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

cc: C. Rice

States Senate
ON, DC 20510-0504
AL BUSINESS

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
9-15-97

B. D. Reed / cc S. Berger
Chair use help on this

William Clinton
U.S.S.

EK
JK

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington D.C. 20500



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

(202) 224-3841

September 15, 1997

*Copied
Reed
Berg
COS*

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

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FY98 will be the first full year of welfare reform implementation and due to the Child Support Enforcement System deadline, welfare reform implementation will be in jeopardy since so many states will not get their TANF funds under the penalty. Millions of families and children in all the states who rely on TANF and child support for survival will be impacted by these penalties.

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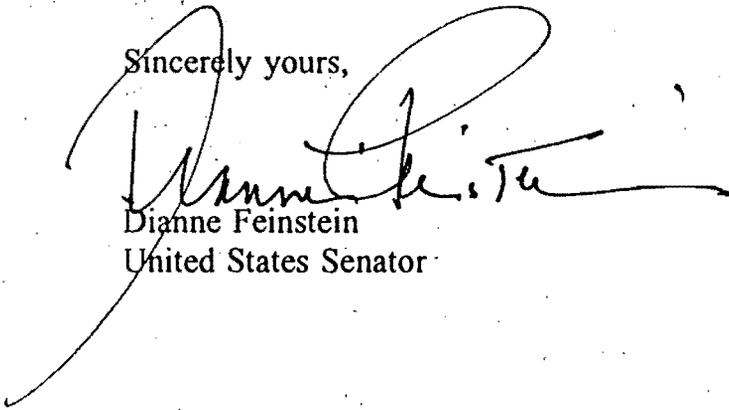
The Honorable William J. Clinton

September 15, 1997

Page 3

I hope you will support a temporary 6 month moratorium on the penalties and I look forward to working with you in improving our child support program that would better serve our families and children in California and the Nation.

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONFacsimile from Diane Ikemiyashiro
Office of Presidential Letters and Messages

Voice: (202) 456-5519 FAX: (202) 456-5426

Number of Pages (including cover): 3Date: 12.5.97Time: 10:55 pmTo: Cynthia Rice

Voice: _____

FAX: 6.7431[] incoming letter(s) from: Board of Supers. - L.A.re: D. Feinstein + 1988 Family Support Act

[] for your review

[] per my e-mail or voice-mail message to you

[] per your request

Additional comments:

Thanks for your help. I'll contact
you next week.

-D.

238734



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

383 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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JOANNE STURGES, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
(213) 974-1411

October 1, 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

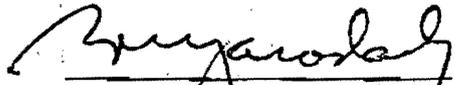
We are in support of Senator Dianne Feinstein's efforts to implement a six-month moratorium on the imposition of penalties on states unable to meet the deadline required by the 1988 Family Support Act and the 1996 Welfare Reform Bill, to have an automated child support enforcement system in place by October 1, 1997.

While Los Angeles County has an automated system for collecting child support, the State of California has not finished implementing a Statewide system. Furthermore, approximately eleven other states have not implemented a Statewide system. The consequences of not having a system in place could be the loss of all child support program funds and Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) funds.

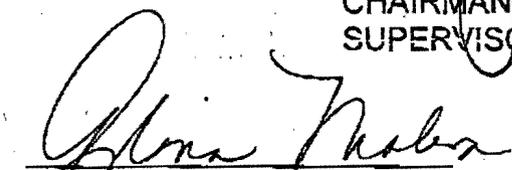
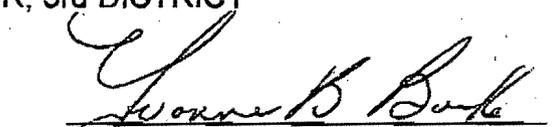
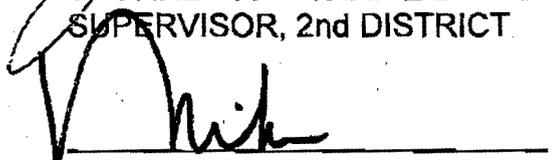
OCT 1 1997

The impact in California could total \$4 billion. This impact on California, and in particular on Los Angeles County would be devastating, and we therefore urge and support a six-month delay of penalties on states unable to meet this deadline.

Very truly yours,



ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR, 3rd DISTRICT


GLORIA MOLINA
SUPERVISOR, 1st DISTRICT
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
SUPERVISOR, 2nd DISTRICT
DON KNABE
SUPERVISOR, 4th DISTRICT
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
SUPERVISOR, 5th DISTRICT



DATE: 9-18-97

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
200 INDEPENDENCE AVE., SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

PHONE: (202) 690-7627

FAX: (202) 690-7380

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION
ROOM 416-G HUMPHREY BUILDING

*EK, CR -
Good letter.
-BR*

TO : Bruce Reed

FROM:

OFFICE : _____

RICHARD J. TARPLEN

PHONE NO : 456-2878

HELEN MATHIS

FAX NO : _____

KEVIN BURKE

TOTAL PAGES
(INCLUDING COVER) : _____

SANDI EUBANKS BROWN

ROSE CLEMENT LUSI

STEPHANIE WILSON

HAZEL FARMER

REMARKS:

FYI

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JOHN F. ENGLISH PENNSYLVANIA
JOHN F. HENRY NEVADA
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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

A. J. SINGLETON CHIEF OF STAFF
RON HASLAVE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

JANICE MATS, MINORITY CHIEF COUNSEL
DEBORAH G. COLTON, SUBCOMMITTEE MINORITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

September 18, 1997

The Honorable William Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you not to follow advice given to you in a recent letter from several Senators. The letter encourages you to support delaying an October 1, 1997 deadline for states to establish an approved automatic data system that is to serve as the control center of their child support enforcement program. As Chairman of the House Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the child support program, I oppose this recommendation for several reasons.

Child support enforcement is one of the most popular programs run by the federal and state governments. ~~Last year it collected about \$12 billion in support for America's children; much of it for children in low-income single parent families including mothers trying to escape welfare. Despite such large collections, Congress has believed for many years that the program needs to be greatly strengthened. Experts estimate that a highly efficient system could collect up to \$50 billion in support. That is one reason Congress made substantial changes in the program in last year's welfare reform law.~~

Based on hearings conducted over the past several years and extensive consultation with experts on the child support program, I think there is general agreement that the ~~backbone of the child support program is automatic data processing.~~ Indeed, the federal government has now spent \$2 billion on these data systems; the states have spent an additional \$0.6 billion. And yet, again based on hearings and consultation with experts, plus an excellent recent study from the U.S. General Accounting Office, the data systems in many states remain deficient. Our best guess is that between 10 and 15 states are not going to meet the October 1 deadline referred to above.

Given this background, I would like you to consider the following issues. ~~First, Congress has already delayed the deadline by two years. Legislation passed overwhelmingly in 1988 required the data systems to be completed by October 1, 1995. In 1994, because states were having trouble with their new systems, Congress delayed the deadline until October 1, 1997. I am uncomfortable changing this deadline for a second time, especially given the level of resources that has now been poured into the data systems and the length of time states already have been given to meet this goal.~~

Second, I hope you will reflect on the message we would send to the nation by delaying the date. Consider the following headlines reflecting charges the media could make against Congress: "Congress Chooses States Over Poor Children"; "Congress Backs Down on Promise to Penalize States for Not Collecting Child Support"; "Congress Slams Poor Children — Again"; "Congress to Single Parents: Eat Cake". If we believe that data processing is the heart of child support enforcement — as most of us do — and if we have already delayed by two years the original date on which states must have effective data systems — as we have — how can we in good conscience delay the date again? And if we do, would any of these headlines be unfair?

Third, Congress is forever forgiving penalties on states. We establish program after program, set standards for states that accept federal dollars to meet specific program goals, declare that "we really mean the penalties this time", and then immediately exempt states when they fail to perform adequately. Yet another federal performance of this sort will push even further into the future the day on which states believe us when we adopt performance goals backed by penalties.

Fourth, I believe there may be more panic than reason in the recommendation to delay the deadline. Although the deadline is October 1, 1997, current law contains numerous procedural requirements that will delay the actual withholding of funds from states until next summer.

For all these reasons, then, I recommend that you "table" the advice provided by our friends in the Senate. Their advice is unfortunate for all the reasons listed above. But more important, there is a much better course of action.

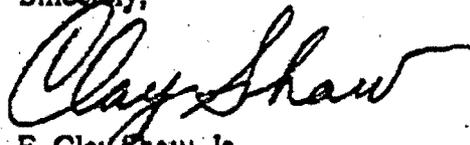
For several weeks now, I have been planning to identify a small group of House and Senate staff, and staff members of your Administration, plus a few representatives of government agencies, who will consult widely with states, advocacy groups, and computer experts, to help our Subcommittee design a two-part bill. The first part is straightforward. Under current law, if states miss the October 1 deadline, the Secretary has no choice except to terminate all the money received by the state under both the child support program and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which replaced the former AFDC program. Rather than impose this nuclear penalty, we will give the Secretary the flexibility to impose a reasonable fine on states of perhaps between 1 percent and 20 percent of their child support money, depending on the severity of their failure. In addition, we will give the Secretary the authority to enter into corrective compliance agreements under which fines will be temporarily suspended for a fixed period of time while states address their failures.

The second provision, much more difficult to write, will attempt to address the underlying reasons for failure by so many states. Perhaps the central problem is that some states have county data systems that are effective, modern, and well established. But if the

state must have a single state data system, then many counties are going to have to give up their current systems. Federal policy that forces this outcome may be shortsighted on both policy and political grounds. We need to try to find a middle ground that will allow some autonomy by counties but will still permit the centralized-statewide-data-system-to-function.

No action is now necessary. The October 1 penalty date will spur states to action. By January we will have legislation ready that addresses both the penalty issue and the underlying issue of data system centralization. Because the legislation will be bipartisan and is expected to have the support of states, we will have little difficulty getting it through Congress quickly. Because the Administration will participate in writing the legislation, you should be pleased to sign it. And all this will be accomplished before the nuclear penalty has time to explode.

Sincerely,



E. Clay Shaw, Jr.
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Spencer Abraham
The Honorable Richard H. Bryan
The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
The Honorable Carl Levin
The Honorable John Glenn
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
The Honorable Tom Daschle

The Honorable Carol Moseley-Braun
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Mike DeWine
The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
The Honorable Rick Santorum
The Honorable Tim Johnson
The Honorable Pete Domenici
The Honorable Arlen Specter

Same letter sent to The Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House
and The Honorable Trent Lott, Senate Majority Leader

FAX from

Senator Dianne Feinstein
of California

331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
202-224-3841
Fax: 202-228-4741

DATE: 9/16/1997

TO:

- 1) NGA - Susan -- fax 624- 5333
- 2) ILL Gov -- Sandy -- fax - 724-0689
- 3) CA gov -- Brian webb -- fax -624-5280
- 4) PA Gov -- Charity wilson -- fax - 624-7831
- 5) White House -- Cynthia Rice -- fax 456-~~9128~~ 2230
- 6) HHS leg affairs -- lauren griffen -- fax 690-8425

FROM: S. Lauren Choi
Legislative Assistant -- direct # 4-9641.

COMMENTS:

Revised - Correct version

Total Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 16

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 1997

The Honorable Trent Lott
Majority Leader
487 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

We urge you to support a six month moratorium on the penalties imposed on all states that fail to comply with an October 1, 1997 Child Support Enforcement System automation deadline imposed by the 1988 Family Support Act.

The 1988 Act and the 1996 welfare reform require all states to have a child support enforcement system automation plan ready and certified by HHS by October 1, 1997 as part of the state plan requirement for receiving TANF funds.

As you may know, HHS has indicated that only 16 states have currently been certified and 22 states might be certified by December 1997 or later. Twelve or more states will not meet the October 1st deadline or be ready by December 31st. As a result, these states could lose all their TANF funds and the state's child support program funds.

The effect of completely shutting down welfare and child support funding for 12 or more states have nationwide impact since 30% of all child support cases are interstate collection cases. This means children in Kansas or Georgia will not be able to get child support from fathers in California or Pennsylvania.

FY98 will be the first full year of welfare reform implementation and because many states will not meet the Child Support Enforcement System deadline, welfare reform implementation will be in jeopardy, affecting millions of families and children nationwide who rely on TANF and child support for survival.

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We believe that imposing huge financial penalties on states that fail to meet this deadline will not hasten the development of workable systems but will result in harming the very people for whom the 1988 Family Support Act and the 1996 Welfare Reform were designed to serve.

We urge you again for your support on imposing a moratorium on the penalties and we look forward to working with you in improving our child support program to better serve all our families and children.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein

Cassidy Moxley Braun

Garry Keil

Caroline Fayer

John Amodeo

Thib De Win

Robert H. Ryan

James K. Laska

Paul S. Sarbanes

Robert A. Neuberger

Jeff Bingaman

Barbara

John Glenn

Mary

Tom Vahlke

Rick Santorum

Jim Johnson

Peter Amodeo

Allen Becht (Child Support)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 1997

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
Garry Keil
John Amodeo
Robert H. Lopez
Paul S. Sarbanes

Carol M. Rosen
Barbara Boxer
Mike DeWine
Samuel K. Luczak
Robert A. Mikulski

Jeff Bingaman

Paul Hein

Rick Santorum

Jim Johnson

John Glenn

Pete Domenici

Ally

Allen Becht (C-116 support)

Tom Vahlke

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[Blank lines]

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 1997

The Honorable Bill Archer
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Archer:

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- For the District of Columbia, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 100 million dollars.

We believe that imposing huge financial penalties on states that fail to meet this deadline will not hasten the development of workable systems but will result in harming the very people for whom the 1988 Family Support Act and the 1996 Welfare Reform were designed to serve.

We urge you again for your support on imposing a moratorium on the penalties and we look forward to working with you in improving our child support program to better serve all our families and children.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein

Garry Keil

John Aronson

Robert H. Lopez

Paul S. Sarbanes

Carol Morley Braun

Barbara Baker

Thick DeWine

Samuel K. Raska

Babes A. Nichols

Jeff Bingaman

Carl Levin

John Glenn
Tommy

Tom Vahlke

Rick Santorum

Jim Johnson

Pete Domenici

Allen Beyer (child support)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 1997

The Honorable E. Clay Shaw
House Ways and Means Committee
US House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shaw:

We urge you to support a six month moratorium on the penalties imposed on all states that fail to comply with an October 1, 1997 Child Support Enforcement System automation deadline imposed by the 1988 Family Support Act.

The 1988 Act and the 1996 welfare reform require all states to have a child support enforcement system automation plan ready and certified by HHS by October 1, 1997 as part of the state plan requirement for receiving TANF funds.

As you may know, HHS has indicated that only 16 states have currently been certified and 22 states might be certified by December 1997 or later. Twelve or more states will not meet the October 1st deadline or be ready by December 31st. As a result, these states could lose all their TANF funds and the state's child support program funds.

The effect of completely shutting down welfare and child support funding for 12 or more states have nationwide impact since 30% of all child support cases are interstate collection cases. This means children in Kansas or Georgia will not be able to get child support from fathers in California or Pennsylvania.

FY98 will be the first full year of welfare reform implementation and because many states will not meet the Child Support Enforcement System deadline, welfare reform implementation will be in jeopardy, affecting millions of families and children nationwide who rely on TANF and child support for survival.

- For California, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 4 billion dollars.
- For South Dakota, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 25 million dollars.
- For New Mexico, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 129 million dollars.
- For Hawaii, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 113 million dollars.

The Honorable E. Clay Shaw
September 17, 1997
Page 2

- For Illinois, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 654 million dollars.
- For Ohio, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 836 million dollars.
- For Maryland, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 274 million dollars.
- For Michigan, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 857 million dollars.
- For Nevada, loss of TANF and child support funds amounts to 62 million dollars.
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Allen Bech (child support)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 17, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

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John Glenn
M. Wayne

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Allen Bester (child support)

Tom Vahlke



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

Jose / EK / ER

September 17, 1997

Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for meeting with me on Monday to discuss the issues of assault weapons, the continued circulation of high-capacity ammunition clips, and the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to enforce our nation's Federal firearms laws. In addition, I appreciate your willingness to try to look into the issue of California and other states facing the possible loss of billions of dollars in Federal funds due to a delay in development of a child support enforcement system as required under the 1988 Family Support Act and Welfare Reform.

As a follow up to our meeting, let me reiterate what it is I am hoping we can each do to further our common goals.

Legislative on high-capacity ammunition magazines (HCMs) or imported HCMs.

I intend to introduce legislation that replaces the grandfather clause on high-capacity ammunition magazines in the 1994 Crime Bill with a prohibition on the commercial sale of HCMs manufactured prior to the ban. If passed by Congress, this will have the added effect of prohibiting the importation of high capacity clips as well. I am asking that you and your Administration support this effort and commit to use the power of your office to help bring this issue to the American people, in addition to helping me weigh in with key legislators for passage of this amendment. The legislation was drafted by Wilke Green of my staff, and he is prepared to brief your staff on the details of the legislation and the strategy for introduction.

Administrative Action on Imported HCMs

As we move forward on legislation addressing the issue of pre-ban large-capacity clips, I believe there is action you can take to suspend the importation pre-ban clips. I urge you to issue a directive to the BATF to determine the manufacture date of imported clips prior to approval of any applications for import permits. If BATF is unable to determine with certainty the date of manufacture, the import permit should be denied.

President William J. Clinton
September 17, 1997
Page Three

Child Support Enforcement System Automation

Finally, as we discussed, I am heartened by your willingness to do what you can to prevent California and other states from losing billions of dollars in federal funds, which include all of the states' Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds and the Child Support Enforcement System funds because these states will not meet the October 1, 1997 deadline as required under welfare reform.

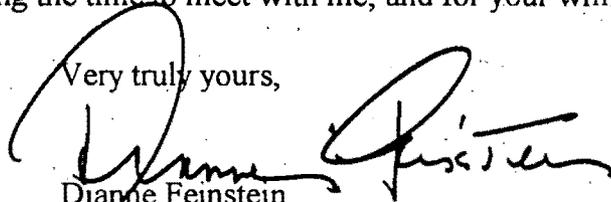
Without your intervention, California could lose \$3.7 billion in TANF funds and \$300 million in child support system funding. ~~I am asking you to impose a temporary 6 month moratorium on the penalties for failure to meet the October 1st deadline in order to give~~ California and other States the ability to implement their TANF programs and to improve their child support systems. California's state and local officials are making every effort to comply with the law as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. President, I know these issues are as important to you as they are to me. I understand the difficulty in addressing some of these firearms issues in a Republican Congress, but I am willing to do everything in my power to try, and I hope you will do the same.

I stand ready to assist you in every way, and I look forward to working with you, the Vice President, and others in your Administration to get the job done. The public stands behind you on this issue; of that I have no doubt. The rest is up to us.

If you would like to discuss this further, or if there are any questions you have, please do not hesitate to call me or have your staff contact Wilke Green of my staff at (202) 224-1227. Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me, and for your willingness to help.

Very truly yours,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

cc: Vice President Al Gore
Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty, Counselor to the President
Erskine Bowles, White House Chief of Staff
Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Policy Development
Kay Casstevens, Office of the Vice President
Tracey Thornton, Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

President William J. Clinton
September 17, 1997
Page Two

Understanding that this directive will likely be challenged in court, I will help build the case in the Senate that the continued importation of these large-capacity clips violates both the spirit of the law and the intent of Congress, and will encourage my counterparts in the House of Representatives to do the same as I work toward passage of legislation to address this issue permanently.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms - Enforcement and Staffing

It is clear to me that however committed the BATF is to carry out our nation's gun laws, their enforcement ability has been hampered by inadequate staffing, statutory limits on their inspection authority, and internal policies that discourage inspections not relative to an on-going criminal investigation.

I am asking you to consider, in your FY 1999 Budget to Congress, an increase in funding for the BATF for the purpose of adding additional field inspectors. I am also requesting that you issue a directive to the BATF to change current internal policies prohibiting field inspectors from attending gun shows without their attendance being relative to a criminal investigation. Further, in your order, direct the BATF to proactively send field inspectors to gun shows for the purpose of enforcing Federal firearms laws and to serve as a deterrent to those who would violate the law. I pledge to work in the Senate to build support for your efforts to address both of these issues.

yes

Importation of Israeli Galils and Uzis

As we discussed, I sent a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu urging him to intervene in the planned export to the United States tens of thousands of modified Uzis and Galils by a government-owned munitions manufacturer, Israel Military Industries, Ltd. I am asking that you issue a directive to the Department of Treasury to suspend pending permits of these weapons until such time as a clarification can be made as to the suitability of these weapons for sporting purposes. This order would be modeled after a similar directive issued by the Treasury Department and supported by President Bush in 1989. In that order, President Bush suspended the pending import permits of 24 types of assault weapons in order to determine whether or not the weapons were suitable for sporting purposes under 18USC 925(d)3. I believe you have an opportunity to take the same action in this case.

?

Further, I am requesting that you use diplomatic channels to persuade Israel, in the interest of public safety, not to export these weapons to the United States.