[MS-0398.025.007.004]

CALIFORNIA FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

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March 23, 1990

Subcommittee on Human Resources
Committee on Ways and Means
U. S. House of Representatives

RE: Expected Effects of the Child Support Enforcement Amendments Contained in the Family Support Act of 1988

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am providing the enclosed written statement in the capacity of the President of the California Family Support Council, a professional, non-profit organization, made up of individuals at the state and local level whose job it is to prove parentage and enforce support.

The Child Support Amendments incorporated in Public Law 100-485, amending Title IV of the Social Security Act was to help families avoid long-term welfare dependence and to assure that the overall program would be more effective.

Some of the Child Support provisions will change the "mission" of this program dramatically (review and reduction of child support awards). Issues dealing with improved efficiency (prompt distribution-including $50.00 disregard amounts) will result in a much more costly program with little benefit to the fammilies.

It is sincerely hoped that your Committee and Congress will immediately consider our concerns and take the necessary and appropriate action(s) to obtain true welfare reform.

STEPHEN H. KENNEDY, President
California Family Support Council
(707) 4445-6243

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cc: Robert J. Leonard, Chief Counsel, Committee on Ways & Means

Richard Darman, Director, Office of Management & Budget

Joseph Humphreys, Senate Finance Committee

Linda McMahon, Director, Dept. of Social Services
State of California

Members of the Executive Council, California Family Support Council

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Summary of Comments and Recommendations:

Section 102. Disregard Applicable to Timely Child Support Payments (42 USC 602 & 657):

Revise the assignment of support rights to allow current support to be passed directly to the AFDC families. Will eliminate time delays; notification process under Section 104 and would lower IV-D processing costs.

Section 101 - Immediate Income Withholding

Need to find means of obtaining wages from the self-employed. Research money/project needs to be allocated.

Section 103. State Guidelines - Modification (Review & Reduction) Child Support Awards

Needs to be amended immediately-Section 466(a)(1)(A) through (C) of the Family Support Act of 1988.

Section 129. Collection and Reporting of Child Support Enforcement data will result in costly over-measurment of the program --unnecessary activity measurements.

Summary:

Removing the Child Support Enforcement Program out of the Department of Health and Human Services and into another Federal office may result in a better national program.