



National Child Support Enforcement Association

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Child Support Protection Act of 2009 (S1859):

Talking Points for NCSEA Members when Calling Congress:

Senate Bill 1859 continues the long-standing bi-partisan support of the Congress for the Child Support Enforcement program which began with the passage of the authorizing legislation in 1974.

The strong federal/state/tribal/local partnership has created a powerful network of 60,000 dedicated staff serving 17 million children.

The results are impressive and widely recognized as one of the most effective programs operated by the government. In 2008 paternity was established for 1.8 million children, ensuring that the legal rights of both the children and their fathers are protected. 1.2 million orders for support were established, resulting in \$26.6 billion of child support collections being distributed. The program is notable for collecting \$4.79 for each dollar of expenditure.

Child support collections account for 13% of the income for single parent households and 38% of the income for families below the poverty level. The program does much more by working with non-custodial parents who need employment so that they can make regular payments. Child support staff also plays a critical role in times of high joblessness by processing adjustments to support orders so that non-custodial parents do not fall hopelessly behind.

When Congress passed the Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998 (CSPIA), it created an innovative incentive program that rewards efficient, results-oriented IV-D program efforts. These earned performance incentives must be used for child support activities. One of every four dollars for state expenditures to fund the child support program comes from CSPIA incentives and matched FFP dollars. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 repealed the authority for use of the earned performance incentives as match for federal funds.

S1859 reverses the funding reduction imposed by DRA 2005. That reduction was temporarily overturned by the Congress earlier this year as part of ARRA (American Reinvestment & Recover Act). States have used this temporary authority in various ways:

NOTE: (This would be a good place to put in how YOUR state or agency has used the ARRA funds)

- 30 States/Territories **(61%) – Staff/Program Functions** (including contracts, training, and general program operations)
- 16 States/Territories **(33%) – System/Technology Enhancements** (including data interfaces with other agencies)
- 3 States/Territories **(6%) – Customer Service** (including Web-based services, IVR, and partnerships with fatherhood and employment groups)

This bill ensures states have authority to use earned performance incentives to fund this important work and continue the impressive results achieved. This permanent reversal is critical so that those in state and local government can budget for 2011.