NCSEA
Shaping the Future of Child Support

October 21, 2020

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senator
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Child Support Works Act

Dear Senator Cotton:

I write on behalf of the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) to support your bill, the *Child Support Works Act*.

Child support agencies work with both parents so that their children receive reliable financial and emotional support. The program is one of the most effective and efficient federal, state, local and tribal programs supporting children, with one-in-five of them served by the program in 2018. Despite the program's overall success, child support programs continue to work to reach and obtain support from the noncustodial parents who are not contributing financially for their children. The *Child Support Works Act* would provide additional resources for agencies to initiate or enhance work and training programs for those individuals who are delinquent on their support obligations.

Given the numerous responsibilities of child support agencies, NCSEA strongly supports the measure's provision to provide, at state option, a 66 percent administrative match for mandatory work activity programs. The policy has been supported by both the Trump and Obama administrations. Recognizing that there are limited federal resources, the legislation caps the amount available for such programs at two percent of the state's reimbursable child support spending. NCSEA also supports using the allowable activities under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program as the framework to establish or enhance those efforts. Ultimately, these efforts would result in jobs for non-custodial parents who then will have income to support their children.

Thank you again for introducing the bill. NCSEA will work with you to advance the measure and make improvements, if necessary, as it moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie S. Ruskin
Executive Director

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