

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.

And since 1997, I have worked to promote expansion of this policy to the other states. I contributed to the Administration's child support financing reform consultation process and urged the President to make pass-through expansion part of his budget for fiscal year 2001, which he agreed to do. I also worked to reach consensus on pass-through expansion with the states, children's advocates and fatherhood groups. These efforts led to my introducing bipartisan legislation last year on child support financing reform, S. 1036, that advanced many of the policies and principles incorporated into this legislation. I also testified on child support pass-through policy at a hearing before the Senate Finance Committee on July 25, 2000.

Though we've come a long way since the 1997 beginning of an expanded pass-through program in Wisconsin, we now have a key opportunity to encourage other states to follow Wisconsin's example. A House version of this child support/fatherhood legislation passed the House on September 7th by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 405 to 18. On September 25th, I sent a letter to the Senate leadership, a letter co-signed by 21 of my Senate colleagues, urging the leadership to take action on child support and fatherhood policy reforms before the end of this legislative session. And it is our goal and my sincere hope that this bipartisan "Child Support Distribution Act," which so closely resembles the House bill, will be approved by the Senate unanimously. This legislation will deliver over \$6 billion in increased child support payments to families over the next ten years. And as my 21 Senate colleagues and I emphasized in our letter, we can and should move this legislation this year because our nation's children need and deserve nothing less.

While we all agree that the level of over-due child support is unacceptable, we also know that poor collection rates don't tell a simple story. There are many reasons why non-custodial parents may not be paying support for their children. Some are not able to pay because they don't have jobs or have fallen on hard times. Others may not pay because they are unfairly prevented from spending time with their children.

But other fathers don't pay because the public system actually discourages them from paying. As my colleagues may know, under the current system, nearly \$2 billion in child support is retained every year as repayment for public assistance, rather than delivered

to the children to whom it is owed. This policy has existed since 1975 when we designed the public child support system to recover the costs of welfare assistance. Once collected, those support dollars are split between the state and federal governments as reimbursement for welfare costs.

Since the money doesn't benefit their kids, fathers are either discouraged from paying support altogether or at least discouraged from paying through the formal system. And on the other side of the equation, mothers have no incentive to push for payment since the support doesn't go to them.

Our "Child Support Distribution Act," just like my "Children First Child Support Reform Act," attempts to address this problem. The legislation reforms child support policy so that families working their way off—or just off—public assistance, keep more of their own child support payments. With this bill, the federal-state child support partnership will embark upon a new policy era with a mission focused both on promoting self-sufficiency, rather than cost recovery, and on making child support payments truly meaningful for families.

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.

Delivering or passing through child support directly to families would simplify the job for states as well. The states currently devote six to eight percent of what they spend to run the entire child support program—\$250 million per year—on distributing collections. This has created an administrative nightmare. Right now, the states divvy up child support dollars into as many as nine pots. Under my proposal, states would have greater freedom to adopt a straightforward policy of collecting child support and delivering it to families, without costly and burdensome regulations.

Moving towards a simpler child support system that puts greater emphasis on getting funds to families is the right and most fair approach—for fathers, mothers, and children, and for all of us interested in making the child support program work. I urge my Senate colleagues to support this legislation this year, and I look forward to our working to deliver more child support resources to the children to whom they are owed so that all our communities benefit from healthier, happier children and stronger, more stable families.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I would like to express my strong support for the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000 introduced today in the Senate. I would also like to commend my colleagues on their efforts to reconcile the

House-passed Child Support Distribution Act, H.R. 4678, with similar bills introduced in the Senate. I agree that it is imperative for the Senate to join the House in passing strong bipartisan legislation to strengthen the child support system and assist low income families by allowing them to retain child support payments. I also believe that it is important to encourage noncustodial fathers to take responsibility for their children's well-being and I am pleased that this legislation includes funding to states to develop programs promoting responsible parenthood.

I feel so strongly about this legislation because of the significance of child poverty in the United States, and particularly in my own State of Louisiana. According to the Children's Defense Fund, there are almost 366,000 children living in poverty in the State of Louisiana, almost 30 percent of the state's children. Over 33 percent of families in Louisiana have no father in the home and 40 percent of babies are born out-of-wedlock. Studies show that children who are raised with no father are five times more likely to live in poverty and twice as likely to commit a crime or commit suicide, as well as more likely to use drugs and alcohol or to become pregnant. It is time to break this cycle of child poverty. Strengthening the child support system, ensuring that money gets into the hands of the families that need it, and supporting programs that encourage responsible parenthood are important steps in addressing child poverty. I am pleased to cosponsor the Child Support Distribution Act and encourage the Senate to act on it this Congress. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support for this important legislation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 206

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for improved data collection and evaluations of State Children's Health Insurance Programs, and for other purposes.

S. 768

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 768, a bill to establish court-martial jurisdiction over civilians serving with the Armed Forces during contingency operations, and to establish Federal jurisdiction over crimes committed outside the United States by former members of the Armed Forces and civilians accompanying the Armed Forces outside the United States.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 1159, a bill to provide grants and contracts to local educational agencies to initiate, expand, and improve physical education programs for all kindergarten through 12th grade students.

S. 1536

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1536, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to extend authorizations of appropriations for programs under the Act, to modernize programs and services for older individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1969

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1969, a bill to provide for improved management of, and increases accountability for, outfitted activities by which the public gains access to and occupancy and use of Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 2773

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2773, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to enhance dairy markets through dairy product mandatory reporting, and for other purposes.

S. 3009

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3009, a bill to provide funds to the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement.

S. 3050

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3050, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the prospective payment system for skilled nursing facility services.

S. 3101

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3101, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow as a deduction in determining adjusted gross income the deduction for expenses in connection with services as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 3119

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3119, a bill to amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of Fort Clatsop National Memorial in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes."

S. 3131

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3131, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure that the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides appropriate guidance to physicians and other health care providers that are attempting to properly submit claims under the medicare program and to ensure that the Secretary targets truly fraudulent activity for enforcement of medicare billing regulations, rather than inadvertent billing errors.

S. 3147

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3147, a bill to authorize the establishment, on land of the Department of the Interior in the District of Columbia or its environs, of a memorial and gardens in honor and commemoration of Frederick Douglass.

S. 3152

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 3152, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for distressed areas, and for other purposes.

S. 3178

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3178, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that the mandatory separation age for Federal firefighters be made the same age that applies with respect to Federal law enforcement officers.

S.J. RES. 30

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 30, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for women and men.

AMENDMENT NO. 4303

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of Amendment No. 4303 intended to be proposed to S. 2508, a bill to amend the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988 to provide for a final settlement of the claims of the Colorado Ute Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 147—TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL H.R. 4868

Mr. ROTH submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. CON. RES. 147

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 4868) to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction:

On page 160, line 8, strike "and" and all that follows through line 10, and insert a period.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 148—TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPOSITION AND ARCHIVING OF THE RECORDS, FILES, DOCUMENTS, AND OTHER MATERIALS OF JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself Mr. DODD, and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 148

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. RECORDS OF EACH JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the conclusion of the business of a joint congressional committee on Presidential inaugural ceremonies and the closing out of its affairs, all records, files, documents, and other materials in the possession, custody, or control of the joint committee shall be transferred subject to—

(1) such terms and conditions relating to access and use of such materials as the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall prescribe; and

(2) the provisions of Senate Resolution 474 (96th Congress, 2d Session).

(b) PRIOR RECORDS.—The records, files, documents, and other materials of any joint congressional committee on Presidential inaugural ceremonies in the custody of the Senate on the date of adoption of this resolution shall be transferred subject to—

(1) such terms and conditions relating to access and use of such materials as the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall prescribe; and

(2) the provisions of Senate Resolution 474 (96th Congress, 2d Session).

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 149—TO CORRECT THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3244

Mr. MACK submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 149

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Clerk of the House of Representatives, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 3244) to combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions, in the United States and countries around the world through prevention, through prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, shall make the following correction:

(1) In section 2002(a)(2)(A)(ii), strike "June 7, 1999," and insert "December 13, 1999,".