



Contact: Andy Schwarz,
703-506-2880
aschwarz@coultercos.com

National Child Support Enforcement Association Testifies at Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means Hearing on No-Cost Improvements to Child Support Enforcement

(McLean, VA, March 20, 2012) Testimony was delivered by the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) at today's Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means hearing. During the hearing on no-cost improvements to the child support enforcement program (CSE), Kay Farley and Marilyn Stephen testified regarding implementation of the Hague Convention.

Speaking on behalf of NCSEA were Kay Farley, NCSEA Past President (2001 – 2002) and Marilyn Stephen, Director, Office of Child Support, Michigan Department of Human Services. Stephen summarized NCSEA's position: "International cases can be challenging and very time consuming for workers because there are no agreed upon standard proofs, forms or methods of communication. For this reason, I believe that adoption of the Hague Convention and enabling legislation would actually result in cost savings to the states."

In announcing the hearing, Chairman Geoff Davis (R-KY) stated, "Ratification of the Hague Convention will mean that more children living in the United States will receive the financial support they deserve, even when one parent lives in another country. In addition, given the number of agencies involved in this issue, it is critical for technology to keep pace so families receive the support they need. This hearing will review several simple, no-cost ways of improving child support programs to achieve those goals, which I am hopeful Congress will pass in the near future."

In 2007, the United States was party to the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance. The Hague Convention aims to increase cooperation among nations for the international recovery of child support and other forms of family assistance. In order for the United States to fully ratify the Convention, Congress must approve and the President must sign implementing legislation that would amend Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and require States to update their child support laws by adopting amendments to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UISFA). This implementing legislation, which is designed to improve child support recovered in international cases, is expected to result in no additional State or Federal program costs.

About NCSEA:

National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) serves the child support community worldwide through professional development, communications, public awareness, and advocacy to enhance the financial, medical, and emotional support that parents provide for their children. NCSEA advocates on behalf of children by promoting sound public policy and allocation of resources to support implementation of those policies. For more information, visit www.ncsea.org