

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 026 - Folder 007

Family - Fathers

**GOVERNOR CARNAHAN'S REMARKS
PRESIDENT CLINTON'S WELFARE TO WORK
PRESS CONFERENCE
10:15 A.M. (EST)
ROOM 450
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
PRESIDENTIAL HALL
1/25/99**

Courtesies:

- President Bill Clinton;**
- Robert J. Higgins, President and CEO, Fleet Financial Group;**
- Eli Segal, CEO of Welfare-to-Work Partnership;**
- Carlos Rosas, father success story, St. Paul, Minnesota;**
- Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor;**
- Aida Alvarez, Administrator, Small Business Administration;**
- Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services;**
- Rodney Slater, Secretary of Transportation**

(Introduction by Robert Higgins)

Thank you, Mr. Higgins.

Having Mr. Higgins introduce me is certainly a reminder of how far we have come with the Welfare-to-Work Partnership in a year and a half.

In August of 1997, President Clinton and Eli Segal, founder of the Partnership, came to St. Louis to recruit businesses to become involved in the welfare-to-work effort.

At that time, we had 800 business partners.

As Mr. Higgins just told you, today we have 10,000 different business partners involved in helping welfare recipients become productive members of the American workforce.

Missouri is proud to be a national leader in moving people off welfare and into work.

In 1993, the President worked closely with our state on a federal waiver so Missouri could become of the first states in the nation to implement new approaches to breaking the cycle of welfare dependency for many of our citizens.

Then in 1994, we completely overhauled our state welfare system in Missouri—an action which positioned us well for the federal welfare act that followed.

Thanks to our welfare reform efforts, Missouri has forged strong community partnerships, linking welfare-to-work job training programs, state agencies, employers, and local not-for-profit agencies to prepare our citizens to get jobs and keep them.

Missouri is also placing a great deal of emphasis on assisting former welfare recipients with such critical problems as health care, child care, and transportation so our citizens will stay off welfare rolls.

Today, we are experiencing great results from those reforms.

In Missouri, we have moved over 121,000 Missourians off welfare, and our unemployment rate is the lowest in twenty years—3.3 percent.

One of the most exciting developments recently has been the focus that has been placed on ensuring that non-custodial parents—who are overwhelming fathers--meet their parental responsibilities.

Mr. President, you may remember that on your 1996 visit to the Full Employment Council in Kansas City, one of our welfare success stories, Birdella Smith, told you:

“We definitely need to deal with our men.

We need to get our men in these kinds of programs.”

Birdella would be pleased to know that we have heeded her advice.

As a result of our new ability to use federal Welfare-to-Work dollars to target fathers of welfare children and a reorganization of our staff at the state level, we have been able to concentrate resources on encouraging these fathers to establish positive relationships with their children and meet their financial obligations.

Last year, we saw dramatic evidence of our success.

Statewide, Missouri experienced a 400 percent increase in the number of fathers paying child support and participating in the lives of their children.

In April, my office in partnership with our Department of Social Services will be bringing representatives from the judiciary, legislature, state departments, non-profit organizations, women's groups, and the education, business, and faith communities together, so we can draw up new guidelines for a Responsible Fatherhood Initiative that will build on our current success.

As Birdella Smith told you in Kansas City that day, Mr. President:

“Welfare reform has changed our environment where we live.

Our children look up to us now and see something we can strive for.”

In Missouri, we will continue to strive for that environment.

Thank you!

Now I want to introduce you to a father that is helping to create that same environment in Minnesota.

Carlos Rosas (Row sus) is a 32-year old father from St. Paul who enrolled in a fathers’ program when he was not making enough money to keep up with his child support obligations for his son Ricardo.

Carlos had lost his job with a small maintenance company and was not earning enough at his part-time job to pay a child support payment that was originally based on twice the amount he was making.

He joined the fathers' program at the Ramsey County Child Support office and has now earned his GED, upgraded his skills, and is again making regular child support payments.

He is now working full-time and about to finish a high-tech learning program that will help him further increase his earning power.

It is my privilege to present to you one of America's true success stories, a father who is doing the right thing and making us all proud—Carlos Rosas.

Family - fathers

Andrea Kane

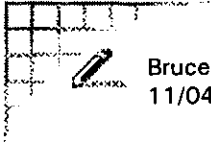
Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Another option on fathers

On the way back we had an idea that we'd be curious to get your reaction to. We could create a new authority for states to transfer some portion of their TANF block grant to a new fathers block grant. This grant could still require that fathers play by the rules in terms of work and supporting their children. The transfer could either be within or in addition to the 30% they can now transfer to SSBG and child care. Since CBO would probably score this as additional spending above what states would otherwise draw down in 2000 it wouldn't be totally free. But, it could help signal that states can and should use some the TANF funds for the broader family formation/values purposes of PRWORA (while states can theoretically define fathers as part of an eligible family under TANF and provide services to them this way, this is easier said than done and all the TANF rules still apply). It would also give states a way to spend more of their TANF funds, thereby making them less vulnerable to being cut for other purposes.



Bruce N. Reed
11/04/98 12:33:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Subject: Re: Another option on fathers

That's an interesting idea. Let's think some more about it. I'm a little worried about opening up the TANF block grant for any purpose, and it would be odd to be seeking more money in the WTW program for the hardest to serve welfare recipients at the same time we were giving states another excuse not to spend TANF money on the hardest to serve. On the other hand, if we want to enact a father's block grant, your idea is a sure-fire way to get it passed, and it might help ward off TANF cuts. (I do not think the next Congress will rush headlong into TANF cuts, however. The governors will have increasing clout in the Republican party, and the right wing won't be able to pass anything nutty.)

Cons. Protection

Family - fathers

Laura - We don't
need to send this
down.

**Question and Answer on Fathers Count Act
June 12, 1998**

Question: Does the Administration support HR 3314, the Fathers Count Act of 1998?

Answer: We certainly support the general goal of encouraging states and communities to help fathers become more involved in their children's lives. The Administration has always placed a high priority on supporting strong and healthy working families and on strengthening the role of fathers. This track record includes: family friendly policies such as the Family and Medical Leave Act, expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the new Child Tax Credit; initiatives to promote father involvement in child health immunization and early education; demonstration projects to promote responsible fatherhood; and employment programs for non-custodial parents of children on welfare so they can help support their children. We remain ready to work with Congress on initiatives that will help hard pressed families meet their needs, including child care.

We would be glad to work with Congress on the specific provisions of the Fathers Count Act at an appropriate time. Funding for the initiative would need to be considered within the context of other priorities and within the context of the balanced budget.

Background

The bill was introduced by Clay Shaw on March 3 and now has 7 Republican co-sponsors. It would authorize \$2 billion over five years for block grants to states for projects to encourage fathers to become better parents. Funding levels grow from \$200 M in 2000 to \$500 M in 2004. The funds would be distributed by HHS to states based on their share of total population, and would be targeted to private organizations (75 percent) and to fathers below the state or local average income of male earners (80 percent). The bill specifically declares religious organizations eligible to receive funds under the act.

Funds could be used to: 1) encourage unmarried or prospective fathers to get married, and encourage better parenting both by fathers who are living with their children and those who are not and 2) help fathers obtain gainful employment or increase their skills in order to qualify for higher paying jobs. The bill also specifies that a state who receives a Fathers grant may use Welfare-to-Work and Title XX (Social Services Block Grant) funds for the same purpose. Up to \$10 million annually is earmarked for research and evaluation, with another \$10 million annually earmarked for technical assistance.

While the bill has not moved to date, it is possible that the National Fatherhood summit on June 15th may generate new momentum.

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP

Subject: Update on Fatherhood Issues

I've been working with a small group from NPR, OVP, and HHS to figure out where we are on these issues (all women I would point out) and wanted to give you a quick update to see if you think we're on the right track. Kevin Thurm is now very involved and will be spearheading HHS' fatherhood activities. Lisa Gilmore is his special assistant working on the issue. HHS has actually been pretty dedicated to this--they've done more in response to the 1995 Exec Memorandum than other agencies. DOL has recently gotten very interested--Herman was inspired after visiting the Parents Fair Share demo in Los Angeles as part of her WtW tour. Just to remind you, the 6/95 Exec Memo asked agencies to review and modify programs, policies and initiatives to promote father involvement--in terms of programs, personnel practices, and research. It charged NPR and DPC to recommend further action based on review of what agencies had done. I believe NPR held two follow up meetings, but there's been lots of staff turnover since then and momentum has fizzled in most cases.

To raise the visibility and momentum on the issue, Kevin has gotten 15 minutes at the June 3rd Presidential Mgmt Council meeting. The VP is sending out a letter to each PMC member asking them to submit to NPR a 1-2 summary of what they've been doing in response to the Exec Memorandum, 3 specific steps they plan to continue working on, and a high level contact on the issue. The plan is for NPR/HHS to compile and send back out so Dep Secs have it in hand on 6/3. At this point, the focus is on what's happening w/in each agency, and the importance of interagency discussions since many fatherhood issues are cross-cutting. It's not clear yet whether any of this merits POTUS or VP involvement.

This renewed look at fatherhood issues is partly inspired by several external events:

1. VP has confirmed he will participate in the 6/15 National Fatherhood Institute summit, which will include bipartisan involvement of Governors, Hill, community based groups, media etc. We thought it would be good to know what the Administration/agencies have accomplished on fatherhood before the event.
2. Shaw's fatherhood bill--while this is going nowhere for the moment, we thought it would be helpful to at least prepare talking points on the Administration's possible position on the bill--this may get raised at the 6/15 event. HHS has drafted some pretty generic points which need to be run through more review. I will forward next version to you.

Family
~~...~~ - fathers

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
cc: Lisa M. Mallory/OVP @ OVP
Subject: Republican's Fatherhood Bill

Despite the announcement last week, the Fatherhood Counts block grant bill didn't actually get introduced until today so we'll finally be able to take a look at the actual language. At HHS, Linda Mellgren at ASPE will be taking the lead in convening some meetings to discuss the proposal. Bruce, I haven't forgotten your question/comment about effectiveness of training and marriage incentives compared to workfare for those who owe child support.. I'm trying to find out what evidence exists (there's not much rigorous evaluation on these programs).

Update on Fatherhood Initiatives by Governors and Congress

NGA Winter Meeting

On Sunday afternoon, the NGA Human Resources Committee will discuss Strategies for Encouraging and Promoting Positive Involvement by Fathers in the Lives of Their Children. Governor Ridge, Committee Chair, will moderate the discussion and show a video highlighting initiatives in Pennsylvania. Governors Carper, Beasley and Romer will talk about initiatives in their states, followed by an open discussion among all Governors. Wade Horn of the National Fatherhood Initiative will wrap up the discussion. In preparation for the meeting, Governors Ridge and Locke (Committee Vice-Chair) asked Governors to submit examples of activities in their states to promote positive father involvement. NGA will release a document at the meeting summarizing these initiatives. Governors were specifically asked not to focus primarily on child support enforcement or fathers' custody rights--they are trying to keep a focus on more positive types of involvement.]

Governor Ridge is expected to continue the focus on fathers at the Annual Meeting in July, following up on the June summit (see below).

NGA has a policy on Paternal Involvement in Child Rearing first adopted in 1995 and revised in 1997. This is not up for discussion at the 1998 Winter Meeting.

Governors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion and National Summit in June

On February 12th, Governors Ridge and Carper launched a bipartisan national effort to promote responsible fatherhood (this is not an NGA initiative). They met together with teen fathers at a Philadelphia high school and sent a letter to all other Governors encouraging them to join this effort. The objectives of the new Task Force are: 1) find new ways that state governments can dramatically decrease the incidence of father absence, 2) encourage replication of policies and initiatives that have proven effective in inspiring men to be committed, responsible and involved fathers, and 3) fuel public and political commitment to bringing fathers back to their children.

The Task Force will co-host a national summit on fatherhood June 16th to bring together elected officials from all levels of government, and leaders from the civic, philanthropic, education and entertainment communities. One of the goals for the summit is to ask ten teams representing ten sectors of society (public policy, entertainment, mass media, faith based, military, etc) to each come up with one goal in a ten point plan for which they will be accountable. There is already a bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion, and a Mayor's Task Force is expected next. The National Fatherhood Initiative will support these Task Forces and the summit. NFI states that the Congressional and Governors' Task Forces will be exploring ways that the federal and state government can help to promote responsible and involved fathering.

Other NFI activities: NFI has worked with the Ad Council to develop a national PSA campaign on fathers, getting more than \$100 million in donated broadcast time. In partnership with Radio America, NFI has developed a series of radio PSAs featuring a mix of celebrities and experts, including the Vice President. NFI is organizing a coalition of nation and local community leaders, including groups such as the United Way of America, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of

America. They are also working directly with individual fathers.

Congressional Action

On January 20th, Congressman Archer announced a billion dollar "Fatherhood Counts" initiative to create block grants to Governors for programs that promote marriage, work, payment of child support, and better parenting in order to get fathers more involved with their children. He proposed paying for the initiative by capping attorney fees in the tobacco settlement.

The Republican Floor Schedule currently shows a Fatherhood Block Grant Initiative by Congressman Shaw in late April. Shaw's staff indicate they may introduce a bill in the next few weeks, but have been quite vague.

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
cc: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Subject: Fatherhood Counts Block Grants

Here's a summary of what Shaw announced today FYI and as possible weekly item. Without looking at the bill language itself, the concept looks fairly decent. The financing is obviously a problem, though they now say offsetting funding cuts OR cap on tobacco attorney fees (Archer press release in late January only referenced fee cap).

Republicans Introduce "Fatherhood Counts" Block Grants: On February 26th, Congressman Shaw announced block grant legislation to enhance fatherhood and parental responsibility. The bill is co-sponsored by Congressman Archer and other Republican Ways and Means members. Shaw characterized this initiative as the next step in welfare reform, as a way "to help children by providing them with more than a working mother and sporadic child support." The initiative creates a \$2 billion block grant over five years, with funding allocated to states based on population. The block grants would be paid for either by reducing other spending or capping tobacco attorney fees. States would award funds to community-based projects that encourage marriage and better parenting by fathers--even if they are not living with their children-- and help fathers obtain employment or get better jobs. At least 75% of the funds would be directed to non-governmental organizations and at least 80% would be spent on low-income fathers. The legislation sets aside \$100 million for research, evaluation, and technical assistance. Shaw was joined at the announcement by Charles Ballard and Wade Horn, who is also working closely with a bipartisan Governor's Task Force on Fathers.

family - fathers

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
cc: Jessica L. Gibson/WHO/EOP, Lisa M. Mallory/OVP @ OVP
Subject: More on Fatherhood Block Grants

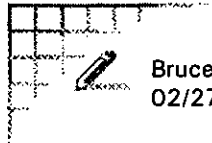
Apparently Ron Haskins is keeping this very close. He only mentioned it to Deborah Coulton at 4 p.m, who in turn mentioned it to HHS congressional office. Ron has promised to share a 2 pager with Deborah late tonight or first thing tomorrow a.m. She'll pass along to HHS who will share with us. The only new information is that the press conference will take place at a community center here in D.C. (possibly one of Charles Ballard's programs??).

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
cc: Lisa M. Mallory/OVP @ OVP
Subject: Republicans to Announce Fatherhood Block Grants TOMORROW

I just heard that these will be unveiled at a press conference at 10 a.m. tomorrow ! Sounds like Shaw will introduce a bill, with strong encouragement from Archer. This comes as quite a surprise given that no one seems to have had any specifics as of a week ago. HHS Congressional folks are trying to track down more information.



Bruce N. Reed
02/27/98 09:47:10 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP

cc: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

Subject: Re: Fatherhood Counts Block Grants

Thanks for the scoop. The bill sounds well-intentioned, and is no doubt good politics, but what they'd spend the money on is awfully fuzzy. Training and marriage incentives don't work with this population, do they? I'd rather spend the \$ to give unemployed delinquent dads workfare slots and insist that they work off their child support.

Possible Non-Budgetary Policies re: Fathers

In the context of the race initiative, policies to promote the role of fathers in the lives of their children could be proposed either 1) as an appeal to the values of family that is shared across racial and ethnic lines in our nation; or 2) as a recognition that African American and Hispanic children are more likely to live without their fathers.

- 1) “Appeal to Parenting” Public Service Campaign: President and/or First Lady could appear in a public service campaign urging parents to be emotionally and financially responsible for their children. The Families, inc. film and television production company in New York has written to the First Lady to ask for her and the President’s participation. The producers are reaching out to as many high profile parents, including: The President and the First Lady; The Vice President and Mrs. Gore; Mayor Guiliani and his wife; Michael Jordan and his wife; Patrick Ewing and his wife; Sylvester Stallone and his wife; Denzel Washington and his wife. (The proposal has not yet been vetted.)
- 2) “Don’t Drop the Ball” Public Service Campaign: Work with the National Football League to expand nation-wide a public service announcement campaign conducted in Florida featuring pro-football players with their children with the slogan “Don’t Drop the Ball: Support Your Children.” (The Florida campaign was organized by the child support enforcement unit of the Florida State Department of Revenue. There have not yet been any discussions with the National Football League.)
- 3) Involve Fathers in Children’s Education: Call upon schools to send report cards to noncustodial as well as custodial parents, to follow upon the report recently released by the Vice President and Secretary Riley that shows that children whose fathers are involved in their education do better in school. (This was one of the recommendations of the May 1996 conference on fathers chaired by the Vice President. We need to check to ensure that we have not already recommended this.)
- 4) Congressional Task Force for the Promotion of Fatherhood: The President could do a roundtable or other event with the bipartisan Congressional Task Force for the Promotion of Fatherhood, formed this June and chaired by Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC) and Rep. Joseph Pitts (R-PA). Both Speaker Gingrich and Minority Leader Gephardt are members. The mission of the task force is “to confront the growing problem of father absence, and ...seek to increase the number of children growing up with committed fathers.” The task force will promote fatherhood by arranging public awareness campaigns, educating Members about the problems of fatherless homes in America, organizing conferences and forums, and by encouraging television stations, local leaders, and community groups to promote fatherhood.

Family - fathers

12/2/97

NOTE TO ELENA KAGAN ---

As we discussed, we have two pieces of news that might make a good holiday season radio address about the importance of fathers. The first is the announcement of a record \$1.1 billion in child support collections through the tax refund garnishment system - see attached draft press release for more. The second is the announcement of a federal waiver to an enterprise community in Tacoma Washington to enable them to identify absent fathers and offer them help with life skills, job training and employment. Called "Devoted Dads," the program will let Tacoma use money ordinarily earmarked for child support collection to increase fathers' responsibility and connection to their children before they become delinquent on their child support.

If this has any interest for you, please let me know and we'll put together some additional information on our other father hood and child support initiatives. If not, we'll probably announce it with a press release next week.

Thanks --

Melissa Skolfield

PS: In fact, Bruce or Cynthia might have some talking points we did on a similar topic right before the "Promise Keepers" rally - I'll try to find my set too.

HHS NEWS

DRAFT #248

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Kharfen
(202) 401-9215

NEW RECORD \$1.1 BILLION COLLECTED BY IRS IN DELINQUENT CHILD SUPPORT

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala announced today that a new record amount of \$1.1 billion in delinquent child support was collected by the federal government from federal income tax refunds for tax year 1996. This amount was 10 percent higher than the previous year and a 66 percent increase since 1992. Nearly 1.3 million families benefited from these collections.

"With the toughest child support enforcement measures ever enacted, the Clinton administration is sending a strong message to deadbeat parents that you will not escape supporting your children," said Secretary Shalala. "Each year, working together with the states, we are seizing more tax refunds to insure children have the food and clothing they need."

"Child support can make the difference for kids to rely on their parents' support instead of taxpayer supported welfare," Shalala added.

Under the federal tax offset program, state child support agencies report names of parents who owe child support payments and the overdue amount to the HHS Administration for Children and Families. These individuals are then notified in writing of the amount which will be withheld to cover their child support debt.

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That amount is then deducted from their income tax refund. The delinquency ~~may~~^g also be reported to credit reporting agencies.

"The well-being of children is enhanced when they receive emotional and financial support from both of their parents," said David Gray Ross, deputy director, HHS office of child support enforcement. "As each of our new child support enforcement provisions go into effect, like this month's New Hire Directory, delinquent parents will find it more difficult than ever to dodge their financial obligations to their children."

Parents whose children receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and whose unpaid child support totals \$150 or more may have their federal income tax refunds withheld. For tax year 1996, refunds were withheld on behalf of over 875,000 families with children receiving TANF. Parents of children who do not receive TANF must owe at least \$500 to have their refunds withheld. Over 385,000 non-TANF families benefited~~ed~~ from the program this year.

For tax year 1996, the total amount collected was \$1.1 billion, up from \$661,771,371 in tax year 1992. For tax year 1996, the average collection was \$856.84. The average collection was \$862.71 for non-TANF families and \$854.26 for TANF families. Collections for tax year 1996 were made after tax returns for that year were filed in 1997 and refunds requested.

Since taking office, the Clinton ~~Administration~~ made child support enforcement a high priority, resulting in unprecedented financial support for children. In 1996, the federal/state child

- More -

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support enforcement system collected approximately \$12 billion, up from \$8 billion in 1992, an increase of 50 percent. Paternity establishment rose to nearly 1 million in 1996, almost doubling, from 516,000 in 1992. The new child support enforcement measures included in the new welfare reform law are projected to increase collections by billions over the next 10 years.

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Note: HHS press releases are available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.dhhs.gov>.