

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

State	TOTAL Estimated NDNH Case Hits
AK	3,828
AL	13,753
AR	13,205
AZ	44,449
CA	123,313
CO	23,513
CT	19,967
DC	4,517
DE	3,807
FL	33,230
GA	14,423
GU	153
HI	6,339
IA	22,141
ID	4,886
IL	26,837
IN	15,437
KS	18,165
KY	12,822
LA	14,935
MA	25,114
MD	13,878
ME	6,038
MI	50,146
MN	15,228
MO	42,349
MS	21,287
MT	5,701
NC	14,391
ND	3,846
NE	24,603
NH	7,440
NJ	20,413
NM	2,726
NV	5,488
NY	55,447
OH	34,719
OK	8,627
OR	8,494
PA	25,464
PR	1,031
RI	2,853
SC	8,895
SD	3,643
TN	16,658
TX	75,962
UT	16,096
VA	23,928
VI	28
VT	2,128
WA	21,452
WI	32,706
WV	10,702
WY	5,151
TOTAL	1,032,352

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

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

June 24, 1998

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Child Support Q&A

June 24, 1998

Announcement

Q: What did the President announce today?

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

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

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

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

New Child Support Data

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

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

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

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

procedures against them.

Q: What happens when a match occurs?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q: What is behind the increases in collections?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act

Q: What does the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act do?

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

Q: **Where did this legislation come from?**

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

Q: **What does the current law provide?**

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

Q: **Why is this bill necessary?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Child Support Issues

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

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

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
STRENGTHENING CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT**

June 24, 1998

"This bill today is a gift to our children and the future. The quiet crisis of unpaid child support is something that our country and our families shouldn't tolerate. Our first responsibility, all of us, is to our children."

President Bill Clinton
June 24, 1998

Today, at an Oval Office bill signing event, President Clinton announces the release of new statistics showing that the Administration's child support enforcement efforts have led to significant increases in child support collections, paternity identifications, and location of delinquent parents. The President will sign the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998, which establishes tougher penalties for parents who repeatedly fail to support children living in another state or who flee across state lines to avoid paying child support.

LOCATING OVER ONE MILLION DELINQUENT PARENTS. As part of the 1996 welfare reform law, the National Directory of New Hires was established to help track parents across state lines and withhold wages from them. The New Hire directory enables child support officials to match records of delinquent parents with wage records from across the nation and begin collection procedures against them. This directory has now located over one million delinquent parents since its launch on October 1, 1997.

ESTABLISHING A RECORD NUMBER OF PATERNITIES. Improving paternity establishment has been a top priority of the Clinton Administration and is the crucial first step for children born out of wedlock to obtain the child support they need and deserve. In 1997, a record 1.3 million paternities were established, over two and a half times more than five years ago. Much of this success is due to the voluntary program begun by the President in 1994, which encourages fathers to acknowledge paternity at the hospital when the child is born.

RECORD INCREASES IN CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS. With the passage of welfare reform, states were given new tools to go after parents who chose to walk away from their child support obligations, including the New Hire directory, streamlined paternity establishment, uniform interstate child support laws, computerized state-wide collections, and tough new penalties like driver's license revocation. In addition, the establishment of more paternities means more fathers are now legally obligated to pay support. These efforts have led to record results:

- In 1997, the state and federal child support enforcement program collected a record \$13.4 billion for children, an increase of 68 percent from 1992;
- The number of families actually receiving child support payments has increased to 4.2 million, a 48 percent increase since 1992.

INCREASING PENALTIES FOR DEADBEAT PARENTS. In July 1996, the President directed the Attorney General to draft legislation with stronger penalties for parents who neglect to pay child support, and today he will sign into law a bill with overwhelming bipartisan support. The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 creates two new categories of felonies against those who evade child support:

- Traveling across state or country lines with the intent to evade child support payments will now be considered a felony if the obligation has remained unpaid for a period longer than one year and is greater than \$5,000;
- When a child support obligation has remained unpaid for over two years, or is in excess of \$10,000, willful failure to pay this support to a child residing in another state will be considered a felony.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE BANKRUPTCY REFORM THAT DOES NOT HURT CHILDREN. The President will reaffirm his commitment to bankruptcy reform legislation that does not make it harder to collect child support and alimony. The Administration will work with Congress to produce responsible reform legislation that will continue to make protecting child support and alimony a top priority.



Photo by Roger Richards/The Washington Times

President Clinton talks to Sonja Evans after signing a child-support bill while her sons, Jesse and Jonathan, examine the pens he gave them.

Deadbeat parents can't run away now

Law bans moving to avoid payments

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Parents who deliberately slip across state lines or national borders to avoid paying child support can go to prison under a law signed yesterday by President Clinton.

"From now on, if you flee across state lines and refuse to pay child support, you may be charged with a federal offense — a felony offense — and may land in jail for up to two years," Mr. Clinton said at an Oval Office ceremony.

"One way or the other, people who don't support their children will pay what they must," he said.

The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act, which passed both chambers of Congress with strong bipartisan support, augments current law that punishes interstate evasion of child-support obligations.

Under the new law:

- It is a federal offense, punishable by six months in federal prison, to move out of state or out of the country to avoid paying child support if the debt is \$5,000 or more or has been unpaid for a year.

- Parents convicted of willfully failing to pay child support for two years or who owe \$10,000 or more can be jailed for as long as two years.

"For parents who selfishly discard their responsibility, we have a simple message: If you break the law, you will be punished," said Sen. Mike DeWine, Ohio Repub-

lican, a lead sponsor of the law with Sen. Herb Kohl, Wisconsin Democrat.

Debbie Kline, spokeswoman for the Association for Children for Enforcement of Support (ACES) in Toledo, Ohio, said the law recognizes the "needs of the 10 million children who are owed \$14.7 billion" in interstate child support cases.

"It's about time that parents who break the law by abandoning their children and forcing their family to live in poverty or on welfare are brought to justice," she said.

Victor Smith, president of Dads Against Discrimination USA, a nonprofit father's rights group in Portland, Ore., denounced the law as "a crock — a feel-good thing to impress female voters."

The law will penalize men for trying to find a job in another state, he said. "It also doesn't do anything to women who moves around and won't let dad see the kids," said Mr. Smith, who added that "father custody would solve half the problems."

Mr. Clinton praised lawmakers, government officials and child-support advocates for leading "an unprecedented campaign to make deadbeat parents live up to their obligations."

The president said these efforts have led to a record 1.3 million paternities established and located 1 million delinquent parents through new interstate computer checking systems.

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1998

Zhao Urges Apology For Tiananmen

Ousted Party Chief Says Incident Hurts U.S. Ties

By STEVEN MUFSON
Washington Post Foreign Service

BELJING, June 24—Former Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, ousted in 1989 on the eve of the bloody crackdown on demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, has written a letter asking the party's current leaders to admit that the move against the student-led protests was a grave mistake.

With President Clinton due arrive in China Thursday night for a nine-day visit, the Reuters news agency obtained a copy of Zhao's letter, which said that the killing of hundreds of civilians demonstrating for democracy on June 4, 1989, was "one of the biggest human rights problems this century."

Clinton is the first U.S. president to visit China since Communist leaders ordered troops to open fire on the Tiananmen demonstrators. The President has been criticized by members of Congress and human rights groups in the United States for agreeing to attend an official welcoming ceremony next to the square.

"President Clinton's visit to China marks a turn for the better in Sino-U.S. relations," wrote Zhao, 78, who was general secretary of the Communist Party and now lives under loose house arrest in Beijing. "But the United States and the whole of the West have again and again raised the June 4 problem and the human rights problem of China," he added. "Rather than let it become an obstacle to international relations, it would be better to resolve the June 4 problem ourselves voluntarily."

White House aides have said that Clinton will speak up about human rights problems in China during his trip, but that he will not attempt to meet with Chinese dissidents. Such meetings would anger his host, President Jiang Zemin, and possibly put the dissidents in

CHINA, From A25

danger of arrest.

Zhao was toppled from power when other party leaders, including senior leader Deng Xiaoping, decided that he was too sympathetic toward student protesters. Zhao opposed the imposition of martial law and went to Tiananmen Square to plead with student leaders to disperse the crowds to avoid disaster. Later, after the tanks rolled into the square, Zhao defended the students and their demands in a secret statement to party leaders.

In recent years, the Chinese Communist Party has modified its description of the 1989 demonstrations, changing its characterization from a "counterrevolutionary riot" to an "incident" to the current usage of a very mild version of the word "disturbance." But the party has steadfastly defended the decision to send troops to fire on demonstrators.

Zhao's letter will likely irritate Jiang, who replaced him as Communist Party chief in 1989. Zhao made a similar plea to party leaders last September during an important party congress, and Jiang, in an interview last October, sternly said that Zhao "must accept party discipline."

Despite his age, Zhao is still considered a potential force capable of rallying reformers within the party. Following the September letter, there was a tightening of restrictions on Zhao, who has tried to keep a regular golf schedule in recent years.

Recently, the government has also tightened its watch over dissidents in an effort to avoid any disruption of Clinton's visit.

Several Chinese who have visited Beijing from other cities have been picked up by police and sent home. Chinese police detained a dissident today in the southern city of Guilin, where Clinton is due to arrive July 1. Eight police took Li Xiaolong, 34, a member of the now-defunct dissident group Human Rights Voice, into custody from his home.

Clinton Signs Child-Support Bill Setting Jail Penalties

Associated Press

More than 3 million out-of-state deadbeat parents could face federal felony charges and prison time under child-support legislation signed by President Clinton yesterday.

"One way or the other, people who don't support their children will pay what they must," the president said in an Oval Office signing ceremony.

The legislation, which sailed through the House and Senate by overwhelming margins, creates two felony categories that carry a maximum of two years in prison plus fines and restitution. Crossing state lines with the intent to evade child-support payments is now a felony for parents owing \$5,000 or more, or whose payments have remained unpaid for more than a year. Out-of-state parents owing \$10,000 or more or who fail to pay for two years will also be subject to felony charges.

Previously, crossing state lines to duck payments was a misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of six months.

Under a tracking system created by the 1996 welfare law, the federal government has located more than 1 million delinquent parents and alerted state officials who, in 1997, collected \$13.4 billion in overdue child support, up 68 percent from 1992.

See CHINA, A27, Col. 1

The Washington Post

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1998

June 23, 1998

BILL SIGNING CEREMONY

H.R. 3811, THE DEADBEAT PARENTS PUNISHMENT ACT OF 1998

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1998
LOCATION: OVAL OFFICE
TIME: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
FROM: LARRY STEIN
BRUCE REED

I. PURPOSE

To sign H.R. 3811, the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 and highlight your Administration's leadership on child support initiatives.

II. BACKGROUND

The bill you are signing into law, the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 (H.R. 3811), is based on your 1996 proposal for tougher penalties for parents who repeatedly fail to support children living in another state or who flee across state lines to avoid paying child support.

This new law will strengthen the criminal sanctions in the Child Support Recovery Act of 1992 by toughening penalties (through reclassifying some offenses from misdemeanors to felonies) and creating new gradations of offenses to more effectively target and punish the most flagrant child support evaders. The need for the bill arose after lawmakers heard from police officers and prosecutors that current penalties were inadequate to penalize a parent who moves interstate, or out of the country, to intentionally evade child support penalties.

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

H.R. 3811 was introduced in the House of Representatives on May 7, 1998 by Representative Henry Hyde (R-IL). The measure was quickly passed (402-16) by the House on May 12, 1998 and passed by the Senate, by unanimous consent, on June 5, 1998. Key sponsors for this legislation include Representatives Steny

Hoyer (D-MD), Representative Henry Hyde (R-IL), Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH).

In addition to signing H.R. 3811, you will announce new statistics highlighting the success of Administration child support enforcement efforts. First, you will announce that a new child support collection system launched nine months ago has already located one million delinquent parents. The National Directory of New Hires was created under the new welfare reform law to compile all new hires and all wage and unemployment compensation records and match those records against delinquent parents. Since approximately one-third of child support cases are interstate, the directory is a key tool in our efforts to track down these parents. These one million matches would not have been found without this new system. Second, you will announce that the child support enforcement program established a record 1.3 million paternities in 1997. Overall, 68 percent more child support was collected in 1997 than in 1992.

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

III. PARTICIPANTS

Pre-Brief Participants

The President
Attorney General Janet Reno
Rahm Emanuel
Larry Stein
Bruce Reed
Tracey Thornton
Cynthia Rice
Karen Skelton

Attending Signing Ceremony

Members of Congress

Senator Kohl (D-WI)
Senator DeWine (R-OH)
Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

Agency Staff

Judge David Ross, Commissioner, Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS
John Monahan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, HHS
Donald Deering, Chief of Law Enforcement, Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS
Nicholas Soppa, Assistant to the Commissioner, Office of Child Support Enforcement, HHS

Mother affected by legislation who is introducing you

Ms. Sonia Evans (Biography attached) and her twin sons Jesse and Jonathan.

Mothers

Ms. Leslie Sorkhe

Ms. Bobbie Coles

Prosecutors

Helen F. Fahey, U.S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia (Ms. Fahey has taken a leading role in the prosecution of child support evaders.)

Jerry Smagala [smuh-GAH-luh], U.S. Assistant District Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia (Mr. Smagala, has successfully prosecuted 23 cases in the last year, including one of the largest cases in the country.)

Advocates within the Women's Community

Joel Bankus, National Child Support Enforcement Association

Janet Chung, National Partnership for Women and Families

Christina Firvida, National Women's Law Center

Geraldine Jensen, President of the Association for Children for Enforcement of Support (ACES), advocacy group that pushed for this bill

Vicki Turetsky, Center for Law and Social Policy

IV. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- **The President**, accompanied by Sonia Evans, enters the Oval Office and proceeds to the toast lectern.
- Sonia Evans makes brief remarks and introduces **the President**.
- **The President** makes remarks.
- **The President** proceeds to the desk, where he joins Attorney General Janet Reno, five members of Congress, Jerry Smagal, Leslie Sorkhe and Bobbie Coles.
- **The President** signs the act.
- **The President** greets guests and departs.

V. PRESS PLAN

Open Pool Press

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Biography of Ms. Sonia Evans

Biography of Ms. Sonia Evans

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

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

State	Estimated NDNH Case Hits
AK	3,828
AL	13,753
AR	13,205
AZ	44,449
CA	123,313
CO	23,513
CT	19,967
DC	4,517
DE	3,807
FL	33,230
GA	14,423
GU	153
HI	6,339
IA	22,141
ID	4,886
IL	26,837
IN	15,437
KS	18,165
KY	12,822
LA	14,935
MA	25,114
MD	13,878
ME	6,038
MI	50,146
MN	15,228
MO	42,349
MS	21,287
MT	5,701
NC	14,391
ND	3,846
NE	24,603
NH	7,440

Deadbeat parents to face tougher law

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Deadbeat parents could face up to two years in prison under a child support law to be signed by President Clinton today.

Clinton also will announce that a new child support collection system — a national database of millions of workers — has helped locate 1 million delinquent parents since it was set up nine months ago.

Aides say there is no estimate of how many of those parents are paying the child support they owe because in some cases wages are garnished immediately, but in other cases paternity must be established.

The system requires employers to file new workers' W-4 forms in a database at the federal Health and Human Services Department. State officials can then look up the names of delinquent parents to determine if they're working in another state.

Nora O'Brien of the Association for Children for the Enforcement of Support says the new-hire registry is not as useful as it might be because half the states have no lists of

delinquent parents to plug into the federal database.

The new law makes it a felony to travel across state lines to evade child support payments if the delinquent payments amount to more than \$5,000 or have been unpaid for more than a year.

If a parent has not moved but has been delinquent for more than two years or owes more than \$10,000, and the child lives in another state, that violation also will be a felony.

The bill was sponsored by Reps. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and Sens. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Herb Kohl, D-Wis.

"The bipartisan support it received shows the progress we can make when we work together," Clinton adviser Rahm Emanuel says.

Clinton also will announce: ▶ Officials collected \$13.4 billion in child support in 1997, an increase of 68% from 1992. Even though they're collecting more, the number of cases has tripled," O'Brien says.

▶ The number of families getting support they were owed rose from 2.8 million in 1992 to 4.2 million in 1997.



Hyde: One of the bill's sponsors

Child Support Q&A

June 24, 1998 -- 6/23/98 4:00 pm DRAFT

Announcement

Q: What did the President announce today?

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

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

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

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

New Child Support Data

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

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

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

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

Q: What happens when a match occurs?

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

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

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

Q: Why has there been such an increase in paternity establishments?

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

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

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

Q: What is behind the increases in collections?

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

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

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

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

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

Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act

Q: What does the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act do?

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

Q: Where did this legislation come from?

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

Q: What does the current law provide?

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

Q: Why is this bill necessary?

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

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

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

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

A: Overall, the Department of Justice has prosecuted approximately 437 child support cases: convictions and pleas using the Child Support Recovery Act, which was enacted in 1992. We are happy to report that the number of Child Support Recovery Act cases filed and the number of convictions obtained has increased every year since the Act's enactment.

Federalizing the Child Support System

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

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

You

it used to be the two easiest

*"They can run but they
can't hide"*



June 23, 1998

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

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

I. Purpose

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

II. Background

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

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

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

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

III. Participants

Pre-Brief

Larry Stein

Bruce Reed

Attorney General Janet Reno

Cynthia Rice

Event

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

Attorney General Janet Reno

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

Sonia Evans and her twin sons Jesse and Jonathan

IV. Press Plan

Open Pool Press

V. Sequence of Events

YOU will be introduced by Sonia Evans.

YOU will make remarks.

YOU will sign bill.

VI. Remarks

Provided by speechwriting.

DRAFT 3:00 pm 6/23

Sonia Evans

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

**President Clinton Hails Child Support Progress and Signs into Law
Tough New Penalties for Deadbeat Parents
June 24, 1998 -- 6/23/98 9:00 am DRAFT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Child Support Q&A
June 24, 1998 -- 6/22/98 9:00 am DRAFT

Announcement

Q: What did the President announce today?

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

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

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

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

New Child Support Data

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q: Why does it matter how many paternities are established?

A: Establishing paternity is the first step towards collecting child support. The new data released by the President today show a remarkable rise in paternity establishments, from 510,000 in 1992 to nearly 1.3 million today. This rise is due in great part to the in-hospital paternity establishment program that was enacted as part of President Clinton's 1993 budget [CHECK] and begun in 1994. Since this effort began, in-hospital paternities have increased by 500 percent, to over 470,000 in 1997. Besides hospitals, parents can establish paternities at government agencies, child support offices, and other locations.

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

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

Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act

Q. What does the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act do?

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

Q. Where did this legislation come from?

A. This bill results from the President's directive to the Attorney General of July 21, 1996 which asked the Attorney General to take several specific steps to strengthen child support enforcement efforts including "to draft legislation to amend the Child Support

Recovery Act to establish a felony offense for a person who willfully fails to pay child support for a child in another State where there has been an egregious failure to meet child support obligations.” In response, the Department of Justice transmitted legislation accomplishing this goal to the 104th Congress. The Department of Justice transmitted a similar bill this Congress and worked with Congress to produce this bill now being signed into law.

Q. What does the current law provide?

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

Q. Why is this bill necessary?

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

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

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

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

A. Overall, the Department of Justice has obtained over 250 convictions and pleas using the Child Support Recovery Act, which was enacted in 1992. The number of Child Support Recovery Act cases filed and the number of convictions obtained has increased every year since 1992.

Q. How often will the Department of Justice prosecute under this new law?

A. [answer forthcoming]

Q. Whatever happened to that woman in New Jersey who was trying to have her ex-husband pay a huge amount in child support -- Marilyn Nichols Kane?

A. DOJ answer to come

Other Child Support Issues

Q. One of the groups that pushed for this bill and that attended the signing ceremony, ACES, believes that our child support system is a total failure and the current state-based system should be replaced by one that is run by the federal government. Do you agree with that approach?

A. HHS answer to come

Q. What role does the Treasury Department play a role in collecting overdue child support?

A. The Treasury Department withholds delinquent child support payments from tax refunds and other federal payments. In 1997, Treasury collected \$1 billion in delinquent child support debt through the tax refund and administrative offset processes. This number is expected to rise substantially this year -- already, Treasury has collected \$150 million more than the same time last year.

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

A: HHS answer to come