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National Child Support Enforcement Association ..... **URGENT ACTION NEEDED** .....

**December 20, 2005**

Dear Child Support Colleague,

The House of Representatives has passed the Budget Reconciliation Bill in the early morning hours yesterday, however, it has not passed the Senate.

**Please ask your Senators to vote NO on the Budget Reconciliation Bill (S. 1932)** You may call toll-free 1-800-426-8073 and ask to be connected to your Senators.

Reports in the press and from other sources indicate that Democrats and moderate Republicans are very concerned over the provisions that impact poor families and the environment. The budget reconciliation bill and the defense spending bill are therefore both pending before the Senate and votes are reported late today or tomorrow. Current reports question whether there is a majority that will vote for the budget reconciliation bill and the defense- spending bill.

You may find more information, by following this link to the budget bill: <http://budget.house.gov/summarys1932.pdf>.

This bill as it stands repeals the long-standing authority for states to use the performance incentives as match for federal financial participation (effective 2007).

**The Congressional Budget Office reports that this will reduce child support collections \$8.4 billion in ten years.**

The bill includes:

- A requirement that review and adjustment of child support cases be conducted no less than every three years for TANF cases
- A reduction in the federal financial participation for paternity testing from the current 90% to 66% (effective October 2006)
- Changes to the distribution rules to provide more money to families
- Imposing a \$25 collection fee on never TANF families when the state collects \$500 or more
- Reduces the arrearage amount to trigger passport denial from the current \$5,000 to \$2,500 (effective October 2006)
- Changes the funding for federal technical assistance and operation of the Federal Parent Locate Service to 1% and 2% of federal share of collections or the amount of that appropriated in 2002, whichever is greater
- Changes to the medical support requirements provide for match of non-custodial parents owing child support with information of insurance companies
- Makes changes in the medical support enforcement provisions to provide that the coverage can come from either parent
- Clarifies the definition of medical support
- Includes other changes to the program

The bill also curtails state TANF flexibility, and will require states to spend substantial sums of money to come into compliance and avoid TANF penalties— making it more difficult to make up

for the lost child support funds.

The defense-spending bill reduces by 1% the discretionary funding for federal programs, but does not directly impact child support program funding. It will impact the budgets of states and will also make it more difficult for states to secure the funding to make up the difference from the funding cuts in the budget bill.

**Please reach out to your Senators, who are still available to hear from their constituents about our concerns as well as our expressions of gratitude for their support for maintaining the current child support funding.**

All the best,

Vernon

**About NCSEA**

NCSEA (National Child Support Enforcement Association) is the nonprofit, membership organization representing the child support community - a workforce of over 60,000. NCSEA's mission is to promote the well-being of children through professional development of its membership, advocacy and public awareness. NCSEA's membership includes line/managerial/executive child support staff; state and local agencies; judges; court masters; hearing officers; government and private attorneys; social workers; advocates; corporations that partner with government to provide child support services and private collection firms.

Website: <http://www.ncsea.org>

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