

November 15, 2007

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel,

On behalf of the 17 million children across the country who benefit from our states' child support enforcement programs, we urge you to restore our ability to draw federal match dollars from child support incentive payments. These cuts, adopted in the 2006 Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), went into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and have already begun to adversely impact our programs and the children they serve.

In order to prevent the damaging effect the cuts will have on our state programs, we urge you to repeal this provision before the end of the calendar year. Many of our states and communities – especially those facing substantial budget deficits – are not in a position to fill the inevitable funding gap that will result from the incentive payment cuts. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that child support collections will decrease by \$11 billion over the next ten years as a result of these cuts.

Our programs are extremely successful in collecting payments from non-custodial parents and serving millions of children, keeping them out of poverty and providing an avenue through which non-custodial parents can play an active role in their children's lives. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has rated our programs among the most effective federally-funded programs. In 2006, child support enforcement programs collected \$24 billion from non-custodial parents. Further research has shown that for every \$1 spent on child support enforcement, over \$4 in needed child support is collected. The elimination of states' authority to use the incentives as a match for federal funds will cost our states and counties billions of dollars currently used to strengthen our capacity to enforce support obligations. Most importantly, the cuts will directly impact the low and moderate income working families who benefit from our programs.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us reverse the negative impact the DRA has had on our child support enforcement programs and helping us keep these efforts in good standing. This is a bipartisan issue for Governors and we believe that all states will substantially benefit from keeping our child support enforcement programs cost-effective, efficient and in the position to serve millions of single parent families and their children.

Sincerely,



Governor Janet Napolitano  
Arizona



Governor Mike Beebe  
Arkansas



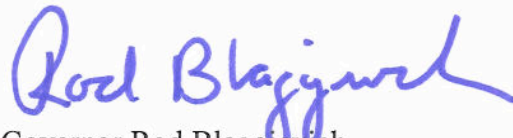
Governor Bill Ritter Jr.  
Colorado



Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Connecticut



Governor Ruth Ann Minner  
Delaware



Governor Rod Blagojevich  
Illinois



Governor Chester J. Culver  
Iowa



Governor Kathleen Sebelius  
Kansas



Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Louisiana



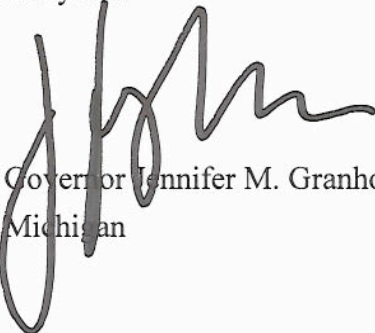
Governor John Baldacci  
Maine



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland



Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
Michigan



Governor Jon S. Corzine  
New Jersey

Governor Bill Richardson  
New Mexico

Governor Eliot Spitzer  
New York

Governor Michael F. Easley  
North Carolina

Governor Ted Strickland  
Ohio

Governor Edward G. Rendell  
Pennsylvania

Governor Aníbal Acevedo Vilá  
Puerto Rico

Governor Timothy M. Kaine  
Virginia

Governor Christine O. Gregoire  
Washington

Governor Jim Doyle  
Wisconsin

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
California