NCSEA
Shaping the Future of Child Support

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NCSEA Quarterly Update to the Hill

Welcome to our inaugural edition!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the National Child Support Enforcement Association's *NCSEA Quarterly Update to the Hill*. In our quarterly updates we will provide Congressional staff with the latest NCSEA efforts to advocate for proposed and active legislation and policy proposals affecting the child support program.

NCSEA Statements on COVID-19 Legislation

In April, the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) Board of Directors approved two resolutions to support families and child support agencies during the pandemic.

- The first resolution addresses many concerns impacting the child support program in light of the pandemic and the economic disruption affecting millions of families. The resolution calls for program flexibility and increased funding so that state child support programs can: continue serving families; expand employment programs to get non-custodial parents back to work post-COVID-19; and address important technology concerns to provide virtual and other services as demanded by COVID-19 restrictions.
- The NCSEA Board of Directors also approved a second resolution to exclude any future COVID-19-related relief payments from offset for past-due child support. The resolution recognized that offset payments will *not* go to families in most states if state-assigned arrears are owed and expressed concern that parents who owe past-due support must have enough employment

opportunities to be self-sufficient without a relief payment and encouraged Congress to address this critical issue.

- NCSEA has also joined the National Governors Association, the National Conference on State Legislatures, National Associations of Counties, American Public Human Services Association and many other groups in supporting a COVID-19 package containing urgently needed fiscal relief for state, tribal and local governments.

Other Non-COVID Child Support Bills

NCSEA has expressed support for four other bipartisan child support bills.

- NCSEA strongly supports the **Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act (S. 3154)** which would give tribal governments equal and direct access to the Federal Tax Refund Offset Program and other resources to locate parents while ensuring that all Internal Revenue Service confidentiality safeguards are met.
- The **Increasing Opportunity for Former Foster Youth Act (S. 3025)** contains three child support provisions which would help child support agencies identify individuals owing support and ease its collection.
- NCSEA supports the **Providing Adequate Resources to Enhance Needed Time with Sons and Daughters Act (PARENTS Act, H.R. 7725 and S. 3325)**. This legislation would allow states to use child support incentive funds to establish voluntary parenting time agreements without requesting a waiver from the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE).

Resolutions Recently Approved by the NCSEA Board

In August, the NCSEA Board of Directors approved the following five resolutions addressing key issues of concern to state child support programs.

- NCSEA called for a national review of child support and child welfare referral and coordination policies. The resolution points to the need for more consistent national policies and better guidance with respect to the interaction

between the child support and child welfare programs to ensure that family reunification is the paramount consideration. It calls for federal guidance on when a referral to pursue support against the removal parent is appropriate and calls for a federal-state workgroup to develop recommendations further policy guidance and research. This NCSEA Quick Fact guide provides information on how the child support and child welfare programs work together.

- NCSEA approved a resolution for improving access to employment services for parents owing support. The resolution urges Congress to strengthen the relationship between child support programs and Workforce Development boards and services, and to allow, at state option, 66 percent federal financial participation for employment services for parents owing support.
- NCSEA approved a resolution in support of new tools to improve child support collections. The resolution identifies improvements in federal law to expand and enhance existing enforcement tools, improve access to information, mandate new collection tools and improve interaction with the Internal Revenue Service.
- NCSEA called for the removal of the systems modernization disincentive from the cost-effectiveness performance measure. The resolution proposes a change in federal law to support state systems modernization efforts that are needed for the on-going effectiveness of the child support program.
- NCSEA called for setting and maintaining child support based on ability to pay. The resolution recommends federal guidance and additional data matching and collaborations to enhance state efforts to ensure child support orders are established and maintained at an appropriate amount.

Save the Date

The NCSEA Policy Forum, traditionally held in late January to mid-February in Washington, D.C., is NCSEA's annual conference dedicated to the policies and issues influencing the child support program at the national, state, and local levels. It provides a unique opportunity for IV-D Directors, researchers, policy experts and child support professionals to discuss and learn about the most recent developments and initiatives on the federal, state and local levels. Check the NCSEA website regularly for updates on the 2021 Policy Forum.