

It's time for Congress to change this system and encourage States to distribute more child support to families. My home State of Wisconsin has already been doing this for several years and is seeing great results. In 1997, I worked with my State to institute an innovative program of passing through child support payments directly to families. Preliminary results show that when child support payments are delivered to families, non-custodial parents are more apt to pay, and to pay more. In addition, Wisconsin has found that, overall, this policy does not increase government costs. That makes sense because "passing through" support payments to families means they have more of their own resources, and are less apt to depend on public help to meet other needs such as food, transportation or child care.

We now have a key opportunity to encourage all States to follow Wisconsin's example. Title II of the Strengthening Working Families bill gives States options and strong incentives to send more child support directly to families who are working their way off, or are already off, public assistance. Not only will this create the right incentives for non-custodial parents to pay, but it will also simplify the job for States, who currently face an administrative nightmare in following the complicated rules of the current system.

We know that creating the right incentives for non-custodial parents to pay support and increasing collections has long-term benefits. People who can count on child support are more likely to stay in jobs and stay off public assistance.

This legislation finally brings the Child Support Enforcement program into the post-welfare reform era, shifting its focus from recovering welfare costs to increasing child support to families so they can sustain work and maintain self-sufficiency. After all, it's only fair that if we are asking parents to move off welfare and take financial responsibility for their families, then we in Congress must make sure that child support payments actually go to the families to whom they are owed and who are working so hard to succeed.

Last year, a House version of this bill passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote for 405 to 18. We must keep the momentum going in this Congress, and finally make child support meaningful for families. Again, I want to thank Senators SNOWE and BAYH for working with me on this issue and for including it in this package.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting the Working Families package to invest in a series of bipartisan initiatives to support and encourage families that are "playing by the rules," but struggling to make ends meet as they raise their children.

This legislation combines key legislative proposals to help working fami-

lies, including a targeted expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, EITC, for families with three or more children. It is simple common sense that parents with more children need more help in making ends meet. This bill would give the most needy families up to \$496 more in the EITC to help working families live with dignity. Our legislation also includes key provisions to streamline and improve the EITC, which is one of our most effective programs to combat child poverty.

Another key component of this package would reauthorize and expand the Safe and Stable Families Act with an additional \$200 million a year, as proposed by President Bush. I helped to create this program in 1993 with Senator BOND, and it was expanded and improved in 1997 as part of the Adoption and Safe Families Act. Since this act became law, we have dramatically increased the number of adoptions from foster care. Therefore, we need to increase funding for adoption services and to help the children and their new families overcome the years of abuse and neglect. Further, the bill would improve the Chafee Independent Living program by offering a \$5000 scholarship to teens from foster care to encourage them to attend college or pursue vocational training. Abused and neglected children are among the most vulnerable in our society and they deserve our support and care.

For many years, I have worked closely with Senator GRAHAM and a bipartisan coalition to restore funding to the Social Service Block Grant, a flexible program to enable states to provide support for needy children, families, seniors and the disabled. During the welfare reform debates, we promised flexibility to the states and full funding of the Social Services Block Grant at \$2.38 billion, and we should keep that promise and restore funding.

Providing provisions to improve our child support system to get payments to the families first has been a long-standing priority for me. Fatherhood is a major issue for our families, and from my work on the National Commission on Children over a decade ago, I know that children do best in families with committed, caring parents. Investing in quality child care is an obvious concern as we continue our efforts on welfare reform and face the challenges of our new economy in which most mothers work.

We should be working together to help our children and our families, so I hope that we will be able to promote this package of bipartisan initiatives that are targeted to some of our most vulnerable families, who are working hard but need help to raise their children with dignity.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 172. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr.

DAYTON, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. REED, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. LEVIN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011.

SA 173. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DOMENICI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. SMITH, of Oregon, and Mr. GRAMM) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) supra.

SA 174. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. MILLER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. HAGEL) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) supra.

SA 175. Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOPE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. KYL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 83, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 176. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, and Mrs. LINCOLN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) supra.

SA 177. Mr. DOMENICI (for Mr. WELLSTONE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. Res. 55, designating the third week of April as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week" for the year 2001 and all future years.

SA 178. Mr. DOMENICI (for Mr. WELLSTONE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. Res. 55, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 172. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. REED, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. LEVIN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 170 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011; as follows:

On page 2, line 16, decrease the amount by \$2,500,000,000.

On page 2, line 17, decrease the amount by \$11,073,000,000.

On page 2, line 18, decrease the amount by \$7,900,000,000.

On page 3, line 1, increase the amount by \$2,418,000,000.

On page 3, line 2, increase the amount by \$13,339,000,000.

On page 3, line 3, increase the amount by \$18,863,000,000.

On page 3, line 4, increase the amount by \$22,694,000,000.

On page 3, line 5, increase the amount by \$24,898,000,000.

On page 3, line 6, increase the amount by \$29,509,000,000.