



April 29, 2022

The Honorable Lance Gooden
U.S. House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for a Task Force to Examine Bureau of Prison Management of Inmate Trust Fund Accounts

Dear Representative Gooden,

On behalf of the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA), I write to express the Association's support for your bill to establish a joint task force to develop a strategic plan to improve the Bureau of Prison's (BOP) management of criminal and civil debt collection processes in its Inmate Trust Fund Accounts and to improve coordination between relevant agencies.

State, Tribal and local child support agencies often have difficulty knowing whether a parent owing support is incarcerated and when the parent might be released, in addition to having no systematic way to know the balance of any inmate account belonging to the incarcerated parent. Given that BOP currently manages over \$100 million in inmate accounts not subject to any of the regulatory scrutiny a financial institution of that size would usually encounter, our agencies would support more transparency with regard to those accounts. We are concerned that some federal inmates may be avoiding paying child support given the lack of information available about their accounts.

Your bill is consistent with [NCSEA Board resolution](#) adopted February 11, 2021 supporting new tools to improve child support collections. Among other provisions, that resolution supports requiring the federal Bureau of Prisons to honor an income withholding order without the consent of the inmate. Your measure would mark a strong first step in analyzing the current status of BOP accounts and recommendations to reform the administration of Trust Fund Accounts. We also appreciate explicitly identifying NCSEA in the legislation as a key stakeholder to provide recommendations.





Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Should you have questions, please have your staff contact Tom Joseph, NCSEA's Legislative Representative at 202.449.0398 or tj@paragonlobbying.com or me at 703.506.2880 or annmarie.ruskin@ncsea.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ann Marie Ruskin', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ann Marie Ruskin
Executive Director

