



December 3, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

I write to strongly urge your support of S. 803 and H.R. 1386, the Child Support Protection Act of 2007, which would repeal legislation passed as part of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005. The DRA provision prevents states from using child support incentive funds to match federal funds for this vital program. States have employed these incentive funds to draw down federal match to improve and strengthen the child support program, including such uses as establishing and enforcing child support obligations, obtaining medical coverage for children, and linking low-income parents to job programs.

State and federal spending on the child support program has consistently been effective and responsible; the program has continued to be rated as one of the most effective of all assistance programs. The program helps lift children out of poverty and contributes to closer family relationships. The reductions in administrative match mandated by the DRA will lead to lower child support collections and leave families less able to achieve self-sufficiency.

If these matching funds are not restored, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that \$11 billion in support owed to children will go uncollected over the next ten years, even if states replace half of the lost federal funds. In addition, a Lewin Group study recently noted that the expected cuts will affect all families receiving services and increase costs in programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, and food stamps. The cuts would reduce program revenues by 17 percent on average, with some states losing up to 36 percent.

We urge you to undo this ill-considered provision of the DRA by quickly enacting the Child Support Protection Act of 2007. If you have any questions, please contact me or Larry Goolsby, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 682-0100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry W. Friedman".

Jerry W. Friedman
Executive Director