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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 6, 2008

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## **The Save Child Support Coalition Applauds Congress' Action to Restore Child Support Funding in FY09 Budget**

*Washington, D.C.* -- The Save Child Support Coalition today applauded Members of the House and Senate for including language in the Fiscal Year 2009 Conference Agreement on the Budget that recognizes the importance of The Child Support Enforcement Program. The language is a critical step in restoring funding to the highly successful program.

During consideration of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, funding for the Child Support Enforcement Program was cut by nearly 20 percent. The funding cuts took effect on October 1, 2007, and have already had an impact on State and local child support programs. It is imperative that Congress take immediate action to preserve the program and protect the interests of children.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the cuts will result in \$11 billion reduction in funds flowing from non-custodial parents to children in single parent families over the next 10 years. This could result in hardship for many families, and force them onto the rolls of food stamps, Medicaid, SCHIP and other government assistance programs. During an economic downturn, families rely on receiving regular child support payments. But these funding cuts will force a reduction in services offered by the child support enforcement program – just when our nation's single parent families need it most.

Annually, the program supports approximately 17 million children and collects more than \$24 billion in private child support dollars. The program is highly effective, collecting \$6.73 in child support payments for every federal dollar invested. Studies have demonstrated that families who receive child support are more likely to leave welfare and less likely to return.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

To view the child support language included in the Conference Agreement on the Budget Resolution, please visit: <http://budget.house.gov/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1608> - Sections 218 and 221 contain the relevant language.