



## EASTERN REGIONAL INTERSTATE CHILD SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

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October 4, 2018

Dear Farm Bill Conferees,

Re: Child Support Program Provisions in Farm Bill

The Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association (ERICSA) is an association dedicated, from its inception 55 years ago, to improving the establishment of parentage and the establishment and enforcement of child support obligations across state lines.

As the Conference Committee works toward reconciling the House's Agricultural and Nutrition Act (H.R. 2) and the Senate's Agricultural Improvement Act (S. 3042), we would like to relay our position regarding two provisions contained in H.R. 2 that will have a direct impact on States' child support programs. We agree with the same points raised by our sister organization, the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA), in their letter to you dated August 30, 2018.

Regarding child support arrears, ERICSA supports the provision in Section 4011(a) to remove the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) disqualification for child support arrears.

Regarding child support cooperation, ERICSA opposes the provision in Section 4011(b) requiring mandatory child support cooperation by SNAP recipients. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that mandatory cooperation as proposed would result in an additional cost of \$4 billion to state child support programs and \$7 billion to the federal program over the next 10 years for implementation. Currently the states are free to opt-in to SNAP-child support cooperation. A 2014 study commissioned by the Utah legislature found that of the original 10 states that had opted-in, 7 had rescinded the requirement because it was not cost effective. In addition, an estimated 70% of current SNAP recipients already are involved with the child support program. Those who are not currently involved are not participating in the child support program due to various reasons including domestic violence concerns. As identified by the Utah study mentioned above, mandatory cooperation is not cost effective and does not serve the best interests of the families involved.

ERICSA is dedicated to improving the lives of the families reached by the child support program. As such, ERICSA supports the removal of the disqualification from SNAP due to child support arrears and the removal of mandatory cooperation for SNAP recipients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Horan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Thomas Horan, President