
A national coalition dedicated to policies that support children & single-parent families.

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Governors Urge Chairman Rangel to Restore Child Support Funding *State Leaders Say \$11 Billion Budget Cut Threatens Kids, Families*

Washington, DC – In a letter this week to Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), the governors of 24 states urged the chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means to repeal federal cuts in child support funding that took effect on October 1st.

Part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, the cuts are estimated by the Congressional Budget Office to decrease child support collections by \$11 billion over the next ten years.

“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,” wrote the bipartisan group. “These cuts...have already begun to adversely impact our programs and the children they serve.”

Currently, nearly half of all poor, single custodial mothers in the U.S. receive child support, and for those families that receive it, child support comprises nearly a third of their household income.

The program has also been praised for its effectiveness. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services last year characterized the child support program as “one of the highest rated block/formula grants of all reviewed programs government-wide” due to its “effective management and measurable progress” toward meeting annual and long-term performance measures.

Meanwhile, the program continues to provide help to working families, ensuring that parents provide financial support their children and reducing child poverty. Collection rates in the program have doubled in the past decade. In 2006, \$24 billion was collected from non-custodial parents, and leaders in the states that collect the funds say that reversing course would hurt the very families the program is designed to assist.

“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,” the governors’ letter stated. “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.”

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EDITOR’S NOTE: View full letter text and list of signatories at www.savechildsupport.org.