

September 27, 2010

Dear Senator:

Child support program funding will be cut this fall if Congress does not act. Child support agencies will lose the long-standing authority to use incentive payments earned for good performance as a match for federal funds. The combination of incentive payments and other federal funds provides a majority of funding for the child support program throughout the United States, and has helped drive dramatic improvements in the program.

The organizations below urge you to maintain funding for a program that touches the lives of 17.4 million children, or one out of four. That involvement lasts for the first 18 years of a child's life. Since the program's enactment in 1974, child support has enjoyed bipartisan support, because it reinforces family responsibility and has a results-oriented funding structure. We urge you to continue the successful policy a Republican House and Senate and Democratic Administration created in 1998 to provide performance incentives rewarding efficient, results-oriented programs and penalize those not meeting standards.

Your support is needed because:

In this economy, a strong child support program is needed more than ever.

- In FY 2009, the program collected **\$4.78 in owed child support for every dollar invested** in the program. (Office of Child Support Enforcement, OCSE)
- Caseloads increased in FY 2009 to 15.8 million, the first increase in two years. During FY 2009, the numbers of new orders established increased by 6.3 percent, the **largest one-year increase in over a decade**. (OCSE)
- Child support saves government funds otherwise spent on programs providing housing, cash assistance, and medical services as it provides a regular source of income to families.
- OMB has characterized the child support program as "one of the highest rated block/formula grants of all reviewed programs government-wide...."

The child support program supports and strengthens families.

- The program works to ensure that children in single-parent households receive a reliable source of financial and medical support. The program increases family self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, improves child school achievement, and encourages both mother and father to be involved and committed to their children.

- The program collected \$26.4 billion from noncustodial parents in FY 2009 and **distributed \$24.4 billion to families**; the rest reimbursed federal and state public assistance costs. (OCSE)
- **Child support reduces the child poverty rate by 25% among poor families that receive it** (Congressional Research Service), and accounts for 39% of family income for poor custodial parents who receive it. (Urban Institute)
- Child support services are available to all families. In FY 2009, only 14% of the caseload were current TANF recipients, 43% were former TANF recipients, and 43% never received TANF. 80% of child support payments went to families not currently receiving TANF. (OCSE)

Cuts to child support funding will weaken programs and hurt families.

- If the current incentive structure is not maintained, states will lose 16% of their funding on average. (OCSE) In these tough times, states won't be able to make up for the loss, and will be forced to cut core services and innovative programs.
- Because of service cuts, **families will lose over \$2 billion in child support payments** in FY 2011, based on estimates from OCSE and the Congressional Budget Office.

Child support and the families it serves deserve continued bipartisan support. We urge you to continue that support this fall by acting to maintain the incentive payment structure which is a critical component of the program's success.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

9to5, National Association of Working Women
 American Association of University Women (AAUW)
 American Federation of Government Employees
 American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
 American Payroll Association
 American Public Human Services Association
 Catholic Charities
 Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
 Center for Urban Families
 Coalition on Human Needs
 Coalition of Labor Union Women
 Communications Workers of America
 Community Action Partnership
 Department for Professional Employees, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (DPE, AFL-CIO)
 Feminist Majority

First Focus Campaign for Children
Healthy Teen Network
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Counties
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.
National Council of Jewish Women
National Association of Mothers' Centers
National Association of Social Workers
National Child Support Enforcement Association
National Council of Child Support Directors
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Association
National Women's Conference Committee
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
PHI National

RESULTS

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
The National Crittenton Foundation
United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW),
International Union
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
Voices for America's Children
Wider Opportunities for Women
Women of Reform Judaism
YWCA USA

State and Local Organizations

Alabama

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Alaska

HIV/AIDS Services for African Americans in Alaska

Arizona

Center for Human Potential

Arkansas

Office of Human Concern, Rogers, Arkansas

California

A World Fit For Kids!

Association of Child Support Attorneys of Los Angeles County

California State Association of Counties

California TeenNow

Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law

Child Support Directors Association of California

Community Action Program (CAP), California-Nevada

Damore, Hamric & Schneider, Inc. Certified Public Accountants

Habitat for Humanity San Bernardino Area, Inc.

Legal Aid Society of Orange County (LASOC)

Los Angeles Community Legal Center and Educational

Medical Mission Sisters

National Council of Jewish Women, California

National Organization for Women (NOW), California

Orange County Attorneys Association

Sacramento Occupational Advancement Resources

St. Charles Borromeo Church

Sutter Health

Watts/Century Latino Organization

Colorado

9to5 National Association of Working Women, Colorado Chapter

Colorado Family Support Council

Connecticut

All Our Kin

Citizens For Quality Sickle Cell Care, Inc.

Covenant to Care for Children

Housing Partnership Committee

National Council of Jewish Women, Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition

Poor People's Alliance

The Access Agency

Delaware

Witney's Lights/Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention

Florida

City of Hallandale Beach

Family Care Council Area 8

Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.

Georgia

Developing Empowered Workers & Workplaces (DEW) Consultants

Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association (ERICSA)

Voices for Georgia's Children

Hawaii

Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council

Illinois

Concord College

Holy Family Ministries

National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois State Public Affairs Committee

Pax Christi Illinois

Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator

YWCA Metro Chicago

Indiana

American Association of University Women (AAUW) - South Bend Chapter

Central Carmel Preservation Association

Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc.

Indiana Family Support Enforcement Association

YWCA Indiana

Iowa

Iowa Coalition 4 Juvenile Justice

Leadership Team, Sisters of the Presentation - Dubuque

Kentucky

Kentucky Youth Advocates

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership

Louisiana

Children's Bureau of New Orleans

Guardians of the Flame Cultural Arts Collective

Kingsley House

Maine

Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Equal Justice Partners

Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth, Maryland
Church Women United in Maryland
PeterCares House
United Ministries Inc.

Massachusetts

Mary Ellen Tenant Task Force Inc.
Saheli, Boston Chapter

Michigan

Ecumenical Senior Center
Friend of the Court Association
Michigan Association of Counties
Michigan Family Support Council
Michigan's Children
Mind Body Heart Psychotherapy
Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization
Religious Sisters of Mercy
Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice

Minnesota

Freeborn Department of Human Services
Good Shepherd Sisters of St. Paul Minnesota
Minnesota County Attorneys Association
Minnesota Family Support and Recovery Council
Minnesota Social Service Association

Missouri

Communications Workers of America Local 6355/Missouri State Workers Union
Community Alternatives, Inc.
RESULTS St. Louis Domestic

Montana

Montana Food Bank Network

Nebraska

Women In Community Services Inc. (WICS)

Nevada

Brainstormers Inc.
Community Action Program (CAP), California-Nevada

Nevada Division of Welfare & Supportive Services

New Hampshire

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire

New Jersey

Collier Youth Services

Mercer County Board of Social Services

National Council of Jewish Women, NJ State Public Affairs Network

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

New Jersey Child Support Council

Project Live, Inc.

New York

Alianza Latina, Inc.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn & Queens

Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc.

Global Justice Ministry, Metropolitan Community Churches

Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT) -The Bronx

Life Listening Resources

Marianists

National Organization of Women (NOW), Mid-Suffolk

Secular Franciscan Order

Sisters of Social Service of Buffalo

St. Barnabas Hospital

United Methodist Church, NY

YWCA of the Greater Capital Region

YWCAs of the Northeast

North Carolina

North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

North Dakota

United Way of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Area

Ohio

Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), Summit County

Community Development Corporation Resource Consortium Inc.

County Commissioners Association of Ohio

Greene County Prosecutor's Office

Logan County, Ohio - Child Support Enforcement Agency

Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCDA)

Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association

ProgressOhio

Public Children Services Association of Ohio

Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc.

Oklahoma

Gatesway Foundation
YWCA Enid

Oregon

ROSE Community Development
YWCA of Greater Portland

Pennsylvania

Alliances of Empowerment in Housing, Inc.
American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Pittsburgh Chapter
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Dignity Housing
Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania (DRAP)
Domestic Relations Office, Carbon County
Domestic Relations Section, Adams County
Domestic Relations Section, Berks County
Domestic Relations Section, Blair County
Domestic Relations Section, Bradford County
Domestic Relations Section, Erie County
Domestic Relations Section, Indiana County
Domestic Relations Section, Jefferson County
Domestic Relations Section, Lawrence County
Domestic Relations Section, Somerset County
Domestic Relations Section, Tioga County
Domestic Relations Section, Venango County
Domestic Relations Section, Wayne County
Domestic Relations Section, Wyoming County
Domestic Relations Section, York County
Evangelicals for Social Action
Lawrence County District Court Administrator
Mercer County Domestic Relations
National Organization of Women (NOW), Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Association of County Human Services Administrators
Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators, Inc.
Providence Connections
United Methodist Church, PA

Rhode Island

Community Action Program (CAP), Blackstone Valley
National Association of Social Workers (NASW) - RI
National Council of Jewish Women, RI State Public Affairs Chair
Office of the Child Advocate
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
The Poverty Institute

South Carolina

Harvest Hope Food Bank
United Way of Greenville County
Working Families

Tennessee

Lawler Wood Housing, LLC

Texas

Center for Public Policy Priorities
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
Rusk-Panola Children's Advocacy Center
Texas Council on Family Violence

Utah

Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake

Virginia

Voices for Virginia's Children

Washington

Acme Glass Works - Washington
Sea Mar Community Health Center
Washington Association of County Officials
Western Interstate Child Support Enforcement Council (WICSEC)

West Virginia

WV Alliance for Sustainable Families
WV Statewide Independent Living Counsel (SILC)

Wisconsin

Center for Family Policy and Practice
Home Buyer Counseling (HBC) Services, Inc.
Influencing State Policy
Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association
Wisconsin Counties Association