

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	To Diana Fortuna from WAVES re: confirmation (partial, DOB, SSN) (1 page)	06/23/1998	b(7)(C), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Diana Fortuna
OA/Box Number: 12021

FOLDER TITLE:

Child Support - Deadbeat Parents Bill (Felony to Cross State Lines) [1]

2018-0525-S
ry2238

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



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

**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.

Dave Lebryk, Treasury 622 -0175
6/23/98

1995 EO to HHS and OPM does provide authority for agencies to do wage garnishment

But Treasury's EO also does -- "more passively" -- wage w/holding or "offsets"; w/computer matching; don't have to go to employer; and will have fed salary payments loaded into system to use for offset purposes

Treasury doesn't need a court order -- DCIA gives it that authority for a number of purposes

Overlapping authorities



FORTUNA_D @ A1
06/24/98 05:24:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice
cc: Lesley A. Pate, diana m. fortuna
Subject: New wire story; where did 3 million come from?

Date: 06/24/98 Time: 15:09
CClinton signs tough child-support law

WASHINGTON (AP) 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 Wednesday.

``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 attended by some of the bill's Democrat and Republican sponsors.

Clinton also announced progress in establishing the paternity in cases of children of absentee fathers, and in tracking down delinquent parents and collecting their kids' due.

``Too many parents still walk away from that obligation,' Clinton said. ``The quiet crisis of unpaid child support is something that our country and our families shouldn't tolerate.''

The legislation creates two new felony categories that carry a maximum of two years in prison plus fines and restitution at the discretion of the court. 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.

``We are giving police and prosecutors the tools they need to make a real impact on the practice of shirking child support,' said Sen. Herbert Kohl, D-Wisc., who sponsored the bill in the Senate with Mike DeWine, R-Ohio. The legislation sailed through both the House and Senate by overwhelming margins.

Previously, crossing state lines to duck payments was a misdemeanor crime 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 by imposing wage-withholding orders or reducing unemployment benefits. That collection rate is up 68 percent from 1992, when \$8 billion was collected, the administration said.

To aid in collections, state and federal child-support enforcement programs have stepped up efforts to establish paternity for children of single mothers. Last year, a record 1.3 million paternities 250 percent more than in 1992 were established

through these programs, Clinton said. Many rely on in-hospital voluntary programs that encourage fathers to acknowledge paternity at the time of their child's birth.

Although Attorney General Janet Reno opened Wednesday's signing ceremony by expressing her commitment to the issue, the National Child Support Enforcement Association was critical of the Justice Department, noting that it had prosecuted just 386 cases with only 162 convictions since misdemeanor penalties were first created in 1992.

Reno's statement ``will not take the place of prosecutions,'' said Casey Hoffman, president-elect of the association. ``For the new law to have any impact, the Justice Department will have to put people and money behind those words."

APNP-06-24-98 1513EDT

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.

Joseph C. Fanaroff
06/24/98 11:27:42 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: 6-24-98 Remarks by the President at Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act Signing Ceremony

----- Forwarded by Joseph C. Fanaroff/WHO/EOP on 06/24/98 11:31 AM -----

 Elizabeth R. Newman
06/24/98 11:23:50 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: 6-24-98 Remarks by the President at Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act Signing Ceremony

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 24, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

At the Signing of The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998

The Oval Office

9:10 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much Sonia. And Jonathan and Jesse, welcome to the White House. Thank you General Reno. Thank you Senators Kohl and DeWine for coming. And Congressman Hoyer, thank you for your hard work on this. I'd also like thank Congressman Henry Hyde who is not here for his leadership on this legislation. Welcome Judge David Ross, the Commissioner of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement; United States Attorney Helen Fayhey; child support advocates and Leslie Sorkhe and Gerri Jensen, two other mothers who are here. I thank you all for being here.

I am very pleased to sign a vital new law that shows what we can achieve when we act in the national interest. For five and a half years now we have renewed our economy with a strategy that balances the budget while it invests and instills the future of our people and in the strength of our families. The key to expanding

opportunity in this new century I want to say, though, is education.

I want to say a little more about child support in a minute but these two young men behind me and all the children of our country deserve a world-class education. I have asked the Congress to help me in that; to help us to reduce class size by hiring 100,000 teachers and building or repairing 5,000 schools. I have asked them to help me institute high standards to connect all classrooms to the internet and I've asked them to make child care for working parents more affordable.

Yesterday the Republicans in the House of Representatives took a huge step in the opposite direction. Last night they began to dramatically cut education investments from Head Start to after school to anti-drug programs. This is out of step with our values and with America's shared vision of our future. In the coming months I'll have more to say about this but you can be sure that I am going to keep fighting to advance education, to invest more in education, to lift education standards, to expand education opportunities. And if they continue to fight against all these things it will, I expect, be the major conflict of the coming months.

I still hope that I will not have to sign an education bill or veto one that short changes the future of our children. I don't intend to sign it. I hope a veto won't be necessary but there is no excuse for this. We have a balanced budget, we're going to have a surplus, we have the money, we ought to give it to the children and their future.

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. And today we all know that too many parents still walk away from that obligation. That threatens the education, the health of our children and the future of our country.

One of the main reasons single mothers go on welfare is that fathers have failed to meet their responsibilities to the children. Even when a family manages to stay out of poverty a father's failure to pay child support puts mothers who are raising children by themselves under terrible pressure. A lot of women are forced to work two jobs, to work at night or simply to worry sick about their children either because they're away from them all the time or because they're with them but they don't have enough to support them.

When fathers neglect support of their children it aggravates all the other problems a family faces. When I was governor, and then when I ran for President the first time in 1992 I made child support enforcement a big part of my concerns. I've always asked parents to take responsibility for their children. I've always pledged to do my best to force them to do so if they refused.

We have waged an unprecedented campaign to make deadbeat parents live up to their obligations. Thanks to tougher laws, more sophisticated tracking, and powerful new collection tools we've increased child support collections by 68 percent in the last five years. Almost a million and a half more children are getting child support today.

There are two other signs of success that I would like to report. Last year our effort to find out the identity of fathers allowed us establish paternity in 1.3 million cases, up from only 510,000 in 1992. Our new national database for identifying deadbeat parents across state lines has found more than 1 million delinquent parents in just the first nine months of its operation. Before we created this database deadbeat parents found it easy to avoid paying up by skipping from job to job or state to state. But with this database there is no where left to run.

With these and other successful child support initiatives we believe that we've made a real difference for people like Sonia and her two fine sons. But we can and must do more. Current law is too soft on the most serious cases of neglect, the cases in which a parent flees across state lines or national borders and skips out on supporting children for a year or more. In 1996 I asked the Attorney General to draft legislation to crack down on this appalling practice. Senators DeWine and Kohl, and Congressman Hyde and Hoyer championed their cause, introduced versions of the legislation and help to secure an overwhelming bipartisan majority for the bill I am proud to sign into law today.

The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 deals with child support evaders in the most serious cases. 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. One way or the other people who don't support their children will pay what they must.

I thank all the members of Congress and all the children's advocates who are here today to contributed this major victory to our children. Now we can work together to ensure that the progress we have made on child support is not accidentally undone; let me mention that, one more very important issue. Under bankruptcy reform bills now in the Senate and House some mothers could find themselves in competition with powerful banks and credit card companies to collect the child support they need. In that competition I think we all know who would lose, our children.

We are working with Congress now and we will continue to do so to produce a bankruptcy reform bill that demands responsibility from both debtors and creditors and stems abuse. But any bill must make protecting child support payments a high priority. It would be ironic indeed, after all this work we have done, to increase child support collections -- and here we are signing a bill today to make it more difficult to avoid the collections -- if we turned around and passed a bankruptcy bill that put mothers and their children back in the pack along with other creditors. That's not the right thing to do. So I hope that we will see action on the bankruptcy bills and on the education bills that will reflect the same priority for our children that this bill does today.

And again, let me thank all the advocates and all the sponsors and let me thank Sonia and her two fine sons for being here. This is a happy day for Attorney General Reno and me and I would like to ask you all to come around now and I'll sign the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: You guys stand on either side here. Sonia you come up here and I'll show you how I sign a bill into law. See I have all these pens because there are all these people who want one. (Laughter.) I have to find a way to use everyone of these pens when I sign this. So don't start laughing at me, all right?

(The President signs the bill.)

Q Mr. President, hasn't this latest rebuff by China cast a really severe pall over your trip to China now? They've really turned you down --

PRESIDENT CLINTON: You mean the Radio Free Asia thing?

Q -- on special appeal -- visas.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I think they made a mistake and before I leave here, as a matter of fact in just a few minutes, I'm going to do an interview with Radio Free Asia correspondents to send a clear signal that we do believe ideas need visas and that we support freedom of the press in our country.

I think in a way it will help to highlight some of the very important issues that we wanted to discuss. I hope that this trip will not only allow me to learn more about China and allow the American people to learn more about China but will help me to explain America and what we believe in and why to not only the government but to the people of China and this is a good beginning here.

Q Well, have they encouraged you to --

PRESIDENT CLINTON: And this is a good beginning here. I will do my best to do that. I think they made a mistake. And as I said the ironic thing is the Chinese granted more visas to more journalists from more different media outlets than they ever have before. So they were actually showing a greater openness than they have and because they reversed themselves on the Radio Free Asia visas, for reasons I don't understand, they

have denied themselves that credit. So, I intend to press this issue by doing the interview in just a few minutes.

Q Is this going to mean that it will be harder for you to reach agreements with the Chinese on detargeting nuclear missiles, on market access -- is this disagreement going to make that a harder process?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I don't know. I hope that we can deal with all these issues independently. I think the Chinese understand, as we do, we've got a big common stake in non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I expect to make some progress. We have a big stake in the Asian economic situation and the difficulties there. We have a big stake in our own bilateral economic relations and the impact that a lot of this will have in terms of integrating China into the global economy.

So I would think that they would not let this get in the way of what is in their self-interest, just as I won't let it get in the way of what is in the interest of the United States, but our values are an important part of our interest.

We don't live by money alone, or even by power alone, but also by our ideals and convictions, so I think it is important to point this up. But I also think it's important that you see it in its proper framework.

The irony -- as I said, this is an ironic situation because the Chinese granted more visas to more different media outlets apparently than ever before. They granted this visa and then reversed themselves. I think it was a mistake and I'll do my best to make it clear why.

Q Are you going to see the dissidents now -- I mean, as a retaliation?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm going to see a number of people from different elements of Chinese society, and I'm going to do what I think is best to promote the cause of human rights.

Q Is the White House taking any symbols of democracy, as has been suggested by some Republican lawmakers such as copies of the American flag or the Constitution?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I'm sorry, I don't have anything to say about that.

Q What about detargeting? You didn't mention that specifically and I had asked you about it. Do you see an agreement on that?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I think it would be a good thing if we could reach an agreement on it. I think it does two things. It literally delays significantly the amount of time it takes to arm a missile and aim it, therefore, eliminating the possibility of accidental firing. And it also really increases, I think, the confidence between the countries that were moving to reduce the nuclear threat. So I hope we can do that but I don't know yet. I don't have an announcement to make. But you know -- I've made it very clear that I would like to do that.

Thank you very much.

END 9:30 A.M. EDT

Message Sent To: _____



FORTUNA_D @ A1
06/24/98 01:17:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice, Lesley A. Pate
cc: diana m. fortuna
Subject: AP story; not sure she got it right

Date: 06/24/98 Time: 11:41
CCClinton signs tough child-support law

WASHINGTON (AP) Attacking what he called a ``quiet crisis'' in American families, President Clinton signed legislation today that makes it a federal felony to cross state lines to duck child-support payments.

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

``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,'' he said.

Under the bill, felony punishment would apply if the amount owed by deadbeat parents was \$5,000 or more and the payments were more than a year delinquent. No

Parents owing \$10,000 or more or who fail to pay for two years could face up to two years in prison. Parents also could face fines and would be responsible for making restitution for unpaid child support.

Sponsored by Reps. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and Sens. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and Herbert Kohl, D-Wis., the bill passed both chambers by overwhelming margins.

Current law makes it only a misdemeanor to cross state lines to avoid payments. No

Under a tracking system created by the 1996 welfare law, the administration has identified more than 1 million parents who are delinquent in child-support obligations.

APNP-06-24-98 1144EDT

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

6/24/98

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.

**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

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

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	To Diana Fortuna from WAVES re: confirmation (partial, DOB, SSN) (1 page)	06/23/1998	b(7)(C), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Diana Fortuna
OA/Box Number: 12021

FOLDER TITLE:

Child Support - Deadbeat Parents Bill (Felony to Cross State Lines) [1]

2018-0525-S
ry2238

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



WAVES_CONF @ PMDF.EOP.GOV
06/23/98 05:45:07 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: WAVES Confirmation

ADDRESSEES: DIANA_FORTUNA

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION: APPT. REQUEST FOR RICE, CYNTHIA

FROM: WAVES OPERATIONS CENTER - ACO: (b)(7)c, (b)(6)

Date: 06-23-1998

Time: 17:40:18

This message serves as confirmation of an appointment for the visitors listed below.

Appointment With: RICE, CYNTHIA

Appointment Date: 6/24/98

Appointment Time: 8:45:00 AM

Appointment Room: 212

Appointment Building: OEOB

Appointment Requested by: FORTUNA DIANA

Phone Number of Requestor: 65570

WAVES APPOINTMENT NUMBER: U73127

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please call the WAVES Center at 456-6742 and have the appointment number listed above available to the Access Control Officer answering your call.

TOTAL NUMBER OF NAMES SUBMITTED FOR ENTRY : 11

TOTAL NUMBER OF NAMES OF CLEARED FOR ENTRY: 11

BROWN, JUNE
COLES, BOBBIE
DEERING, DONALD
EVANS, JESSE
EVANS, JONATHAN
EVANS, SONIA
JENSEN, GERALDINE
MONAHAN, JOHN
ROSS, DAVID
SOPPA, NICHOLAS
SORKHE, LESLIE

(b)(6)

[001]

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.

Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act

	Current Law	Our bill	House and Senate bill*
<i>New</i> → Those who travel to avoid paying child support		Felony	--This is a new category-- Felony to cross state or country lines to avoid paying child support under two conditions below. First and subsequent offenses - Prison terms of up to two years and/or fine
<i>OLD</i> → Those who owe at least \$5k or have owed for at least 1 year <i>(CSRA)</i> <i>No change in law</i>	Federal Offense -- Misdemeanor because first offense only has a maximum of 6 months even though second offense has maximum of 2 years (ie-only 2nd or subsequent offenses are felonies)	~~Felony~~ <i>1st offense Misdem</i> <i>Later can be felony</i>	First offense - Prison terms of up to 6 months and/or fine Second or subsequent offenses - Prison terms of up to two years and/or fine
<i>New</i> → Those who owe at least \$10k or have owed for at least 2 years		Felony	--This is a new category-- Willful failure to pay: First and subsequent offenses - Prison terms of up to two years and/or fine

*Amends current Federal criminal law to describe new penalties and provide for mandatory restitution in cases of willfully failing to pay child support. Two new categories of felonies were created in order to deal with egregious violations more effectively.

Prosecutions can be brought in any district where child lived or where the parent resided during the time period of nonpayment.

Don Hammond - w/staff
Dave Lavin
Treas
6220175

Fulfilling
Anncts by Friday
Bankruptcy

Bringing Memo
Program
Invites
Fact Sheet? - Press Paper - US
Q + A
you'll catch
(Speech)
Bankruptcy
Enenda - nls 1/2 day

Leg Affairs doc - we did
- Leg Affairs
Staff Contact: Camp Stern + BR

514.2269
Lisa-Winotm -
CSRA
180 CSRA
'97



Lowell A. Weiss
06/23/98 05:01:52 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP, Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Sarah Rosen/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: are you going to send us a copy of the version you sent in? 

Draft 6/23/98 4:40pm

Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT CHILD SUPPORT BILL SIGNING
THE WHITE HOUSE
June 24, 1998**

Acknowledge: AG Reno; Sens. Herb Kohl, Mike DeWine; Rep. Steny Hoyer; Judge David Ross, Commissioner of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement; U.S. Atty. Helen Fahey [FAY-hee]; Asst. U.S. Atty. Jerry Smagala [smuh-GAH-luh]; child support advocates; introducer Sonia [SAH-nya] Evans.

Parents' first and most fundamental responsibility is to support their children. But today, too many parents try to walk -- and sometimes run -- away from that obligation. They threaten the health and education of their children, and often throw their families into poverty. In fact, one of the main reasons single mothers have gone on welfare is because fathers have failed to meet their obligations to their children.

Even if the family manages to stay out of poverty, a father's failure to pay child support puts mothers who are raising children by themselves under terrible pressure. A lot of women are forced to work two jobs, to work at night, and they're worried sick about their children all that time they're away from home. When fathers neglect the support of their children, it aggravates all of the other problems a family can face.

So as Governor and ever since I first ran for President in 1992, I have said to those parents who have chosen to abandon their children by neglecting their child support: "Take responsibility for your children or we will force you to do it." This Administration has waged an unprecedented campaign to make deadbeat parents live up to their obligations to their children. Thanks to tougher laws, more sophisticated tracking, and powerful new collection tools, we have increased child support collections by 68% over the past five years. Almost a million and a half more families are getting the support they need.

There are two other signs of success I want to report. Our effort to find out the

identity of fathers allowed us to establish paternity in 1.3 million cases last year, up from only 510,000 in 1992. And our new national database for identifying deadbeat parents across state lines has found more than one million delinquent parents in just its first nine months in operation. Before we created this database, deadbeats found it easy to avoid paying up by skipping from job to job or state to state. But with this database, deadbeats have nowhere left to run.

With these and many other successful child-support initiatives, we have made a real difference for families like Sonia's. But we can do more and we must do more. Current law is too soft on the most egregious cases of neglect -- the cases in which a parent flees across state lines or country borders and skips out on supporting his children for a year or more. In 1996, I charged the Attorney General with drafting legislation to crack down hard on this appalling practice. Senators DeWine and Kohl and Representatives Hyde and Hoyer championed this cause, introduced versions of this legislation, and helped to secure an overwhelming, bipartisan vote. Today, I am proud to sign that bill into law.

The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 deals with child support evaders in the most serious terms. **From now on, if you flee across state lines and refuse to pay child support, you may now be charged with a federal offense -- a felony offense -- and may land yourself in jail for up to two years. One way or the other, if you don't support your children, you will pay.** I thank all of the Members of Congress and all of the children's advocates here today who contributed to this major victory for America's children.

And now we must work together to ensure that the progress we have made on child support is not accidentally undone. Under both bankruptcy reform bills now in Congress, some mothers will find themselves in competition with powerful banks and credit card companies to collect the child support that they're owed. In that competition, we all know who will lose the contest -- our children. My Administration will work with Congress to produce a bankruptcy reform bill that demands responsibility from both creditors and debtors, while stemming abuse. But protecting child support payments must be our bottom line. ?

Together, we are showing that responsibility is the key to meeting difficult challenges like crime, welfare, and poverty. And by insisting on greater responsibility from parents, we have made remarkable progress on child support collections. And I am confident that we can make even more progress with the bill I am signing today and with a careful approach to bankruptcy reform. 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 children the love and support they deserve, to show them the meaning of right and wrong. If we do this, our families, our communities, and our nation will thrive in the 21st century. Thank you and God bless you.

###



FAX COVER SHEET
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Public Affairs
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447
Web Site: www.acf.dhhs.gov

To: DIANA FORTENA

Telephone: () 456-5570

Fax: () 456-7431

From: Michael Kharfen, Director

E-mail: MKharfen@acf.dhhs.gov

Telephone: (202) 401-9215

Fax: (202) 205-9688

Pages (plus cover sheet): 1

Date: 6/23

Re: NDNH

Diana,

Attached is the table. I'll email
you the file shortly.

Michael

FPLS Statistics for 10/01/97 to 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

Some ready 10/1
Some started late

unit Registry
operational in
fall, based on
submission from
states

Not giving

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.

Lowell A. Weiss
06/23/98 10:33:26 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP, Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP, Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: child support draft (minus conclusion)

Folks,

We need to get this to the President at the beginning of his phone and office time -- 2 p.m. I'd appreciate changes and comments by 12 noon at the latest. Also, you'll notice that I've left two TKs -- one for the statistic on welfare rolls and the other for the introducer. If you can help fill either, please let me know. Thank you very much.

lw

Draft 6/23/98 10:30am
Lowell Weiss

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS AT CHILD SUPPORT BILL SIGNING
THE WHITE HOUSE
June 24, 1998**

The quiet crisis of child support is an outrage our families and our nation cannot tolerate. Parents' first and most fundamental responsibility is to support their children. But today, too many parents try to walk -- and sometimes run -- away from that obligation. Too many parents believe it's fine to bring children into the world and then never lift a finger to help them make their way through life.

When a parent leaves the home and fails to pay the child support he legally owes, it can throw a family into poverty. In fact, one in TK mothers on welfare today would be able to leave the rolls tomorrow if the father of their children would simply pay the child support he owes. Even if the family manages to stay out of poverty, a father's failure to pay child support puts mothers who are raising children by themselves under terrible pressure. A lot of women are forced to work two jobs, to work at night, and they're worried sick about their children all that time they're away from home. When fathers neglect the support of their children, it aggravates all of the other problems a family can face.

So ever since I first ran for President in 1992, I have made child support a top priority. This Administration has waged an unprecedented and sustained campaign to make ~~children~~ parents live up to their obligations to their children. Thanks to tougher laws, better tracking,

Thinned out
800,000
WAC
flex.
#, %

Neg
legler
Dehner

1,225m

1,243m

92-00W birth

97-00W birth

1.5%

and new collection tools, we have increased child support collections by 68% over the past five years. Almost a million and a half more families are getting the support they need.

There are two other signs of success I want to report. Our effort to help states find out the identity of fathers at the time a baby is born is now allowing us to establish paternity in almost all cases of out-of-wedlock births, up from just 42% in 1992. And our new national database for identifying deadbeat parents across state lines has found more than one million delinquent parents in just its first nine months in operation. That's one million deadbeats who would not have been found any other way.

With these and many other successful child-support initiatives, we have made a real difference for families like TK's. But we can do more and we must do more. Current law is too soft on the most egregious cases of neglect -- the cases in which a parent flees across state lines or country borders and skips out on supporting his children for many months or even years. In 1996, I charged the Attorney General with drafting legislation to crack down hard on this appalling practice. Senators DeWine and Kohl and Representatives Hyde and Hoyer championed this cause, introduced versions of this legislation, and helped to secure an overwhelming, bipartisan vote. Today, I am proud to sign that bill into law.

The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 deals with the worst child support evaders in the most serious terms. **From now on, if you flee across state lines and refuse to pay child support for an extended period, you may now be charged with a federal offense -- a felony offense -- and may land yourself in jail for up to two years. As any family who has suffered this kind of willful neglect will attest, this is a reasonable response to an inexcusable act.** I thank all of the Members of Congress and all of the children's advocates here today who contributed to this major victory for America's children.

And now we must work together to ensure that the progress we have made on child support is not accidentally undone. I am concerned that some versions of the bankruptcy reform legislation now under consideration in Congress would do just that. Under one leading proposal, when a father declares personal bankruptcy, a mother may have to compete with powerful banks and credit card companies for the money they're owed. If that competition starts, we all know who will lose that contest -- our children. Some changes to consumer bankruptcy laws are in order, but mothers and children should keep their priority under the child support laws. They shouldn't have to stand in line for the support they need.

Sarah

Ten

NO
Michael
Neg

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Melissa just sent this to Reed-fyi thanks

This could tie in nicely with 6/23 child support bill signing if that happens--though it is slightly after fathers day.

----- Forwarded by Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP on 06/12/98 05:34 PM -----



Ellen Dahl <edahl@os.dhhs.gov>

06/12/98 04:17:28 PM

Please respond to edahl@os.dhhs.gov

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP, Michael Kharfen <mkharfen@os.dhhs.gov>

cc:

Subject: Melissa just sent this to Reed-fyi thanks

6/15/98

NOTE TO BRUCE REED -

As you know, Father's Day is June 21st and I wanted to make sure that we are passing along all opportunities for announcements. We have two pieces of news that might make a good radio address about the importance of fathers in the lives of their children -- both are in the area of child support.

The first is the announcement of a record number of paternity establishments: 1.3 million this year. In fact, the number of establishments now equals the number of out-of-wedlock births per year. (Although a portion of the paternity establishments for each year are of prior year births.) The significance of this statistic is that for the first time, the child support enforcement program is reducing the overall number of children without legal fathers in this country.

A large part of this success is due to fathers voluntarily acknowledging their children. Since the Clinton Administration implemented the in-hospital voluntary paternity establishment program in 1994, paternity establishment through that program alone has increased 500% to over 470,000 in 1997.

If you wanted to, you could easily combine this with the one year anniversary of the establishment of the new hire directory. Since the

Monahan -
CS Collections?
622.0960
Treasury - Don Hammond
withhold taxes
622.0175 ①
②
③
Tax Refund
offer Progr
\$ 1.26 (per yr)
mid-80's
Newer - New offer
best parents - just vendor
all retirement
other nets
H's or
Child Recovery Act 1990
Lisa Whiston ask
514.2269
adding
more in 18 mos.
Bad high in Nov
All Debt - E61yr ago - not just

don't
take
too much
credit?
1st sk en

directory was actually implemented (on October 1, 1997), there have been approximately 1 million delinquent parents identified who are not paying child support to their children.

These two announcements could easily fold into a message of reflecting on the responsibility and joys of fatherhood. Because fathers are stepping up to the new challenges of fatherhood today, American families are stronger and better able to raise the next generation of healthy, happy children. Fathers play a critical role in the lives of their children -- statistics show that children with fathers involved in their lives are less likely to drop out of school, have a child before age 20, and live in poverty.

If this has any interest for you, please let Ellen Dahl (690-7850) or Michael Kharfen (401-9215) know and my office will pull together some additional information on our child support initiatives.

Thanks -

Melissa Skolfield

cc: Andrea Kane



The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

Honorable President Clinton
Office of Scheduling, Room 185
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton,

ACES, Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, is pleased that the Senate concurred in the House's decision to pass HR 2925, the Deadbeat Parents Bill. We are grateful that the administration initiated and supported this new Legislation, making it a federal felony for parents who evade child support obligations by crossing state lines, sponsored by Representatives, Steny Hoyer and Henry Hyde

ACES would appreciate your consideration of holding a public bill signing to increase awareness of the importance of paying child support, and to spotlight your efforts to assist families owed child support in the United States.

ACES is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting disadvantaged children affected by parents who fail to meet legal and moral support and/or visitation obligations. We have 390 chapters in 48 states with almost 40,000 members. ACES members across the U.S. worked hard to educate Congress about the importance of enacting the Deadbeat Parents Bill.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Jensen
President

cc: Bruce Lindsay, Asst. to the President and Deputy Counsel
Cynthia Rice, Office of Domestic Policy
Bruce Reed, Chief of Domestic Policy

The F-250's recalled do not include the F-series Super Duty model, and only vehicles produced through mid-April in the 1998 model year are being recalled.

Also Monday, an insurance institute reported that none of the five small pickup trucks it tested in front-end crashes had received a good safety rating. The Dodge Dakota and Nissan Frontier rated poor in 40 mile-an-hour crash tests by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety. The Chevrolet S-10 received a mediocre rating, the institute said. The best rating for the five trucks, acceptable, was given to the Toyota Tacoma and the Ford Ranger.

Smoke of Mexican Fires Reaches Southern U.S.

MIAMI, May 12 (AP) — Smoke from thousands of forest fires raging in southeastern Mexico has drifted nearly 2,000 miles, shrouding skylines and suburbs from Miami to the Mississippi Delta.

"For the last four days, the smoke has been spreading out over the Gulf of Mexico and hooking up into the central and southeastern United States," said Joseph Prospero, director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies at the University of Miami. Mr. Prospero said soot from the distant fires was probably too high above the ground to affect breathing or register on pollution monitors. But in Texas, the smoke prompted officials to issue a health warning for children, the elderly and people with respiratory and heart ailments in more than 50 counties today.

Many of the fires — more than 9,000 in all, which have swept across some 850 square miles — were started in January by farmers clearing land for planting, although arsonists are blamed for some of them.

Moderate Is Nominee For Nebraska Governor

OMAHA, Neb., May 12 (AP) — The Mayor of Lincoln, Neb., a political moderate, defeated two conservative candidates today to win the Republican nomination for governor.

Mayor Mike Johanns easily defeated the one-time front-runner, Representative Jon Christensen, whose last-minute attacks in the Republican gubernatorial primary backfired, and State Auditor John

year-old lawyer and former state legislator, Jim McFarland.

Doctors Accuse Insurers Of Bias Against Women

The Associated Press

A doctors' group has accused insurance companies of sex discrimination for covering the impotence pill Viagra but not birth control for women.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists yesterday urged Congress to require insurers that pay for prescription drugs to cover contraception as well.

Contraception is a medical necessity, said Dr. Anita Nelson, a spokeswoman for the doctors' group meeting this week in New Orleans.

Insurers said that birth-control coverage was available but that many employers did not offer such benefits because of the cost.

While 9 of 10 employer-based health insurance plans cover prescription drugs, most did not cover prescription contraceptives, the doctors' group said.

By contrast, nearly half of the almost 300,000 men who take Viagra each week are reimbursed at least in part, according to IMS Health, a consulting group.

House Increases Penalties For Fleeing Child Support

WASHINGTON, May 12 (AP) — The House voted today to raise the penalties for parents who cross state lines to evade child support.

The bill, sponsored by Representatives Henry J. Hyde, Republican of Illinois, and Steny H. Hoyer, Democrat of Maryland, would make it a felony, with prison terms of up to six months, for a parent to cross a state line to avoid child support when the amount of money owed is \$5,000 or more and is more than a year late.

Parents owing \$10,000 or more or who fail to pay for two years could face up to two years in prison. Parents could also face fines and would be responsible for making restitution for unpaid child support. Current law makes it only a misdemeanor to cross state lines to avoid payments.

THE FRESH AIR FUND:
JOY OF SUMMERTIME

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1998

**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
RJ	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.

Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 -- Time Line

July 21, 1996

President Clinton sends a memorandum to Attorney General Janet Reno directing her to, among other things, draft legislation to amend the Child Support Recovery Act in order to establish a felony for the wilful and egregious failure to pay child support to a child residing in other state. The President instructs the Attorney General to report back to him the specific actions that she has taken on this directive within 90 days.

congress
CSRA update
name on Internet

September 27, 1996

The Child Support Recovery Amendments Act is submitted to Congress. This legislation was drafted by the Department of Justice under the President's directive, and it makes it a felony to cross state lines to evade child support or to egregiously fail to make child support payments.

September 30, 1996

Senators Kohl (D-WI) and Shelby (R-AL) retitle the DOJ's bill and introduce it on the Senate floor as the Deadbeat Parents Act of 1996 (S. 2180). The bill is referred to the Judiciary committee, and there was never any floor action on the bill.

October 3, 1996

Representatives Schumer (D-NY) and Conyers (D-MI) introduce the DOJ's proposed bill in the House (H.R. 4341). It is referred to the House Judiciary Committee and then the subcommittee on crime. No floor action was taken.

October 21, 1996

Attorney General Reno issues a written response and report to the President which details the actions taken by the Department of Justice with respect to the child support enforcement.

June 24, 1997

The Department of Justice sends a revised bill to the 105th Congress. The bill is similar to the one previously sent to the 104th Congress, but it also includes several additional measures which clarify and strengthen federal child support enforcement provisions.

not
much

November 5, 1997

Senator Kohl (D-WI) introduces the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1997 (S. 1371).

November 6, 1997

S. 1371 was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and was ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. It was then reported out of the committee and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar.

November 7, 1997

Representative Hoyer introduces the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1997 in the House (H.R. 2925), and it is referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

November 13, 1997 S. 1371 is considered in the Senate and passes by unanimous consent. Message about Senate action is sent to the House. The bill is referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

November 18, 1997 H.R. 2925 is referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime

November 24, 1997 S. 1371 is referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime.

March 26, 1998 H.R. 2925 is considered by the Subcommittee and a mark-up session is held. The bill is then forwarded from the Subcommittee to the Full House Judiciary Committee by a voice vote.

April 1, 1998 H.R. 2925 is considered by the Full House Judiciary Committee and a mark-up session is held. It was ordered to be reported by a voice vote.

May 7, 1998 Representative Hyde introduces the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 (H.R. 3811). This bill is virtually identical to H.R. 2925. The bill is referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

May 12, 1998 H.R. 3811 is called up by the House under suspension of the rules, and it is considered by the House as unfinished business. It then passes the House by a Yea-Nay vote of 402-16.

May 13, 1998 H.R. 3811 is received in the Senate, and it is read twice. It is then placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar.

June 5, 1998 H.R. 3811 passes in the Senate by unanimous consent without amendments. The bill is cleared for the White House.

June 9, 1998 A message is sent from the Senate to the House with regard to the action taken on H.R. 3811 in the Senate.

June 18, 1998 The Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 is presented to the President.

June 24, 1998 The President will sign the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998.

International Brotherhood of Firemen & Oilers

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
February 24, 1995.

Executive Order 12953 of February 27, 1995

**Actions Required of all Executive Agencies To Facilitate
Payment of Child Support**

Children need and deserve the emotional and financial support of both their parents.

The Federal Government requires States and, through them, public and private employers to take actions necessary to ensure that monies in payment of child support obligations are withheld and transferred to the child's caretaker in an efficient and expeditious manner.

The Federal Government, through its civilian employees and Uniformed Services members, is the Nation's largest single employer and as such should set an example of leadership and encouragement in ensuring that all children are properly supported.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

PART I—PURPOSE

Section 101. This executive order: (a) Establishes the executive branch of the Federal Government, through its civilian employees and Uniformed Services members, as a model employer in promoting and facilitating the establishment and enforcement of child support.

(b) Requires all Federal agencies, including the Uniformed Services, to cooperate fully in efforts to establish paternity and child support orders and to enforce the collection of child and medical support in all situations where such actions may be required.

(c) Requires each Federal agency, including the Uniformed Services, to provide information to its employees and members about actions that they should take and services that are available to ensure that their children are provided the support to which they are legally entitled.

PART 2—DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this order:

Sec. 201. "Federal agency" means any authority as defined at 5 U.S.C. 105, including the Uniformed Services, as defined in section 202 of this order.

Sec. 202. "Uniformed Services" means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Public Health Service.

Sec. 203. "Child support enforcement" means any administrative or judicial action by a court or administrative entity of a State necessary to establish paternity or establish a child support order, including a medical support order, and any actions necessary to enforce a child support or medical support order. Child support actions may be brought under the civil or criminal laws of a State and are not limited to actions brought on behalf of the State or individual by State agencies providing services under title IV-D of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 651 *et seq.*

Sec. 204. "State" means any of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, the territories, the possessions, and the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and of the Mariana Islands.

PART 3—IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE SUPPORTED BY THEIR PARENTS

Sec. 301. Wage Withholding. (a) Within 60 days from the date of this order, every Federal agency shall review its procedures for wage withholding under 42 U.S.C. 659 and implementing regulations to ensure that it is in full compliance with the requirements of that section, and shall endeavor, to the extent feasible, to process wage withholding actions consistent with the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 666(b).

(b) Beginning no later than July 1, 1995, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) shall publish annually in the **Federal Register** the list of agents (and their addresses) designated to receive service of withholding notices for Federal employees.

Sec. 302. Service of Legal Process. Every Federal agency shall assist in the service of legal process in civil actions pursuant to orders of courts of States to establish paternity and establish or enforce a support obligation by making Federal employees and members of the Uniformed Services stationed outside the United States available for the service of process. Each agency shall designate an official who shall be responsible for facilitating a Federal employee's or member's availability for service of process, regardless of the location of the employee's workplace or member's duty station. The OPM shall publish a list of these officials annually in the **Federal Register**, beginning no later than July 1, 1995.

Sec. 303. Federal Parent Locator. Every Federal agency shall cooperate with the Federal Parent Locator Service, established under 42 U.S.C. 653, by providing complete, timely and accurate information that will assist in locating noncustodial parents and their employers.

Sec. 304. Crossmatch for Delinquent Obligors. (a) The master file of delinquent obligors that each State child support enforcement agency submits to the Internal Revenue Service for Federal income tax refund offset purposes shall be matched at least annually with the payroll or personnel files of Federal agencies in order to determine if there are any Federal employees with child support delinquencies. The list of matches shall be forwarded to the appropriate State child support enforcement agency to determine, in each instance, whether wage withholding or other enforcement actions should be commenced. All matches will be performed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)-(u).

(b) All Federal agencies shall inform current and prospective employees that crossmatches are routinely made between Federal personnel records

and State records on individuals who owe child support, and inform employees how to initiate voluntary wage withholding requests.

Sec. 305. *Availability of Service.* All Federal agencies shall advise current and prospective employees of services authorized under title IV-D of the Social Security Act that are available through the States. At a minimum, information shall be provided annually to current employees through the Employee Assistance Program, or similar programs, and to new employees during routine orientation.

Sec. 306. *Report on Actions Taken.* Within 90 days of the date of this order, all Federal agencies shall report to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the actions they have taken to comply with this order and any statutory, regulatory, and administrative barriers that hinder them from complying with the requirements of part 3 of this order.

PART 4—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

Sec. 401. *Additional Review for the Uniformed Services.* (a) In addition to the requirements outlined above, the Secretary of the Department of Defense (DOD) will chair a task force, with participation by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Transportation, that shall conduct a full review of current policies and practices within the Uniformed Services to ensure that children of Uniformed Services personnel are provided financial and medical support in the same manner and within the same time frames as is mandated for all other children due such support. This review shall include, but not be limited to, issues related to withholding non-custodial parents' wages, service of legal process, activities to locate parents and their income and assets, release time to attend civil paternity and support proceedings, and health insurance coverage under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS). All relevant existing statutes, including the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940, the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act, and the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, shall be reviewed and appropriate legislative modifications shall be identified.

(b) Within 180 days of the date of this order, DOD shall submit to OMB a report based on this review. The report shall recommend additional policy, regulatory and legislative changes that would improve and enhance the Federal Government's commitment to ensuring parental support for all children.

Sec. 402. *Additional Federal Agency Actions.* (a) OPM and HHS shall jointly study and prepare recommendations concerning additional administrative, regulatory, and legislative improvements in the policies and procedures of Federal agencies affecting child support enforcement. Other agencies shall be included in the development of recommendations for specific items as appropriate. The recommendations shall address, among other things:

(i) any changes that would be needed to ensure that Federal employees comply with child support orders that require them to provide health insurance coverage for their children;

(ii) changes needed to ensure that more accurate and up-to-date data about civilian and uniformed personnel who are being sought in conjunction with State paternity or child support actions can be obtained from

Federal agencies and their payroll and personnel records, to improve efforts to locate noncustodial parents and their income and assets;

(iii) changes needed for selecting Federal agencies to test and evaluate new approaches to the establishment and enforcement of child support obligations;

(iv) proposals to improve service of process for civilian employees and members of the Uniformed Services stationed outside the United States, including the possibility of serving process by certified mail in establishment and enforcement cases or of designating an agent for service of process that would have the same effect and bind employees to the same extent as actual service upon the employees;

(v) strategies to facilitate compliance with Federal and State child support requirements by quasi-governmental agencies, advisory groups, and commissions; and

(vi) analysis of whether compliance with support orders should be a factor used in defining suitability for Federal employment.

(b) The recommendations are due within 180 days of the date of this order. The recommendations are to be submitted in writing to the Office of Management and Budget.

Sec. 501. Internal Management. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch with regard to child support enforcement and shall not be interpreted to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its officers, or any other person.

Sec. 502. Sovereignty of the United States Government. This order is intended only to provide that the Federal Government has elected to require Federal agencies to adhere to the same standards as are applicable to all other employers in the Nation and shall not be interpreted as subjecting the Federal Government to any State law or requirement. This order should not be construed as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the United States Government or of any existing statutory or regulatory provisions, including 42 U.S.C. 659, 662, and 665; 5 CFR Part 581; 42 CFR Part 21, Subpart C; 32 CFR Part 54; and 32 CFR Part 81.

Sec. 503. Defense and Security.

This order is not intended to require any action that would compromise the defense or national security interest of the United States.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,

February 27, 1995.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, I am pleased to approve H.R. 3811, the "Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998." The Act is based upon an Administration proposal to strengthen Federal law to prevent a parent from moving to another State or country to avoid paying child support. It sends a strong message to parents who have a moral and legally established duty to support their children -- fulfill your financial obligations or face severe consequences.

H.R. 3811 strengthens existing child support enforcement law in several ways. Most importantly, the Act establishes two felony offenses for egregious non-payment of child support. First, it makes it a felony for a parent to travel to another State or country with the intent of evading the payment of child support, if the obligation has remained unpaid for more than one year or is greater than \$5,000. Second, it makes it a felony to willfully fail to pay child support to a child residing in another State, if the obligation has been unpaid for more than two years or is greater than \$10,000. Persons convicted of either offense will be subject to a jail term of up to two years and a fine. This is a reasonable consequence for an inexcusable act.

I am proud of this Administration's enormous accomplishments in forging a Federal-State partnership to increase collections on behalf of children. The Federal Government must continue its important work to hold fully accountable parents who neglect their most basic responsibility to provide financial support to their children. H.R. 3811 is an appropriate step to encourage such parental accountability. This bipartisan bill responds to the views of the American people that we as a Nation will not tolerate parents who shirk their parental responsibilities. I am happy to sign this legislation into law.



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FAX COVER SHEETDATE: 6/19

TO:

Diana Fortuna

PHONE NO.

FAX NO.

456-7431

FROM:

JOE GRAUPENSPERGER

PHONE NO.

514-3951

FAX NO.

305-2643NO. OF PAGES: 2 (EXCLUDING COVER)

COMMENTS:

DRAFTQ&A on deadbats.

DRAFT

Q. Where did this legislation come from?

A. This bill results from the President's directive to the Attorney General of July 21, 1996. In that directive, the President said that, "[w]hile State and local agencies have and must have primary responsibility for child support enforcement, the Federal Government has a crucially important role to play," and asked that the Attorney General take several specific steps to strengthen child support enforcement efforts. One of these steps was "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 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 remain 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, and a second or subsequent offense to a maximum of two years.

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. What does this bill 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. 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. Thus, while criminal prosecution is not a practical or appropriate primary mechanism for collecting overdue child support payments, the threat of criminal prosecution not only deters federal criminal behavior but also supports efforts at all levels of government to collect child support from delinquent parents.

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

A. Overall, the Department of Justice has obtained over 250 convictions and pleas using the Child Support Recovery Act. 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. [Enacted in 1992.]

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

A. [answer forthcoming]

Child Support Enforcement Accomplishments:

New Hire Reporting. One of the Clinton administration's child support enforcement successes is New Hire Reporting, a feature of the new welfare law. The new law required the establishment of a National Directory of New Hires to compile all new hires, all wage and unemployment compensation information and match those records against delinquent parents. The directory has identified over 1 million delinquent parents who were not paying child support to their children since beginning operation on October 1, 1997 on schedule. The directory is very important as approximately one-third of child support cases are interstate and the matches made would not have been found without it.

Paternity Establishments. In 1997, the child support enforcement program had a record number of paternity establishments: 1.3 million. In fact, the number of establishments now equals the number of out-of-wedlock births per year. (Although a portion of the paternity establishments for each year are of prior year births. In 1992, nearly 42% of non-marital births were established while for 1997, the rate is approximately 100 percent.) The significance of this statistic is that for the first time, the child support enforcement program is reducing the overall number of children without legal fathers in this country.

A large part of this success is due to fathers voluntarily acknowledging their children. Since the Clinton Administration implemented the in-hospital voluntary paternity establishment program in 1994, paternity establishment through that program alone has increased 500% to over 470,000 in 1997.

Both of these statistics easily fold into a message of reflecting on the responsibility and joys of fatherhood. Because fathers are stepping up to the new challenges of fatherhood today, American families are stronger and better able to raise the next generation of healthy, happy children. Fathers play a critical role in the lives of their children -- statistics show that children with fathers involved in their lives are less likely to drop out of school, have a child before age 20, and live in poverty.

Collections. In 1997, the state and federal child support enforcement program collected a record estimated \$13.4 billion for children, an increase of 68% from 1992 when \$8 billion was collected.

*Lowell - These are
potential announcements
& stats for the speech.
HHS isn't sure they want
to announce Paternity Establishment
at this event*

*already
announcing*

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 28, 1996

EXECUTIVE ORDER

- - - - -

SUPPORTING FAMILIES:
COLLECTING DELINQUENT CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, Public Law 104-134 (110 Stat. 1321-358 et seq.), was enacted into law on April 26, 1996, as part of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996. While the primary purpose of the Debt Collection Improvement Act is to increase the collection of nontax debts owed to the Federal Government, the Act also contains important provisions that can be used to assist families in collecting past-due child support obligations.

The failure of some parents to meet their child support obligations threatens the health, education, and well-being of their children. Compounding this problem, States have experienced difficulties enforcing child support obligations once a parent has moved to another State. With this Executive order, my Administration takes additional steps to support our children and strengthen American families by facilitating the collection of delinquent child support obligations from persons who may be entitled or eligible to receive certain Federal payments or Federal assistance.

Accordingly, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Administrative Offsets. (a)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury ("the Secretary"), in accordance with the provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and to the extent permitted by law, and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other affected agencies, shall promptly develop and implement procedures necessary for the Secretary to collect past-due child support debts by administrative offset, and shall issue such rules, regulations, and procedures as the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of affected agencies, deems appropriate to govern administrative offsets by the Department of the Treasury and other executive departments and agencies that disburse Federal payments.

(2) The Secretary may enter into reciprocal agreements with States concerning the collection by the Secretary of delinquent child support debts through administrative offsets.

(b) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, within 120 days of the date of this order, implement procedures necessary to report to the Secretary of the Treasury information on past-due child support claims referred by States (including claims enforced by States pursuant to cooperative agreements

with or by Indian tribal governments) to the Department of Health and Human Services.

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(OVER)

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(c) The head of each executive department and agency that certifies payments to the Secretary or to another disbursing official shall review each class of payments that the department or agency certifies to determine if any such class should be exempt from offset and, if any class is so identified, submit to the Secretary a request for such an exemption together with the reasons therefor. With respect to classes of payments under means-tested programs existing on the date of this order, such submission shall be made within 30 days of the date of this order. With respect to classes of payments other than payments under means-tested programs existing on the date of this order, such submissions shall be made within 30 days of the date the Secretary establishes standards pursuant to section 3716(c)(3) of title 31, United States Code. With respect to a class of payments established after the date of this order, such submissions shall be made not later than 30 days after such class is established.

(d) The head of each executive department and agency that certifies payments to the Secretary shall promptly implement any rule, regulation, or procedure issued by the Secretary pursuant to this section.

(e) The head of each executive department and agency that is authorized by law to disburse payments shall promptly implement any rule, regulation, or procedure issued by the Secretary pursuant to this section and shall:

(1) match, consistent with computer privacy matching laws, the payment certification records of such department or agency with records of persons delinquent in child support payments as directed by the Secretary; and

(2) conduct administrative offsets to collect delinquent child support payments.

(f) The Secretary shall, to the extent permitted by law, share with the Secretary of Health and Human Services any information contained in payment certification records of persons who are delinquent in child support obligations that would assist in the collection of such debts, whether or not an administrative offset is conducted.

Sec. 2. Denial of Federal Assistance. (a) The Secretary shall, to the extent permitted by law, ensure that information concerning individuals whose payments are subject to administrative offset because of delinquent child support obligations is made available to the head of each executive department and agency that provides Federal financial assistance to individuals.

(b) In conformance with section 2(e) of this order, the head of each executive department and agency shall, with respect to any individuals whose payments are subject to administrative offset because of a delinquent child support obligation, promptly implement procedures to deny Federal financial assistance to such individuals.

(c) The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and other affected agencies, shall promptly issue guidelines for departments and agencies concerning minimum due-process standards to be included in the procedures required by subsection (b) of this section.

(d) For purposes of this section, Federal financial assistance means any Federal loan (other than a disaster loan), loan guarantee, or loan insurance.

more

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(e)(1) A class of Federal financial assistance shall not be subject to denial if the head of the concerned department or agency determines:

(A) in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, that such action:

(i) is not permitted by law; or

(ii) would likely result in valid legal claims

for damages against the United States;

(B) that such action would be inconsistent with the best interests of the child or children with respect to whom a child support obligation is owed; or

(C) that such action should be waived.

(2) The head of each executive department and agency shall provide written notification to the Secretary upon determining that the denial of a class of Federal financial assistance is not permitted by law or should be waived.

(f) The head of each executive department and agency shall:

(1) review all laws under the jurisdiction of the department or agency that do not permit the denial of Federal financial assistance to individuals and whose payments are subject to administrative offset because of a delinquent child support obligation and, where appropriate, transmit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget recommendations for statutory changes; and

(2) to the extent practicable, review all rules, regulations, and procedures implementing laws under the jurisdiction of the department or agency governing the provision of any Federal financial assistance to individuals and, where appropriate, conform such rules, regulations, and procedures to the provisions of this order and the rules, regulations, and procedures issued by the Secretary pursuant to section 1 of this order.

Sec. 3. Reports. (a) The head of each executive department and agency shall provide to the Secretary such information as the Secretary may request concerning the implementation of this order, the provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 applicable to delinquent

child support obligations, and the rules, regulations, and procedures issued by the Secretary pursuant to section 1 of this order.

(b) The Secretary shall report annually to the President concerning the implementation by departments and agencies of this order and the provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 applicable to delinquent child support obligations.

Sec. 4. Judicial Review. This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,

September 28, 1996.

#

CLINTON-GORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

REFORMING WELFARE

On August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, fulfilling his longtime commitment to 'end welfare as we know it.' As the President said upon signing, "... this legislation provides an historic opportunity to end welfare as we know it and transform our broken welfare system by promoting the fundamental values of work, responsibility, and family."

TRANSFORMING THE BROKEN WELFARE SYSTEM

- **Overhauling the Welfare System with the Personal Responsibility Act:** In 1996, the President signed a bipartisan welfare plan that is dramatically changing the nation's welfare system into one that requires work in exchange for time-limited assistance. The law contains strong work requirements, performance bonuses to reward states for moving welfare recipients into jobs and reducing illegitimacy, state maintenance of effort requirements, comprehensive child support enforcement, and supports for families moving from welfare to work -- including increased funding for child care. State strategies are making a real difference in the success of welfare reform, specifically in job placement, child care and transportation.
- **Law Builds on the Administration's Welfare Reform Strategy:** Even before the Personal Responsibility Act became law, many states were well on their way to changing their welfare programs to jobs programs. By granting Federal waivers, the Clinton Administration allowed 43 states -- more than all previous Administrations combined -- to require work, time-limit assistance, make work pay, improve child support enforcement, and encourage parental responsibility. The vast majority of states have chosen to continue or build on their welfare demonstration projects approved by the Clinton Administration.
- **Largest Decline in the Welfare Rolls in History:** The President has announced that we've met -- two years ahead of schedule -- the challenge he made in last year's State of the Union to move two million more Americans off of welfare by the year 2000. The latest caseload numbers, announced May 27th, show that welfare caseloads fell by 5.2 million since President Clinton took office and 3.3 million since he signed the welfare reform law. The new figures, from March 1998, show 8.9 million people on welfare, a drop of more than 37 percent from January 1993. This historic decline occurred in response to the Administration's grants of Federal waivers to 43 states, the provisions of the new welfare reform law, and the strong economy.

MOVING PEOPLE FROM WELFARE TO WORK

- **Mobilizing the Business Community:** At the President's urging, the Welfare to Work Partnership was launched in May 1997 to lead the national business effort to hire people from the welfare rolls. Founded with 105 participating businesses, the Partnership has grown to 5,000 businesses within one year. In 1997 these businesses hired 135,000 welfare recipients and the President has challenged them to double their efforts to 270,000 in 1998. The Partnership provides technical assistance and support to businesses around the country, including: a toll-free number, ~~the Partnership's a w~~ Web site, a "Blueprint for Business" manual, and a new report called The Road to Retention on businesses whose retention rates for former welfare recipients are higher than the retention rates for other new hires.
- **Connecting Small Businesses with New Workers:** The Small Business Administration is reaching out to small businesses throughout the country to help them connect with job-ready welfare recipients. In addition, SBA assists welfare recipients who wish to start their own businesses.
- **Mobilizing Civic, Religious and Non-profit Groups:** The Vice President created the Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success, a coalition of civic groups committed to helping former welfare recipients stay in the workforce and succeed. Tailoring their services to meet welfare recipients needs and the organizations' strengths, the Coalition focuses on providing mentoring and other support services. Charter members of the Coalition include: the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Baptist Joint Committee, the United Way, the YMCA, and other civic and faith-based groups.
- **Doing Our Fair Share with the Federal Government's Hiring Initiative:** Under the Clinton Administration, the Federal workforce is the smallest it has been in thirty years. Yet, this Administration also believes that the Federal government, as the nation's largest employer, must lead by example. The President asked the Vice President to oversee the Federal government's hiring initiative in which Federal agencies have committed to directly hire at least 10,000 welfare recipients in the next four years. Already, the federal government has hired over 4,811 welfare recipients, 45 percent of its planned hires. As a part of this effort, the White House pledged to hire, ~~and has already hired~~, six welfare recipients and has already exceeded this goal.
- **\$3 Billion to Help Move More People from Welfare to Work:** Because of the President's leadership, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act included the total funding requested by the President for the creation of his \$3 billion welfare to work fund. This program will help states and local communities move long-term welfare recipients into lasting, unsubsidized jobs. These funds can be used for job creation, job placement and job retention efforts, including wage subsidies to private employers and other critical post-employment support services. The Department of Labor provides oversight but most of the dollars will be placed, through the Private Industry Councils, in the hands of the localities who are on the front lines of the welfare reform effort. In addition, 25 percent of the funds will be awarded by the Department of Labor on a competitive basis

to support innovative welfare to work projects. The President announced the first round of 49 innovative competitive grants on May 27th.

- **Tax Credits for Employers:** The Welfare to Work Tax Credit, enacted in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, provides a credit equal to 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the first year of employment, and 50 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the second year, to encourage the hiring and retention of long term welfare recipients. This credit complements the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which provides a credit of up to \$2,400 for the first year of wages for eight groups of job seekers. The President's FY 1999 budget extends these two important tax credits through April 2000 ~~for an additional year.~~
- **Welfare to Work Housing Vouchers:** In his FY 1999 budget, the President proposes \$283 million for 50,000 new housing vouchers for welfare recipients who need housing assistance to get or keep a job. Families could use these housing vouchers to move closer to a new job, to reduce a long commute, or to secure more stable housing to eliminate emergencies that keep them from getting to work every day on time. These vouchers, awarded to communities on a competitive basis, will give people on welfare a new tool to make the transition to a job and succeed in the work place.
- **Welfare to Work Transportation:** One of the biggest barriers facing people who move from welfare to work -- in cities and in rural areas -- is finding transportation to get to jobs, training programs and child care centers. Few welfare recipients own cars. Existing mass transit does not provide adequate links to many suburban jobs at all, or within a reasonable commute time. In addition, many entry level jobs require evening or weekend hours that are poorly served by existing transit routes. To help those on welfare get to work their jobs, President Clinton proposed a \$100 million a year welfare to work transportation plan as part of his ISTEA reauthorization bill. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which the President signed on June 9th, authorizes \$900 million over six years for the President's initiative and reverse commute grants. Of this amount, \$50 million is guaranteed funding in FY 1999, rising to \$150 million in 2003. This Job Access competitive grant program would will assist states and localities in developing flexible transportation alternatives, such as van services, for welfare recipients and other low income workers. ~~Congress has recognized the importance of welfare to work transportation by authorizing up to \$150 million annually in the ISTEA reauthorization bill.~~

PROMOTING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- **Enforcing Child Support -- 68% Increase in Collections:** *[DIANA--are we going to release any new #s as part of bill signing that we can include here??]* The Clinton Administration collected a record \$13.4 billion in child support in 1997 through tougher enforcement, an increase of \$5.4 billion, or 68% since 1992. 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. And paternity establishment, often the first crucial step in child support cases, has dramatically increased due in large part to voluntary paternity establishment provisions enacted in the first year of the Clinton Administration. In 1997, the number of paternities established or acknowledged rose to 1.1 million from 512,000 in 1992, an increase of 115%.

Now 1.3m

Increasing Parental Responsibility: The President's unprecedented and sustained campaign to ensure parents financially support their children is working. In addition to tougher enforcement including a strong partnership with states, President Clinton has taken executive action including: directing the Treasury Department to collect past-due child support from Federal payments including Federal income tax refunds and employee salaries, and taking steps to deny Federal loans to any delinquent parents. The President also directed the Attorney General to submit legislation that strengthens the Child Support Recovery Act to increase penalties against parents who take egregious actions to avoid paying child support. And most significantly, the welfare reform law contains tough child support measures that President Clinton has long supported including: a national new hire reporting system; streamlined paternity establishment; uniform interstate child support laws; computerized state-wide collections; and tough new penalties. These five measures are projected to increase child support collections by an additional \$24 billion over the next ten years.

- **Breaking the Cycle of Dependency -- Preventing Teen Pregnancy:** Significant components of the President's comprehensive effort to reduce teen pregnancy became law when the President signed the 1996 Personal Responsibility Act. The law requires unmarried minor parents to stay in school and live at home or in a supervised setting; encourages "second chance homes" to provide teen parents with the skills and support they need; and provides \$50 million a year in new funding for state abstinence education activities. Since 1993, the Clinton Administration has supported innovative and promising teen pregnancy prevention strategies, including working with boys and young men on pregnancy prevention strategies. In 1997, the President announced the National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, mandated in the welfare reform law. It reported that HHS-supported programs already reach about 30 percent or 1,410 communities in the United States. As part of this effort, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a private nonprofit organization, was formed in response to the President's 1995 State of the Union. Notably, data shows we are making progress in reducing teen pregnancy -- teen births have fallen five years in a row, by 12 percent from 1991 to 1996.

RESTORING FAIRNESS AND PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

The President made a commitment to fix several provisions in the welfare reform law that had nothing to do with moving people from welfare to work. In 1997, the President fought for and ultimately was successful in ensuring that the Balanced Budget Act protects the most vulnerable. And now, with his 1999 budget, he's continuing the fight.

- **Protects Immigrants Who Become Disabled and Those Currently Receiving Benefits:** The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 restored \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. The new law protects those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And for immigrants already here but not receiving benefits, the BBA does not change the rules retroactively. Immigrants in the country as of August 22, 1996 but not receiving benefits at that time who subsequently become disabled will also be fully eligible for SSI and Medicaid benefits.
- **Helps People Who Want to Work but Can't Find a Job:** The Balanced Budget Act (BBA) also restored \$1.5 billion in food stamp cuts. The welfare reform law restricted food stamps for able-bodied childless adults to only 3 out of every 36 months, unless they were working. This move ignored the fact that finding a job often takes time. The BBA provided funds for an estimated 235,000 work slots over 5 years and food stamp benefits to those who are willing to work but, through no fault of their own, have not yet found employment. In addition, the BBA allows states to exempt up to 15 percent of the food stamp recipients (70,000 individuals monthly) who would otherwise be denied benefits as a result of the "3 in 36" limit.
- **Food Stamps for Legal Immigrants:** *[DIANA-update for Ag Research Bill signing]* The President's 1999 budget proposes to restore Food Stamp benefits for vulnerable groups of legal immigrants. The President's proposals would provide Food Stamp benefits to 730,000 legal immigrants in 1999 at a cost of \$2.5 billion over 5 years. Specifically, benefits would be restored for: all families with children; immigrants with disabilities and elderly immigrants age 65 and older who entered the U.S. before welfare reform was enacted, on the same basis as the SSI and Medicaid restorations in the 1997 BBA; refugees and asylees, whose eligibility would be extended from 5 to 7 years; Hmong immigrants who came to the U.S. after the Vietnam war; and certain Native Americans living along the Canadian and Mexican borders. The Administration is now pressing Congress to pass legislation known as the Agriculture Research bill, which would restore food stamps to 250,000 of these legal immigrants in 1999, including 75,000 children.
- **Protects Children by Keeping the Medicaid Guarantee:** The BBA preserved the Federal guarantee of Medicaid coverage for the vulnerable populations who depend on it, and contains additional investments to extend coverage to uninsured children. It also ensures that 30,000 disabled children losing SSI because of the new tighter eligibility criteria keep their Medicaid coverage. The President's 1999 budget proposes to provide States the option to provide health care coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for legal immigrant children, regardless of when they entered the U.S.

5/27/98

Graupensbeign - Ck w/ him on amproscentor

DRAFT

**President Clinton: Punishing Deadbeat Parents
While Encouraging Parental Responsibility**

*2 page fax to Joe
Graupensberger
From Diana
Fortuna
305-2643*

June 24, 1998

On Wednesday, the President will sign H.R. 3811, the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998, into law at the White House. In addition, President Clinton will announce two other significant achievements in the Administration's efforts to ensure that both parents take responsibility for their children. First, the National Directory of New Hires has now identified one million parents who have neglected their child support payments. Second, the child support enforcement program set a new record last year by establishing paternity in 1.3 million cases, many of which occurred because parents voluntarily acknowledged responsibility for their children.

New Felony Penalties for Egregious Failure to Pay Child Support. Citing the inadequacy of current law, the President originally called for this legislation in 1996, and he reiterated his call in the 1997 State of the Union. While current law makes it a federal offense willfully to fail to pay child support for a child who lives in another state, it does not address more serious instances of child support nonpayment or evasion. This new law creates two new categories of 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. Second, 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.

- Not a 3rd? No 1st time?

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

New Hire Database "Hits" Reach One Million. The National Directory of New Hires was created by the new welfare reform law to compile data on all new hires and all wage and unemployment compensation information in order to match those records against delinquent parents. Today's announcement by the President is that over one million delinquent parents who are not paying child support to their children have been identified through the database since it began operation on October 1, 1997. Since approximately one-third of all child support cases are interstate, the directory is a key tool in our efforts to track down these parents. These one million parents would not have been found without it.

A Record Number of Paternity Establishments. The President will also announce that the child support enforcement program had a record number of paternity establishments in 1997: 1.3 million. In fact, the number of paternity establishments now *slightly exceeds* equals the number of out-of-wedlock births per year (although some paternity establishments each year are for prior year births). The percentage of non-marital births where paternity is established has increased from

num/denom.

*When
1 million
↓
June
(one Qtr)
(one day)*

42% in 1992 to approximately 100% in 1997. For the first time, the child support enforcement program is reducing (or just preventing an increase in?) the number of children in this country without legal fathers.

Much of this success is due to the in-hospital voluntary paternity establishment program begun by the Clinton Administration in 1994. Under that program, a father is encouraged to acknowledge paternity voluntarily at the time of the child's birth. Since the Administration began this program on a national basis in 1994, paternity establishments through that program alone increased 500%, to over 470,000 in 1997.

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.

Responsible Bankruptcy Reform that Doesn't Hurt Children. Finally, the President will reiterate his position that bankruptcy reform legislation should not result in additional competition for families owed child support (and alimony?). Despite well-intended efforts to address these problems, the House and Senate bills still raise the concern that children will not come first in bankruptcy proceedings (MORE SPECIFIC?) The President will continue to make this issue a top priority in working with the Congress to reach an agreement on this issue.

92 = ~~45.2%~~ ^{45.2%} - of all kids born or w 6-18 w/pat estd

97 = 55.9%

Year 1997 - ~~Patrs estd that yr.~~ Kids born that yr. now = 101%

Year 1992: _____ = 42%

PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULING REQUEST

June 9, 1998

☐ ACCEPT

☐ REGRET

☐ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett, Director of Scheduling and Advance

FROM: Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Rahm Emanuel, Senior Advisor to the President

REQUEST: For the President to hold a signing ceremony for HR 3811, the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998.

PURPOSE: To highlight the President's commitment to making parents pay child support.

BACKGROUND: On June 5, Congress passed HR 3811, the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998. The bill creates a felony offense for people who cross state lines to evade paying child support. The bill applies to parents owing more than \$5,000. Parents who willfully fail to pay \$10,000 or more in child support are subject to two years of imprisonment. The bill is based on the President's 1996 proposal which he highlighted in his 1997 State of the Union Address. The signing ceremony would be an opportunity for the President to thank Congress for its support and to demonstrate his commitment to child support and children.

DATE: June 23, 1998

DURATION: 60 minutes

LOCATION: The White House

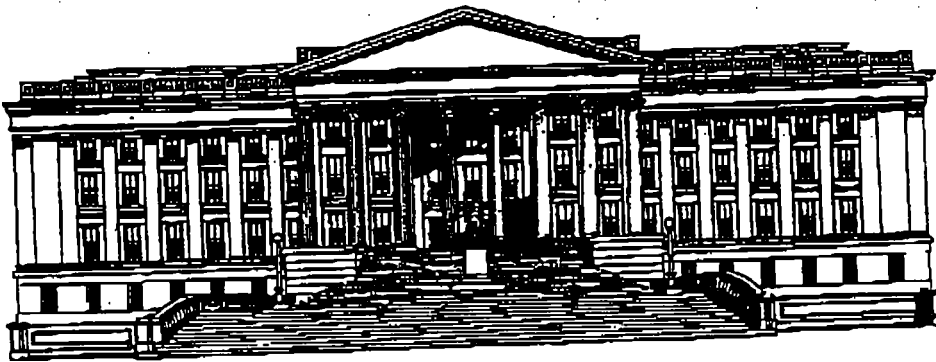
PARTICIPANTS: The President
Attorney General Reno
Secretary Shalala
Members of Congress
Representatives of the Association for Children for Enforcement of Support (ACES), the 40,000 member national group that represents parents who are owed child support
Child Advocacy Groups

REMARKS
REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA: Open Press

CONTACT: Christa Robinson x6-5165

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY



FROM: OFFICE OF THE FISCAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1500 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220
FAX: 202/622-0962

FROM THE DESK OF DAVID A. LEBRYK
202/622-0570

TO:

Diana Fortuna

PHONE:

456-5570

FAX:

456-7431

PAGE 1 OF

2

DATE

6/22/98

Diana - let me know if you have any questions.

David

(Pg. 1 - The collection under the Executive Order (P.L. 104-190) total a modest \$328,000 since the first year. These #'s will continue to be modest until our system work is completed, allowing more projects to be added.)

84,000

TRO:
NO major progr
see since 92

Leah - borned - 1/2 who 2000

News?

TREASURY'S INITIATIVE TO COLLECT PAST-DUE CHILD SUPPORT

The Department of the Treasury has been committed to the collection of delinquent child support obligations for many years. Since 1982, Treasury has collected \$8.2 billion in delinquent child support obligations through the offset of tax refund payments. Collections through tax refund offset increased from \$643 million in 1992, to \$1.1 billion in 1997. In the current year Treasury has already collected over \$1 billion in delinquent child support debt through the tax refund and administrative offset processes, an increase of over \$150 million compared to the same point in time last year. The Department also has a key role in the implementation of Executive Order 13019: *Supporting Families: Collecting Delinquent Child Support Obligations*, which was issued by President Clinton on September 28, 1998. *with 2 do a %*

70.50%
328K

The key objective of the Executive Order is to collect delinquent child support obligations through the administrative offset of Federal payments. Program responsibility for implementing the Executive Order has been assigned to the Departments of the Treasury and Health and Human Services. Secretary Rubin and Secretary Shalala have established an inter-agency work group, led by senior officials in each agency, to oversee and guide the offset program. This group has worked closely with the states and territories to inform them about the program, encourage their voluntary participation, resolve system and programmatic issues, and assist them in referring delinquent child support obligations for offset.

As of April 2, 1998, there were 15 entities participating in the administrative offset program, and a total of 802,351 cases submitted representing \$6.8 billion of the \$34 billion delinquent child support debts nationwide. Reporting entities include Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, the County of Los Angeles (California) and the District of Columbia. *HHS unconf.*

States get b
Gov - feds

The Executive Order was issued with the intent to protect the health, education and well-being of the children whose parents fail to meet their child support obligations. Treasury and HHS continue to work toward full implementation of the provisions of Executive Order 13019 in support of this worthy goal.

States req TRO; vol AO
6-9 mos: Tax Refund offset merge w/
then offset
1/99 - advice for states
TAS just once a yr. - then more
Benefit Payments

June 22, 1998

Who runs: wage garnishment
fed salary garnishment
No date in EO?
Lead 30% salaries - next 2 mos.
Postal & DOD hand

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 18, 1996

June 18, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF LABOR

SUBJECT: **Child Support Initiative**

I hereby direct you to assist in the implementation of the plan I am announcing today to strengthen the **child support** system and promote parental responsibility.

I direct you to exercise your legal authority in a manner that will assist the implementation of the plan by encouraging those State employment security agencies that collect new-hire information for use in **child support** enforcement to report such information to the Department of Health and Human Service's pilot program for matching new-hire data with Federal Parent Locator Service data in order to better track parents owing **child support** who have taken a job in another State.

The plan I have outlined will help strengthen **child support** operations by toughening the paternity establishment requirements for applicants for welfare and by enabling States to locate, and withhold wages from, **child support** obligors who have taken a job in another State. Its prompt implementation is integral to achieving our goal of promoting the American value of parental responsibility.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

for 100,000 people
Urban Institute
from microsimulation
old
1989 census
applied to 93 cases

1994

Total Pages: _____

LRM ID: MDH201

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503-0001

Thursday, June 11, 1998

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

URGENT

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution below
FROM: Janet R. Forsgren Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
OMB CONTACT: Melinda D. Haskins
PHONE: (202)395-3923 FAX: (202)395-6148
SUBJECT: Signing Statement on HR3811 Felony Violations for Failure to Pay Child Support

DEADLINE: NOON Friday, June 12, 1998

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. **Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for purposes of the "Pay-As-You-Go" provisions of Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.**

COMMENTS: Please review the attached signing statement for H.R. 3811.

IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU BY THE DEADLINE, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS SIGNING STATEMENT.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Janet R. Forsgren

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2 \\
 18 \\
 13 \\
 \hline
 58 \\
 18 \\
 \hline
 234
 \end{array}$$

Pay Child Support

_____ **Concur**

_____ **No Objection**

_____ **No Comment**

_____ **See proposed edits on pages** _____

_____ **Other:** _____

FAX RETURN of _____ **pages, attached to this response sheet**

Kharfen
#Pat estab - wrong msg
OK NHTB?

2 cab A#
+ Judge Ross

6/19/98

12 DPC/OPL

~~12 DPC~~ } 945 = 14 behind
8 leg

22
+5 real?

Hyde (Congress)

Reno 1 P...
Shalala 1/GA

Hoyer

(Leading, Hated)

10 Adv voc - DPC
OPL

Tania 4 advocs

Kohl

DeWine

→ ACES

Others - Ask Kohl?

NCS, F of ACOR -
Jack Banks
1000 - 1000
Sh...

Marilyn Nichols Lane

Jeffrey Nichols

Hoyer

- Risk of ACES pushing
its federalization agenda

- Hyde sponsors ACES
Wobey

Prosecutor?

9.15 briefing (hr 45 mins)

945-

15-17 oral - 6

16-12
writing

+10 behind pool

OPL - 10-15 people / 8 min.

L Tanya

Prefer oral

28 cy's + 2 = 4 Cabinet

Thinks VP will be there
Pool

Real person by Monday

Javille
G... in

Nick
Sach

6.7395
direct
Tania Lopez &

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, I am pleased to approve H.R. 3811, the "Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998." The Act is based upon an Administration proposal to strengthen Federal law to prevent an individual from moving to another State or country to avoid paying child support. It sends a strong message to parents who have a moral and legally-established duty to support their children -- fulfill your financial obligations or face severe consequences. *strengthen?*

H.R. 3811 strengthens existing child support enforcement law in several ways. Most importantly, the Act establishes two felony offenses for egregious non-payment of child support. First, it makes it a felony for a parent to travel to another State or country with the intent of evading the payment of child support, if the obligation has remained unpaid for more than one year or is greater than \$5,000. Second, it makes it a felony to willfully fail to pay child support to a child residing in another State, if the obligation has been unpaid for more than two years or is greater than \$10,000. Persons convicted of either offense will be subject to a jail term of up to two years and a fine. This is a reasonable consequence for an inexcusable act. ?

No Although States and localities have the primary responsibility for child support enforcement, the Federal Government plays an important role in holding fully accountable parents who neglect their most basic responsibility to provide financial support to their children. *DOJ wants*

H.R. 3811 is an appropriate step to encourage such parental accountability. It is based on bipartisan agreement that the Federal Government will not tolerate "deadbeat" parents who shirk their parental responsibilities. I am glad to sign this legislation into law.

for the success DWR



White House Press Release

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 22, 1996

July 21, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Subject: Criminal **Child** Support Enforcement

I am proud of the progress we have made over the last 3 years in addressing the problem of **child** support enforcement.

While State and local agencies have and must have primary responsibility for **child** support enforcement, the Federal Government has a crucially important role to play. One aspect of that role involves bringing prosecutions under the **Child** Support Recovery Act of 1992, which for the first time created a Federal criminal offense for interstate cases, where persons willfully fail to pay **child** support for their **child** who lives in another State.

The Department of Justice, working through the local United States Attorneys' offices, has brought **child** support cases across the Nation to get the message out that a person who willfully avoids **child** support payments for a **child** in another State runs a grave risk of Federal prosecution. Each U.S. Attorney's office has a **child** support coordinator; the Federal Bureau of Investigation has committed its resources; the Department of Justice has authorized the Department of Health and Human Services' Inspector General to investigate these cases.

But these important measures are not enough.

The Department of Justice, working with the Department of Health and Human Services and the States, must pursue all available measures to punish those who have tried to evade their **child** support obligations.

Therefore, I direct you to take the following important steps to strengthen our **child** support enforcement efforts.

First, I direct you to convene a task force consisting of Federal, State, and local prosecutors, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the State agencies responsible for **child** support enforcement to enhance criminal prosecution of **child** support debtors. You should consider:

- o measures to improve the process of referring appropriate cases for Federal, State, or local criminal enforcement;
- o the adequacy of all applicable Federal and State laws;
- o the availability and appropriate allocation of resources; and
- o ways to coordinate Federal, State, and local efforts to make enforcement most effective.

Second, I direct you to review the sentences that have been imposed upon those convicted under the **Child** Support Recovery Act, including restitution orders, incarceration, and community service, with the goal of identifying novel and effective sentencing options, and send guidance to Federal prosecutors setting forth factors to consider when seeking sentencing orders from courts.

Third, I direct you 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.

Fourth, I direct you, as part of your effort to enforce criminal laws, to cooperate with the Department of Health and Human Services to place on their Internet **child** support page the names of persons who have been indicted under Federal law for willfully failing to pay **child** support and have fled in an attempt to escape criminal prosecution.

Finally, I direct you to report back to me within 90 days on the actions you have taken to fulfill this directive.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON