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November 16, 2021

Hon. Danny Davis
Chair
Subcommittee on Worker & Family Support
Committee on Ways and Means
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Jackie Walorski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Worker & Family Support
Committee on Ways and Means
466 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Davis and Walorski:

The Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association (ERICSA) is a not-for-profit organization of child support professionals that was founded in 1963 and promotes the interests of children who are owed child support. ERICSA members work for or with state, tribal, and local child support agencies as public or private sector participants. ERICSA's membership spans the United States. This letter of support is being sent as part of ERICSA's participation in a national discussion regarding intergovernmental issues arising in the establishment and enforcement of child support obligations.

On July 27, 2021, the Senate passed S. 503, the Providing Adequate Resources Enhance Needed Time with Sons and Daughters ("PARENTS") Act of 2021. This bill was then forwarded to the House of Representatives, where it is currently being "held at the desk." The Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association ("ERICSA") has supported this piece of legislation since its introduction and urges the House of Representatives to take up, and pass, this bill.

The PARENTS Act would allow States to use incentive funds for establishing voluntary parenting time orders, at the State's option, and therefore not require the State to apply for waivers from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Child Support Enforcement. Currently states wishing to apply for waivers to establish voluntary

parenting time orders encounter a burdensome process that would be alleviated by the PARENTS Act. States that do not obtain a waiver face the burden of calculating the cost and paying from State funds. The PARENTS Act would alleviate that reporting requirement for those States as well. By expressly permitting the child support programs to use incentive payments for this purpose, the hope is more programs will be able to assist parents in voluntarily resolving parenting time issues.

ERICSA is dedicated to improving the lives of the families reached by the child support program. Further, ERICSA recognizes studies that show when support orders are issued in conjunction with voluntary parenting time orders, the obligor parent complies with the support order better than when there is no parenting time order. We believe this bill could lead to the improved financial, as well as emotional, support for children. ERICSA supports recognition that dealing with separated families in a holistic manner will produce better outcomes for the children our program serves. If the members of ERICSA can be of further assistance in these efforts, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tommy Howard".

Tommy Howard
ERICSA President