



## **EASTERN REGIONAL INTERSTATE CHILD SUPPORT ASSOCIATION**

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Date: September 17, 2019

To: New York Times Editorial Page Editor

Re: Child Support vs. Deadbeat States (September 10, 2019)

To whom it may concern:

I write in response to the guest opinion "Child Support vs. Deadbeat States" (9/10). On behalf of the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association, comprised of child support professionals at the federal, state, and local levels from the public and private sectors, we wholeheartedly support the following response from the National Council of Child Support Directors:

**Response of the National Child Support Directors Council Submitted on September 15, 2019:**

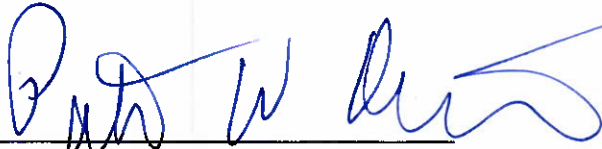
On behalf of the child support directors administering this program in the 54 states and territories, I write in response to the guest opinion "Child Support vs. Deadbeat States" (9/10). While the program's focus of prior decades was on retaining child support to recover welfare costs those days are behind us. We are now a family-centered program responding to the changing needs of families with a focus on consistent payments so children can count on their parents for the financial and emotional support they need.

Child support is the nation's 3rd largest anti-poverty program and collected \$32.3 billion in federal fiscal year 2018 with 96 percent of those collections going directly to 14.7 million children.

Programs around the country are innovating to meet the needs of both parents. For example, 45 states and D.C. have policies to forgive child support debt owed to the state.

Your state child support program is vital to the financial security of families, particularly vulnerable families. Reach out to us.

Erin P. Frisch  
President, National Council of Child Support Directors



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