

DRAFT 6/23/97 7:00 pm

DRAFT LETTER ON CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

There is no job as important -- or as difficult -- as being a parent. Most parents eagerly embrace the responsibility of raising and supporting their children. Others, unfortunately, do not. Because every parent must take responsibility for the children they bring into this world, I've made child support enforcement a top priority for my Administration. Today, I am pleased to announce that new data from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of the Treasury show we're making tremendous progress. I am also pleased to endorse a bipartisan effort in the Congress to enact tough new legislation proposed by the Attorney General to punish parents who wilfully neglect to pay child support.

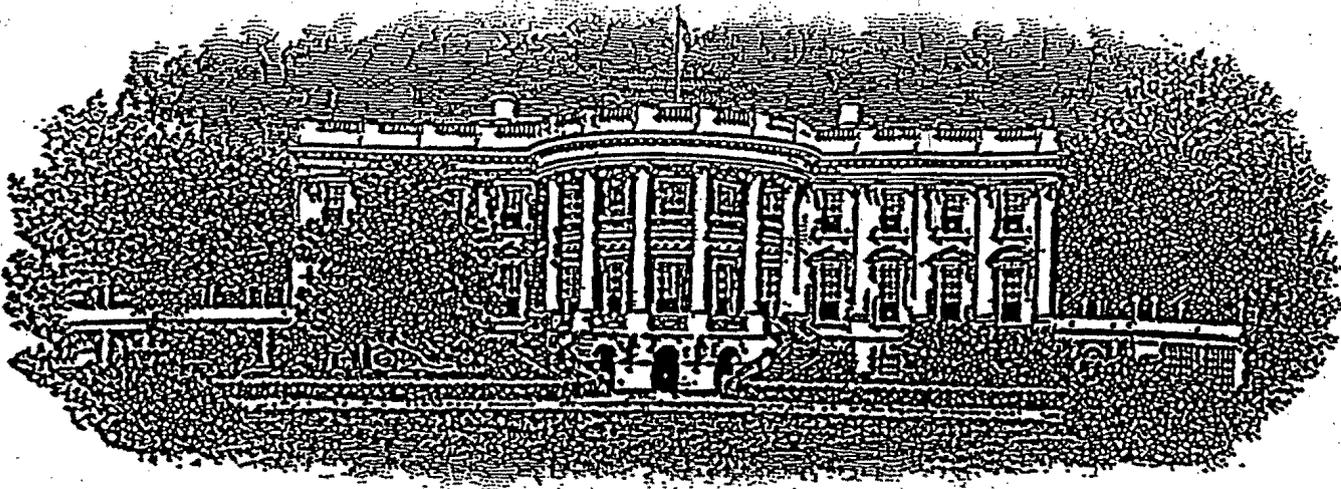
The Department of Health and Human Services' 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement shows that the federal/state child support enforcement program has made record increases in child support collections, paternity establishments, and families receiving child support collections. In addition, preliminary data for fiscal year 1996 provides even more evidence that our crackdown on child support enforcement is working. Overall, from 1992 to 1996, child support collections have increased by fifty percent, from \$8 billion to a record \$12 billion; paternities established have nearly doubled, increasing from 516,000 to nearly one million; and the number of child support cases with collections rose by almost fifty percent.

A new effort spurred by the April 1996 Debt Collection Improvement Act and an executive order I issued last September 28th will help to collect even most child support. Under the executive order, the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with HHS has developed procedures to collect past-due child support through administrative offset of federal payments such as employee salaries, retirement benefits, and vendor payments. There's no reason why parents who owe child support should collect federal funds. Currently, eight states and the District of Columbia are participating in the program and over 725,000 parents have been notified that their federal payments could be seized to satisfy delinquent child support debts. All 50 states are scheduled to participate in the program by the end of 1997. When the program is fully implemented, annual collections could reach \$200 million, which will be in addition to the \$1 billion the Treasury Department collected last year by offsetting tax refunds.

While I am proud of these accomplishments, we must still do more to punish parents who take egregious actions to avoid paying child support. Last July, I directed the Attorney General to draft legislation to amend the Child Support Recovery Act to establish a felony offense for a person who wilfully fails to pay child support for a child in another state. That proposal, which was first submitted to Congress in September 1996, has been strengthened. The legislation would make it a felony offense to 1) travel in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to evade a support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year; 2) willfully fail to pay a support obligation regarding a child residing in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000. I am pleased that the Attorney General is working on a bipartisan basis with Senators Kohl and Dewine to enact our tougher proposal into law.

Last year, I signed into law a welfare bill containing the toughest child support enforcement provisions in history. Now we must work to implement these new rules and toughen them when necessary so that all parents pay the child support they owe. I look forward to continuing to work with the Congress on a bipartisan basis on these important matters.

The White House



DOMESTIC POLICY

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Bruce Reed

FAX NUMBER: 362-0493

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 362-7595

FROM: CYNTHIA RICE, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR DOMESTIC POLICY

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 456-2846 (phone) 456-7431 (fax)

PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 4

COMMENTS: DRAFT child support letter -
There's a similar press release still being
revised. Question - should the Bogeray
press release have a direct quote from
POTUS - how it says 'today he sent a
letter to Congress --' without a quote -
Suggestions?

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

DATE: June 23, 1997

TO: Cynthia Rice, The White House FAX: 456.7431

Toby Graff, HHS FAX: 690.5673

FAX #: () VOICE #:

FROM: LISA M. WINSTON
FAX #: (202) 514-6897 VOICE: (202) 514-2269

THIS TRANSMISSION CONTAINS 3 SHEETS INCLUDING THIS SHEET

Special Note(s)

I'm forwarding DOJ's revised language for the press release and letter from the President re: child support. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

If any page(s) are missing, please call 514-2073 for re-transmission.

REVISED LANGUAGE FOR CHILD SUPPORT PRESS RELEASE:

To strengthen the Clinton Administration's crackdown on child support enforcement, the Justice Department sent legislation to Congress that would amend the Child Support Recovery Act by establishing a felony offense for crossing state lines to avoid paying child support or refusing to pay support for a child in another state. The Attorney General has been working on a bipartisan basis with Senators Kohl (D-WI) and Dewine (R-OH) to enact the legislation. Senators Kohl and Dewine plan to offer this legislation through an amendment to S.10, The Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Act, currently being considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The new legislation would create two new categories of felony offenses, subject to a two-year maximum prison term. This amendment to the Child Support Recovery Act would make it a felony offense to travel out of state or country with the intent to evade a child support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year. A felony offense also would be established for willfully failing to pay child support to a child in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000. The new legislation would also apply to child support orders issued by Indian tribal courts.

The legislation revises a bill that the Justice Department submitted to Congress in September, in response to a Presidential directive to the Attorney General to amend the Child Support Recovery Act.

"Failure to pay child support isn't just irresponsible, it's a crime," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "We will aggressively pursue parents who cheat their children. "

In a letter sent to Congress today, President Clinton commended the Senate Judiciary Committee for working on a bipartisan basis to make the Administration's proposed changes to the Child Support Recovery Act.

REVISED LANGUAGE FOR LETTER TO CONGRESS RE: CHILD SUPPORT

We must do still more to punish parents who take egregious actions to avoid paying child support. Last July, I directed the Attorney General to draft legislation to amend the Child Support Recovery Act to establish a felony offense for a person who wilfully fails to pay child support for a child in another state. That proposal, which was first submitted to Congress in September 1996, has been strengthened. The legislation would make it a felony offense to 1) travel in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to evade a support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year; 2) willfully fail to pay a support obligation regarding a child residing in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000. I am pleased that the Attorney General is working on a bipartisan basis with Senators Kohl and Dewine to enact our tougher proposal into law.

DRAFT
23 June

In addition, the Debt Collection Improvement Act, enacted in April 1996, included important provisions that can be used to assist families in collecting past-due child support obligations. Last September 28th, President Clinton issued an executive order directing the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and implement procedures in consultation with the Secretary of HHS to collect past-due child support through administrative offset of federal payments such as employee salaries, retirement benefits, and vendor payments.

Currently, eight states and the District of Columbia are participating in the program and over 725,000 parents have been notified that their federal payments could be seized to satisfy delinquent child support debts. All 50 states are scheduled to participate in this program by the end of 1997. When the program is fully implemented, annual collections could reach \$200 million. The Treasury department also operates a similar program in which tax refunds are offset for various types of delinquent debt including child support obligations and federal loans for education, housing, and business. This program collected almost \$1 billion in ~~1995~~ for child support. in 1996

in past due



THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20020

PHONE: (202) 622-2960 FAX: (202) 622-1999

TO: Cynthia Rice
FROM: Hamilton Dix
DATE: 23 June 1997
SUBJECT: As requested
PAGE: One (1)

As we discussed, attached is suggested language for the President's letter. Also, before we do anything with the press, I'd like to coordinate with you.

ph: 622-1295
fx: 622-1999
page: 622-1260

Thanks.

FAX NO: 456-7431

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Houston, Texas)

Embargoed For Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EDT
On Saturday, September 28, 1996

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Today I want to talk to you about a new executive action I'm taking to crack down on deadbeat parents who won't pay the child support they owe.

During my time as President, I've had a straightforward strategy: Opportunity for all, responsibility from all, and coming together in a stronger American community. That's America's basic bargain.

We've worked hard to offer every American opportunity, the chance to make the most of his or her own life. We've got 10.5 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 7.5 years, the deficit has been cut by 60 percent. And just this week, we received more news that our strategy is working and America is on the right track. According to the U.S. Census, the income of a typical family went up \$1,600 over inflation over the last two years. In just the last year the increase was almost \$900, the biggest increase in a decade. The number of people living in poverty and the rate of income inequality in our country dropped faster than at any time since 1968. Our economy clearly is on the right track to the 21st century.

As we offer opportunity, we must also demand responsibility. The problems of our society will only be solved if there is an upsurge of personal responsibility -- if individuals take it upon themselves to meet their obligations, do the right thing, and give something back to those around them.

No area cries out for greater personal responsibility than the quiet crisis of child support. No one should be able to escape responsibility for bringing a child into the world. That is our first and most fundamental duty. But today, too many fathers have tried to walk away from that obligation. When a father leaves the home it can throw a mother and children

into poverty. In fact, one of the main reasons people go on welfare is because the father has failed to meet his obligations of child support. If all the parents in this country paid the child support they owe, we could move 800,000 women and children off the welfare rolls tomorrow.

So our administration has waged an unprecedented and sustained campaign to collect child support and make deadbeat parents pay up. We required states to set up programs at hospitals to find out the identity of fathers at the time a baby is born. Two hundred thousand fathers have been identified through this program. We're requiring mothers who receive welfare to tell us the name of the father of the child.

We set up a national database of delinquent parents and linked up the databases from 17 states. And I'm pleased to report that in its first few months this system has identified over 60,000 delinquent fathers. Over half owed money to mothers on welfare.

And the landmark welfare reform legislation I signed last month institutes the most dramatic crackdown yet on child support enforcement. It says to deadbeat parents: pay up, or we'll track you down, garnish your wages and make you pay what

you owe. Under the new welfare law, states will suspend drivers licenses of deadbeats who don't pay and the national government will take away passports. This year, at my direction, the IRS will collect \$1 billion in child support by withholding part of tax refunds.

The U.S. Postal Service has begun work with states to post lists of parents who owe support. And we're using the new information technologies to catch delinquent parents, linking the web pages of 20 states to post the identities of deadbeat parents on the Internet.

We now have new evidence of how effective this crackdown has been. In four years, child support collections in our country have risen from \$8 billion to \$11.8 billion -- a nearly 50-percent increase in child support collections. And nearly 800,000 paternities were identified. That's an increase of 50 percent over 1992.

We've made a real difference. But we can do more and we must do more. This past week, the Justice Department proposed legislation making it a felony and increasing penalties

for crossing state lines to avoid paying child support or to refuse to pay support for a child in another state.

Last year, I issued an executive order requiring all employees of the federal government to pay the child support they owed. Today I'm issuing a new executive order designed to crack down even harder on those who refuse to pay their child support.

First, I'm ordering federal agencies to take necessary and legal steps to deny government loans -- such as small business loans, farm loans, home loans -- to deadbeat parents.

Second, the government will do more to collect child support itself. We'll create a streamlined computer system that can find out which people who receive federal payments still owe child support. We'll deduct child support debts from these fees paid to government consultants and vendors, and the benefits paid to retired federal employees. The Treasury Department estimates that some \$800 million in payments go to these deadbeat parents. These funds can then be paid to the mother and the children.

The executive order says simply if you owe child support, you shouldn't get the support of the national government. You can't make money off the taxpayers if you're refusing to support your own children. It says we mean business, and we intend to make responsibility a way of life.

We know that when we do take responsibility we can meet difficult challenges like crime, welfare, and poverty. We're already making real and dramatic progress on child support collections. And I am confident that we can make even more progress. But, ultimately, we will only meet this challenge if we recognize that governments don't raise children, parents do. We need everyone to take responsibility, to give our children the love and support they need and deserve, to show them by our own actions the meaning of right and wrong. If we do this, then I have great confidence in our country, our children, and our future.

Thank you for listening.

END



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Melissa T. Skolfield

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

Phone: (202) 690-7850

Fax: (202) 690-5673

To: Cynthia Rice

Fax: 456-7431 Phone: _____

Date: 6/23 Total number of pages sent: 5

Comments:

*Hi - Sorry for the delay...
Pls. call if you have
questions.*

Revised

Cynthia Rice
456-7431 Bay

Strengthening families one of my most important goals as President. I strongly believe that children should be raised in households with two loving parents, and there is much evidence to show that a strong, stable family environment is best for children. But in those cases when parents do not stay together, both parents should remain involved in their children's lives. Part of that involvement must include the responsibility for financial support.

Improving child support enforcement has been a top goal of my Administration. Today, I am pleased to announce that a new report by the Department of Health and Human Services, The 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement shows we've made tremendous progress.

See insert

The 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement shows that ~~from 1992 to 1996 child support collections increased by 50%, from \$8 billion to a record \$12 billion;~~ ^{have} the number of paternities established [↑] nearly doubled increasing from ~~516,000 to nearly one million;~~ ^{by almost 50 percent} and the number of child support cases with collections rose to ~~4 million, an increase of 43 percent, from 2.8 million.~~ Overall, child support collections have increased by 50% from \$8 to a record \$12.5 from 1992 to 1996.

While we have made tremendous strides, we must do more. That's why last year I urged the Congress to enact two important pieces of legislation to improve child support collection efforts. The welfare reform bill I signed into law on August 22, 1996 contains the toughest child support enforcement measures in our nation's history -- changes that will improve the procedures

FIRST DRAFT

record \$12.5 from 1992 to 1996

Insert on HHS Child Support Report:

Improving child support enforcement and increasing child support collections have been a top priority of my Administration. Today, I am pleased to announce a new report by the Department of Health and Human Services shows we've made tremendous progress. According to The 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement, that the federal/state child support enforcement program has made record increases in child support collections, paternity establishments and families receiving child support collections. In addition, preliminary data for fiscal year 1996 provides even more evidence that our crackdown on child support enforcement is working. Overall, from 1992 to 1996, child support collections have increased by fifty percent, from \$8 billion to a record \$12 billion; paternities established have nearly doubled, increasing from 516,000 to nearly one million; and the number of child support cases with collections rose by almost fifty percent.

used to establish paternity, make it easier to enter and update child support awards, and dramatically strengthen our ability to enforce the payment of those awards.

In addition, the Debt Collection Improvement Act enacted in April 1996 included important provisions which can be used to assist families in collecting past-due child support obligations. Last September 28th, I issued an executive order directing the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and implement procedures in consultation with the Secretary of HHS to collect past due child support through administrative offset of federal payments such as employee salaries, retirement benefits, and vendor payments. Already, half a million delinquent parents have been notified that their federal payments will be seized to satisfy delinquent child support debts.

Today? We must do still more to punish parents who take egregious actions to avoid paying child support. Last July, I directed the Attorney General 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. I am pleased that the Attorney General will transmit to Congress (this week) a revised version of this legislation and that she is working on a bipartisan basis with Senators Kohl and Dewine to enact it into law. I urge the Congress to enact the Kohl/Dewine proposal which would make it a felony offense to 1) travel in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to evade a support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year; 2) willfully fail to pay a support obligation regarding a child residing in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000.

I am pleased that my Administration has been able to work with the Congress on a bipartisan basis on these important measures.

Cynthia - we can work on ending it once
DOJ piece is done.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Melissa T. Skolfield

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

Phone: (202) 690-7850

Fax: (202) 690-5673

To: Cynthia Rice
Hamilton Dix

Fax: _____ Phone: _____

Date: 6/23 Total number of pages sent: 1

Comments:

Here's a revised press release moving POTUS letter up + incorporating changes from Treasury. Still haven't received comments from DOJ, but in the meantime please let me know if you have additional changes

Thanks,
Lily
690-7854

DRAFT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Kharfen
(202) 401-9215

**Clinton Administration Reports Record Year of Child Support,
Progress on Tough Child Support Enforcement Initiatives**

Today HHS Secretary Shalala announced dramatic improvement in the most critical areas of child support enforcement. According to the 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement issued by HHS today, the federal/state child support enforcement program has made record increases in child support collections, paternity establishments, and families receiving child support collections.

For fiscal year 1995, \$10.8 billion was collected from non-custodial parents. Preliminary data for fiscal year 1996 shows that the federal/state partnership collected a record \$12 billion, surpassing the estimate of \$11.8 billion that the President announced in September 1996. Since 1992 child support collections have increased by \$4 billion, or 50 percent.

The report issued today also shows a dramatic increase in paternity establishment since President Clinton took office. In fiscal year 1995 over 900,000 paternities were established, exceeding the Administration's previous estimates of 735,000 paternities. Further, preliminary data for fiscal year 1996 shows that the number of paternities established rose to nearly 1 million, almost double, from 516,000 in 1992.

"The Clinton Administration's unprecedented and sustained campaign to collect child support and make deadbeat parents pay up is working," said Secretary Shalala. "We are making real progress in improving the child support system, but we must do even more to ensure that no parents evade their responsibility to support their children."

Today President Clinton sent a letter to Congress commending the tremendous strides made in making parental responsibility the law of the land, but he urged Congress to take even stronger action.

- More -

To strengthen the crackdown on child support enforcement, today the Justice Department sent legislation to Congress to establish a felony offense for crossing state lines to avoid paying child support or to refuse to pay support for a child in another state. The Attorney General has been working on a bipartisan basis with Senators Kohl (D-WI) and DeWine (R-OH) to enact the bill.

The new legislation would make it a felony offense to travel out of state or country with the intent to evade a child support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year. A felony offense also would be established for willfully failing to pay child support to a child in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000.

The legislation revises a bill that the Justice Department submitted to Congress in September, in response to a Presidential directive to the Attorney General to amend the Child Support Recovery Act.

"We must punish people who have tried to evade their child support responsibilities," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "This legislation says that we mean business and that parental responsibility must become a way of life."

In the letter sent to Congress today, President Clinton praised the Senate Judiciary Committee for working on a bipartisan basis to make the Administration's proposed changes to the Child Support Recovery Act and he urged the Congress to enact the Kohl/Dewine proposal in to law.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is considering this amendment as part of markup of juvenile justice programs.

In addition, today Treasury Secretary Rubin announced that a new federal-state partnership aimed at collecting child support from parents who fail to pay is underway.

In response to an executive order issued by President Clinton in September 1996, the Department of Treasury has activated a centralized, streamlined Federal system to offset child support debts against most Federal payments. Federal payments will include employee salaries, retirement benefits and vendor payments.

Over 725,000 parents have already been notified by the Treasury Department that their federal payments could be seized to satisfy delinquent child support debts. Eight states and the District of Columbia are currently working with the Treasury Department to identify more recipients of federal payments who owe child support. All fifty states are scheduled to participate in the program by the end of 1997.

"We are sending a strong and clear message that if you owe child support you shouldn't get the support of the federal government," said Secretary Rubin. "By offsetting child support debts against federal payments, we can dramatically increase child support collections and help families achieve self-sufficiency."

The Treasury Department also operates a similar program in which tax refunds are offset for various types of delinquent debt, including child support obligations. This program collected nearly \$1 billion in 1996 for child support.

According to the HHS report, families receiving child support also increased to 3.7 million cases with a collection in fiscal year 1995, an increase of 9 percent over the previous year. Estimates for fiscal year 1996 indicate that the number of child support cases with collections rose to 4 million, an increase of 43 percent, from 2.8 million in 1992. The child support program also improved its efficiency by collecting more child support for each dollar it spends.

Note: The 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement is available from the HHS Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20047.

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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

64D

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: _____

TO:

Cynthia Rice

PHONE NO.

FAX NO.

456-7431

FROM:

ELLEN DAVIS

PHONE NO.

FAX NO.

514-3653

514-9149

NO. OF PAGES: _____ (EXCLUDING COVER)

COMMENTS:

Cynthia
Roll has signed off
Still waiting for internal clearance

*Will be referred
press
business
pat*

REVISED LANGUAGE FOR CHILD SUPPORT PRESS RELEASE:

To strengthen the Clinton Administration's crackdown on child support enforcement, the Justice Department sent legislation to Congress that would amend the Child Support Recovery Act by establishing a felony offense for crossing state lines to avoid paying child support or refusing to pay support for a child in another state. The Attorney General has been working on a bipartisan basis with Senators Kohl (D-WI) and Dewine (R-OH) to enact the legislation. Senators Kohl and Dewine plan to offer this legislation through an amendment to S.10, ~~the Violence Against Women Act~~, currently being considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The new legislation would create two new categories of felony offenses, subject to a two-year maximum prison term. This amendment to the Child Support Recovery Act would make it a felony offense to travel out of state or country with the intent to evade a child support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year. A felony offense also would be established for willfully failing to pay child support to a child in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000. The new legislation would also apply to child support orders issued by Indian tribal courts.

The legislation revises a bill that the Justice Department submitted to Congress in September, in response to a Presidential directive to the Attorney General to amend the Child Support Recovery Act.

"We must punish people who have tried to evade their child support responsibilities," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "This legislation says that we mean business and that parental responsibility must become a way of life."

In a letter sent to Congress today, President Clinton commended the Senate Judiciary Committee for working on a bipartisan basis to make the Administration's proposed changes to the Child Support Recovery Act.

Draft

REVISED LANGUAGE FOR LETTER TO CONGRESS RE: CHILD SUPPORT

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CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT
Conference call

6-6755 Toby Graff, HHS, 690-7854

6-6755 Melissa Skolfield, HHS, 690-7850

6-6755 Hamilton Dix, Treasury, 622-1295

6-6755 Jim Haggadorn, Treasury 874-6604

622-1999 (f)

6-6755 Don Hammond, Treasury, 622-0550

6-6766 Lisa Winston, Justice Dept., 514-2269

6-6766 Ellen Davis, Justice Dept., 514-3653

514-6897 (f)

~~Office
Father White House
456-6755
456-6766
8811~~

Conf call
information

Handwritten vertical text



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Melissa T. Skolfield

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

Phone: (202) 690-7850 Fax: (202) 690-5673

To: Cynthia Rice

Fax: 456-7431 Phone: _____

Date: 6/19 Total number of pages sent: 4

Comments:

Cynthia-

Here's the draft press release. I think we might want to flip the Treasury + DOJ pieces so we can get the POTUS letter in higher up. I'll be sending your letter w/ comments ASAP (I thought melissa gave it back to me, but she didn't yet)

and I'll get comments from DOJ + DOT + HHS by tomorrow p.m.

Pls. let me know if you have ?s / problems.
But have a great trip!

Joly

DRAFT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Kharfen
(202) 401-9215**Clinton Administration Reports Record Year of Child Support,
Progress on Tough Child Support Enforcement Initiatives**

Today HHS Secretary Shalala announced dramatic improvement in the most critical areas of child support enforcement. According to the 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement issued by HHS today, the federal/state child support enforcement program has made record increases in child support collections, paternity establishments, and families receiving child support collections.

For fiscal year 1995, \$10.8 billion was collected from non-custodial parents. Preliminary data for fiscal year 1996 shows that the federal/state partnership collected a record \$12 billion, surpassing the estimate of \$11.8 billion that the President announced in September 1996. Since 1992 child support collections have increased by \$4 billion, or 50 percent.

The report issued today also shows a dramatic increase in paternity establishment since President Clinton took office. In fiscal year 1995 over 900,000 paternities were established, exceeding the Administration's previous estimates of 735,000 paternities. Further, preliminary data for fiscal year 1996 shows that the number of paternities established rose to nearly 1 million, almost double, from 516,000 in 1992.

"The Clinton Administration's unprecedented and sustained campaign to collect child support and make deadbeat parents pay up is working," said Secretary Shalala. "We are making real progress in improving the child support system, but we must do even more to ensure that no parents evade their responsibility to support their children."

To strengthen the Clinton Administration's crackdown on child support enforcement, today Treasury Secretary Rubin announced a new federal-state partnership aimed at collecting as much as \$35 million a month from parents who fail to pay child support.

In a letter sent to Congress ^{- More} today, President Clinton called for passage

In response to an executive order issued by President Clinton in September 1996, the Department of Treasury has activated a centralized, streamlined Federal system to offset child support debts against most Federal payments. Federal payments will include employee salaries, retirement benefits and vendor payments.

Half a million delinquent parents have already been notified by the Treasury Department that their federal payments will be seized to satisfy delinquent child support debts. Xxxx [Treasury, please fill in #] states have agreed to work with the Treasury Department to identify more recipients of federal payments who owe child support.

"We are sending a strong and clear message that if you owe child support you shouldn't get the support of the federal government," said Secretary Rubin. "By offsetting child support debts against federal payments, we can dramatically increase child support collections and help families achieve self-sufficiency."

In addition, today the Justice Department sent legislation to Congress to establish a felony offense for crossing state lines to avoid paying child support or to refuse to pay support for a child in another state. The Attorney General has been working on a bipartisan basis with Senators Kohl (D-WI) and DeWine (R-OH) to enact the bill, which mirrors legislation endorsed by President Clinton.

The new legislation would make it a felony offense to travel out of state or country with the intent to evade a child support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year. A felony offense also would be established for willfully failing to pay child support to a child in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000.

The legislation revises a bill that the Justice Department submitted to Congress in September, in response to a Presidential directive to the Attorney General to amend the Child Support Recovery Act.

"We must punish people who have tried to evade their child support responsibilities," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "This legislation says that we mean business and that parental responsibility must become a way of life."

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- more

The Senate Judiciary Committee is considering this amendment as part of markup of juvenile justice programs.

According to the HHS report, families receiving child support also increased to 3.7 million cases with a collection in fiscal year 1995, an increase of 9 percent over the previous year. Estimates for fiscal year 1996 indicate that the number of child support cases with collections rose to 4 million, an increase of 43 percent, from 2.8 million in 1992. The child support program also improved its efficiency by collecting more child support for each dollar it spends.

Note: The 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement is available from the HHS Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20047.

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Strengthening families one of my most important goals as President. I strongly believe that children should be raised in households with two loving parents, and there is much evidence to show that a strong, stable family environment is best for children. But in those cases when parents do not stay together, both parents should remain involved in their children's lives. Part of that involvement must include the responsibility for financial support.

Improving child support enforcement has been a top goal of my Administration. Today, I am pleased to announce that a new report by the Department of Health and Human Services shows we've made tremendous progress. The ^{21st 2 increase FY/30/96} 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement shows that from 1992 to 1996 child support collections increased by 50%, from \$8 billion to a record \$12 billion; the number of paternities established nearly doubled increasing from 516,000 to nearly one million; and the number of child support cases with collections rose to 4 million, an increase of 43 percent, from 2.8 million.

While we have made tremendous strides, we must do more. That's why last year I urged the Congress to enact two important pieces of legislation to improve child support collection efforts. The welfare reform bill I signed into law on August 22, 1996 contains the toughest child support enforcement measures in our nation's history -- changes that will improve the procedures

FIRST DRAFT

used to establish paternity, make it easier to enter and update child support awards, and dramatically strengthen our ability to enforce the payment of those awards.

In addition, the Debt Collection Improvement Act enacted in April 1996 included important provisions which can be used to assist families in collecting past-due child support obligations. Last September 28th, I issued an executive order directing the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and implement procedures in consultation with the Secretary of HHS to collect past due child support through administrative offset of federal payments such as employee salaries, retirement benefits, and vendor payments. Already, half a million delinquent parents have been notified that their federal payments will be seized to satisfy delinquent child support debts.

not all
get
fed
payments

We must do still more to punish parents who take egregious actions to avoid paying child support. Last July, I directed the Attorney General 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. I am pleased that the Attorney General will transmit to Congress this week a revised version of this legislation and that she is working on a bipartisan basis with Senators Kohl and Dewine to enact it into law. I urge the Congress to enact the Kohl/Dewine proposal which would make it a felony offense to 1) travel in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to evade a support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year; 2) willfully fail to pay a support obligation regarding a child residing in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000.

I am pleased that my Administration has been able to work with the Congress on a bipartisan basis on these important measures.

Welfare's problem child

The difficulty of tracking down deadbeat parents and enforcing child support is threatening efforts to get welfare families back on their feet

By Richard Wolf
USA TODAY

6/16/97

RICHMOND, Va. — An ambitious national crackdown on parents who don't pay child support has gotten off to a rocky start in the states, and that threatens to undermine the central goal of welfare reform: making poor families self-sufficient.

The welfare reform law passed last year forces all 50 states to upgrade efforts against "deadbeat dads." Welfare clients account for more than half the nation's child support cases, or 10.4 million. But only one in eight fathers who have children on welfare pays.

With mothers on welfare facing the loss of benefits after five years and likely to get low-paying jobs, child support offers a second source of income.

But many experts say the new laws simply won't work.

Nationally, only 18% of noncustodial parents — usually fathers, but not always — pay child support. About \$35 billion is owed, a figure that grows 5% annually. Caseloads are overflowing; child support staffs are overworked. Computer systems designed to track down parents are behind schedule; some are in shambles. And state lawmakers have complained that the new ways of tracking down parents intrude on all citizens' lives.

Even Virginia, a national model in its comprehensive approach to collecting child support, has not had much success. Fewer than one in four cases produces cash. While \$250 million was collected last year, up from \$20 million a decade ago, another \$1.25 billion is owed.

"Job one in welfare reform is replacing what Uncle Sam gave to the mom with her own earnings," says Scott Oostdyk, Virginia's deputy secretary of health and human resources. "The big question the press never asks is, 'Where's Dad?'"

Clarence Carter, Virginia's commissioner of social services, blames out-of-wedlock births and divorce rates for driving his child support rolls up by 82 cases a day. "Ultimately," he says, "government is not the solution to people taking personal responsibility."

Inside the Division of Child Support Enforcement in Richmond, computers spit out names, jobs and Social Security numbers of parents who owe money.



'There has to be a better method': Says Lauren Bland, with daughter Arnicia, left. On the debate's other side, Joseph Miller, above, says, 'I'm paying it both ways' by paying child support and welfare.

Photos by Dean Hoffmeyer, AP, for USA TODAY

Wages are withheld, licenses suspended, blood tests taken to identify fathers. "Most Wanted" lists adorn the Internet.

But there are problems:

► Too many cases. Child support caseworkers such as Pam Mosley and Eddie Martinez of Henrico, Va., handle an average of more than 900 cases at one time. That gives them less than 10 minutes a month for each.

► Computer problems. All 50 states were supposed to have automated systems to track deadbeat dads by October 1995, a deadline since extended to this fall. But Virginia is one of only 12 states with certified systems.

► Finding the offenders. Parents who don't have custody continue to outsmart caseworkers and computers. About 30% flee to other states.

The Clinton administration highlights statistics showing that collections have risen from \$8 billion in 1992 to nearly \$12 billion in 1996; the number of cases in which paternity was established nearly doubled in that time. But the percentage of money owed that's actually collected remains mired at 22.

States have begun demanding more information from welfare mothers about delinquent fathers. Nowhere is that program tougher than in Virginia, which requires women to provide three pieces of information that may lead to the father. More than 1,700 women have been penalized for not cooperating; their payments cut by at least 25%.

Since 1992, Virginia's collections have jumped 78%; only nine states have seen a greater increase. But the state can't find noncustodial parents in nearly half its cases; another 33% have been found but still are not paying.

Neither mothers nor fathers are satisfied with the changes. Mothers want swifter justice; fathers usually contest the size of payments and penalties.

Lauren Bland's case is typical. On and off welfare since the birth of her daughter Arnicia in 1982, Bland found the father in New Jersey only last year. The state quickly established paternity; now his income and assets are being scoured to determine whether he can begin providing support. But even if he can, Bland likely will get only \$50 a month while she remains on welfare; the rest of the money paid by Arnicia's dad is kept by the state to reimburse its welfare payments.

"There has to be a better method" to find and collect from fathers, says Bland, who is unmarried. She gets support for her 18-year-old son and hopes to collect for her 5-month-old daughter, who has a different father. "It's working too slow."

Forklift mechanic Joseph Miller, 35, pays \$50 a week and health-care costs for a 2-year-old son he fathered outside his marriage. He was threatened with suspension of his driver's license.

Because the mother is on welfare, which is funded by taxpayers, he says, "I'm paying it both ways."

To Do

1) Leave message for Toby

26th Annual Report? only through
+ only has 903,000 ^{FY 95} paternities
Is this the 21st annual?

2) WH Leg Affairs

Janet

Susan

Tracey Thornton

3) OMB

4) McCurry + Ann Lewis

5) COS?

⇒ 6) Erica + set up corp only

FATHER'S DAY, 1997

Message Creation Date was at 13-JUN-1997 10:28:00

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 12, 1997

FATHER'S DAY, 1997

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Raising a child is a sacred mission, and the man who welcomes this mission and embraces the obligations of fatherhood is someone who truly deserves our recognition and gratitude. On Father's Day, we honor all the men across our country who have affirmed the importance of parenthood by willingly assuming its important responsibilities.

The tight grasp of a newborn baby's tiny hand curled around his or her father's finger only hints at the strength of the bond that will grow in all the seasons of life between father and child. Caring fathers are not content to merely safeguard their children's physical well-being, but also seek to foster their spiritual and moral growth, and pass on their most cherished values. Mentor, teacher, coach, friend, and hero, a father gives his son or daughter all that his mind, his hands, and his heart can provide. No work is too hard, no sacrifice is too great if doing so will strengthen, protect, nurture, and instill joy in his child.

Fathers teach their children to take pride in themselves and their work, to assume responsibility for their lives and character, and to understand the rewards of sharing with others. Most important, fathers -- whether biological, adoptive, or foster -- offer the strong, steady current of love that sustains their sons and daughters through the good times and bad times that all of us face.

Our Nation is blessed that so many Americans cherish the role of fatherhood in our families, for fathers add a crucial stability and strength to our lives. On Father's Day, let us honor and give thanks to these men who share with their children not only the precious gifts of life and love, but also their time, attention, and the kind of caring concern that lasts a lifetime.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972 (36 U.S.C. 142a), do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 15, 1997, as Father's Day. I invite the States, communities, and citizens of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that demonstrate our deep respect and abiding affection for our fathers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

April 16, 1997

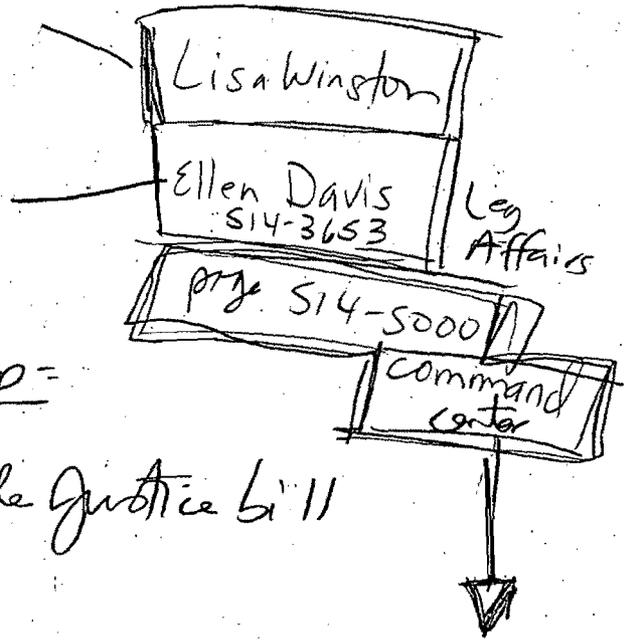
MEMORANDUM FOR: MELISSA SKOLFIELD
FROM: CYNTHIA RICE
SUBJECT: CHILD SUPPORT INFO FROM TREASURY, DOJ

Attached is the information I got from Treasury and DOJ:

Treasury: The President signed an Executive Order on September 28, 1996, directing the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of HHS and other affected agencies, to collect past due child support by seizing federal payments to delinquent parents. Last week, Treasury sent its first notices to 123,000 people (I'm checking to make sure all were delinquent parents--authority also exists to collect from people who default on student loans or otherwise owe the federal government money) in 3 states and the District of Columbia. Treasury wants a big event or at least a Rubin-Shalala White House press corps briefing but also thinks the timeliness of the first notices should be capitalized upon. Contact at Treasury: Ben Nye 622-2735.

DOJ: On July 21, 1996, the President directed the Attorney General "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." The bill would make it a felony offense to 1) travel in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to evade a support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year; 2) willfully fail to pay a support obligation regarding a child residing in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000. DOJ sent language to the Hill during the 104th Congress; they now have a slightly revised version to send up this Congress. DOJ has been holding language at our request. DOJ is consulting with their leg affairs staff about their views on our media strategy. Contact at DOJ: Debra Cohn, 514-3052.

DOJ



Full cmtc marking up =

S-10 Juvenile Justice Bill

Started yesterday

3 days next week Wed - Fri

Kohl + Dewine want to do amendment

misdemeanor to felony piece
(our original proposal)

DOJ wants

- call Kohl

- Know ~~you're~~ you're doing our proposal → we have a better one
Let's do it together

Do letter attached to HHS

- P

-

DOJ mtg w/ Shelby who want
→ next Wednesday

Letter POTUS

- pleased to be working w/
Sen Kohl + Dewine to
enact

• Need authorization to call Kohl
+ make this pitch
→ ^{Also} WH leg affairs

Hamilton Dix
Treasury
622-1295

Jim Haggadorn
874-6604
Treasury

POTUS praise Senate for acting
(Shelby) on legislation
we sent up

release statement yesterday

Treasury Dept new checking rolls
to make sure we're not paying
people

sent notices ~~to~~ to 1/2 million
people on org child support

federal salaries
vendors

2

Letter from POTUS to members of
Congress to whom delivering
annual report

Letter for Mon-Tues
+ press release
Mc Curry

1) Please HHS today giving
you report - together
giving you

- law
- Treasury started
garnishing

2) Today urge you to
personally urge of

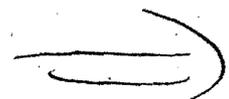
to pass this ...
Stelby +

+ Rich Wolf article

1) Dore legislation
(debt collection)

+ Now need

3)



Brain

- We cannot leak POTUS letters to Congress
- ~~But~~ But could give Rich Wolf the info ~~at~~ ahead of time and he could say "and tomorrow President ~~will~~ will send to Congress"

→ Do we do official Father's Day proclamation?

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONHHS / ST
Crack

May 30, 1997

Mr. John M. Doe
Title
Organization
Business Adr1
Business Adr2
Business City, BState BZip-BZip9

Dear John:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about child support enforcement. I am deeply concerned about this important issue.

Parents have a responsibility to support the children they bring into this world, and reforming the child support system to ensure that this responsibility is met has been one of my top legislative priorities. The welfare reform bill I signed into law on August 22, 1996, contains the toughest child support enforcement measures in our nation's history -- changes that will improve the procedures used to establish paternity, make it easier to enter and update child support awards, and dramatically strengthen our ability to enforce the payment of those awards. This act gives us the ability to track deadbeat parents across state lines, suspend their driver's licenses if necessary, and make them work off what they owe. These measures send a clear and consistent message that both parents must take responsibility for their children.

I'm proud to report that in 1996, the federal/state child support enforcement system collected approximately \$12 billion, up from \$8 billion in 1992 -- and the child support plan included in the welfare reform legislation could increase child support collections by \$24 billion over the next ten years. If parents paid all the child support they should, we could move 800,000 women and children off welfare immediately. The federal government should serve as a model for other employers. That's why, in February 1995, I also signed an executive order requiring federal agencies to cooperate fully with efforts to establish and to enforce child support orders and to help employees understand how they can meet their support obligations. And, in September 1996, I issued another executive order to take additional steps to support our children and strengthen American families by facilitating the collection of delinquent child support obligations from persons who may be eligible to receive certain federal payments or federal assistance. The executive order says simply, if you owe child support, you shouldn't get the support of the federal government.

In June 1996, I directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor to exercise their legal authority to help implement a pilot program. This program matches new-hire data collected by participating states with Federal Parent Locator Service data to track parents who owe child support in one state and take a job in another. This program will also strengthen the paternity establishment requirements for welfare applicants, thereby improving child support enforcement operations.

Implementation of these initiatives is integral to promoting the American values of parental responsibility, and as we continue working toward this goal, I welcome your continued interest.

Sincerely,



(5/30/97)

SCHEDULING REQUEST

April 21, 1997

ACCEPT

REGRET

PENDING

TO: Stephanie Street, Director of Scheduling

FROM: Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

REQUEST: Child Support Enforcement Radio Address

PURPOSE: To highlight the President's record on child support.

BACKGROUND: There are three child support enforcement announcements that we would like to combine into a radio address for May 3rd or May 10th. Since child support enforcement primarily affects mothers, these announcements could be combined with a Mother's Day message.

First, we are ready to transmit to Congress the 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement prepared by HHS which shows that from 1992 to 1996 child support collections increased by 50%, from \$8 billion to a record \$12 billion; the number of paternities established nearly doubled increasing from 516,000 to nearly one million; and the number of child support cases with collections rose to 4 million, an increase of 43 percent, from 2.8 million.

Second, as a result of the Executive Order the President signed on September 28, 1996, the Treasury Department has just notified the first 123,000 delinquent parents that their federal payments will be seized for past due child support. (The 123,000 are from just three states and the District of Columbia).

Third, in response to a Presidential Directive to the Attorney General on July 21, 1996, we are ready to transmit to Congress legislation which would establish felony violations for certain egregious actions taken to avoid paying child support.

DATE & TIME: May 3 or May 10 Radio Address.

DURATION: 30 min.

LOCATION: The White House

PARTICIPANTS: Possibly Secretary Shalala, Secretary Rubin, and Attorney General Reno.

REMARKS
REQUIRED:

Yes

MEDIA:

Open

CONTACT:

Bruce Reed

6-6515

Christa Robinson

6-5165

Weekly Report
Cynthia Rice
April 18, 1997

Child Support Enforcement: We have three child support enforcement announcements that we would like to combine into a radio address for May 3rd or May 10th. First, we are ready to transmit to Congress the 20th Annual Report to Congress on Child Support Enforcement prepared by HHS which shows that from 1992 to 1996 child support collections increased by 50%, from \$8 billion to a record \$12 billion; the number of paternities established nearly doubled increasing from 516,000 to nearly one million; and the number of child support cases with collections rose to 4 million, an increase of 43 percent, from 2.8 million.

Second, as a result of the Executive Order you signed on September 28, 1996, the Treasury Department has just notified the first 123,000 delinquent parents that their federal payments will be seized for past due child support. Thousands more payments will be seized as Treasury adds more types of federal payments and more states to its new system (the 123,000 are from just three states and the District of Columbia).

Third, in response to a directive you issued to the Attorney General on July 21, 1996, we are ready to transmit to Congress legislation which would establish felony violations for certain egregious actions taken to avoid paying child support. The legislation would make it a felony offense to 1) travel in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to evade a support obligation that is greater than \$5,000 or has remained unpaid for longer than one year, 2) willfully fail to pay a support obligation regarding a child residing in another state if the obligation has remained unpaid for two years or is greater than \$10,000. The language is a revised version of language the Department of Justice sent to the Hill at the end of the 104th Congress.

Amendment to Child Support Recovery Act

P.