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

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

*Washington, D.C.* -- The Save Child Support Coalition today applauded Members of the House and Senate for including language in the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Resolution that would begin the process of restoring critical funding to the Child Support Enforcement 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 were delayed until October 1, 2007 and are just now having an impact on State and local child support programs. While some States have passed short-term, stop-gap funding, immediate action is needed to preserve the program and protect the interests of children.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that these cuts will result in \$11 billion less in collections 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.

"I am pleased that the Senate Budget Committee has recognized the importance of child support enforcement programs and the impact they can have on children in single-parent households," said Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), sponsor of S. 803, the Child Support Enforcement Act. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to restore funding to this worthwhile and highly-effective program." The Senate bill has 31 co-sponsors, while a House companion bill has 80 cosponsors.

"The Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective way to facilitate financial stability for children as well as encourage parental involvement and responsibility," said U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a co-sponsor of S. 803 and former Texas Attorney General. "In Texas, child support programs are already feeling the effects of these cuts. The budget reserve fund is an important step, and I hope Congress will keep moving forward this year to ensure the integrity of the program is not further compromised."

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The Child Support Enforcement Program was overhauled in 1996. Since then, the program has been highly effective, collecting \$6.50 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. The child support program has been proven to directly decrease the cost of other public assistance programs by increasing family self-sufficiency and long-term financial sustainability.

The program supports approximately 17 million children and collects more than \$24 billion in private child support dollars every year. For many low-income families, child support payments serve as the second-largest income source. Research has shown that reliable child support payments have a positive effect on children's achievement in school, as well as reductions in divorce rates and non-marital births.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

To view the language included in the Senate Budget Resolution, please visit:  
<http://budget.senate.gov/democratic/documents/BudRes09CHAIRMAN'SMARK030508FINAL.pdf>.

To view the language included in the House Budget Resolution, please visit:  
[http://budget.house.gov/09legislative\\_text.pdf](http://budget.house.gov/09legislative_text.pdf).