

May 13, 2015

Idaho State Legislature
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83702

RE: Idaho's Child Support Enforcement Program

Dear Idaho Legislators:

Across Idaho, thousands of hard working parents and grandparents are dependent upon our state's child enforcement program to keep their families strong and financially stable. Maintaining an effective child support enforcement program aligns with Idaho's shared values of resiliency and personal responsibility; it encourages parents to be accountable by fulfilling their child support obligations. For almost two decades, Idaho has successfully participated in an interstate effort to unify child support collections and increase personal responsibility.

Unfortunately, the program that enforces child support collection is in danger of being dismantled. Without legislative approval to preserve the system's funding and maintain access to national tools, Idaho's child support enforcement program will be unable to collect and process payments. At risk is the collection of \$200 million in support payments paid directly to Idaho families from individual parents. Over 400,000 Idaho children, parents, and grandparents will be in danger of becoming financially unstable. In addition, delaying approval will result in an additional \$30 million cut to programs critical to family self-sufficiency, including childcare assistance to working parents, children's mental health services, and early learning opportunities.

Inaction on this issue will have far-reaching and unintended consequences that will detrimentally impact thousands of families and disrupt communities statewide. However, your leadership will provide Idaho the opportunity to preserve our effective and well-run child support enforcement program, as well as uphold the integrity of Idaho families and communities.

Please pass legislation during the Special Session to preserve Idaho's child support enforcement system before time runs out. As elected officials, community leaders, and service providers, we must work together to promote public policy solutions that invest in Idaho families for generations to come.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Respectfully,

[Please refer to attached signature pages.]

AARP Idaho

Mark Estess, State Director
Meridian, ID

Disability Action Center - NW, Inc.

Mark Leeper
Moscow, ID

Ada County Prosecutor's Office

Jan Bennetts, Ada County Prosecutor
Boise, ID

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership

Jay Doman, Executive Director
Idaho Falls, ID

Advocates Against Family Violence, Inc.

Kimberly Deugan, Executive Director
Caldwell, ID

Elmore County Domestic Violence Council

Karby Figueredo, Board Vice-President
Mountain Home, ID

Advocates for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Tricia Swartling, MPH, Executive Director
Hailey, ID

Family Crisis Center

Margie Harris, Executive Director
Rexburg, ID

Alternatives to Violence

Christine Wall, Executive Director
Moscow, ID

Family Services Alliance of SE Idaho

Sarah O'Banion, Executive Director
Pocatello, ID

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Idaho

Jason Sears, CEO
Boise, ID

Idaho AFL-CIO

Aaron White, President
Boise, ID

Boundary County Victim Services

Becky James, Executive Director
Bonners Ferry, ID

Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children

Beth Oppenheimer, Executive Director
Boise, ID

Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County

Colleen Braga, Executive Director
Garden City, ID

Idaho Building Trades Councils

Marty Durand, LLP
Boise, ID

Catholic Charities of Idaho

Douglas Alles, Executive Director
Boise, ID

Idaho Children's Trust Fund/Prevent Child Abuse Idaho

Roger Sherman, Executive Director
Boise, ID

Coeur d'Alene Education Association

Penni L. Cyr, President
Coeur d' Alene, ID

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Kelly Miller, Executive Director
Boise, ID

Idaho Community Action Network
Krista A. Bustamante, Community Organizer
Boise, ID

Latah County Human Rights Task Force
Joann Muneta, Chair
Moscow, ID

Idaho Education Association
Robin Nettinga, Executive Director
Boise, ID

League of Women Voters of Idaho
Judy Edwards, President
Coeur d' Alene, ID

Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
Stephen Graci, Executive Director
Boise, ID

Lemhi County Crisis Center
Rebeca Ervin, Executive Director
Salmon, ID

Idaho Head Start Association
Bill Foxcroft, Executive Director
Boise, ID

Meridian Education Association
Kendra Wisenbaker
Meridian, ID

Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force
Kathy D. Gardner, Director
Boise, ID

Mini-Cassia Shelter for Women and Children
Audrey Neiwerth, President, Board of Directors
Rupert, ID

Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger
Katy Kujawski, Chair
Boise, ID

Moscow League of Women Voters
Karen Lewis & Sue Ripley, Co-Presidents
Moscow, ID

Idaho Public Employees Association
Donna Yule, Executive Director
Boise, ID

Mountain Home Education Association
Denise Weis
Mountain Home, ID

Idaho Voices for Children
Lauren Necochea, MPA, Director
Boise, ID

Nezperce Education Association
Rhonda Seitz
Nezperce, ID

Idaho Youth Ranch
Steve Woodworth, President & CEO
Boise, ID

Oneida Crisis Center, Inc.
Carol Caulford, Executive Director
Malad, ID

Jannus, Inc.
Karen E. Tucker, Executive Director
Boise, ID

Partners for Prosperity
Jessica Sotelo, Executive Director
Blackfoot, ID

Pocatello Branch NAACP
Dr. Bobbie Branch, President
Pocatello, ID

The Family Safety Network
Jennifer Smith, Executive Director
Driggs, ID

Priest River Ministries
Rhonda Encinas
Priest River, ID

The Idaho Foodbank
Karen L. Vauk, President & CEO
Boise, ID

Saint Alphonsus Health System
Pamela Thomas, VP, Mission Integration
Boise, ID

The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho
Judy Cross, President, Board of Directors
Boise, ID

Snake River Education Association
Laurie Grayson
Blackfoot, ID

The North Idaho Violence Prevention Center
Katie Coker, Executive Director
Coeur d' Alene, ID

**South Central Community Action
Partnership**
Ken J. Robinette, Executive Director
Twin Falls, ID

United Way of Treasure Valley
Nora Carpenter, President and CEO
Boise, ID

**SouthEastern Idaho Community Action
Agency**
Deb Hemmert, Executive Director
Blackfoot, ID

Women of Color Alliance
Sonya Rosario
Idaho

St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho
Janet Brock, Executive Assistant
Coeur d' Alene, ID

YWCA of Lewiston – Clarkston
Sylvia Evers, Executive Director
Lewiston, ID

The Bingham Crisis Center
Dixie Chapman, Executive Director
Blackfoot, ID