

15574 E  
Aurora, CO. 80017

January 31, 2009

Health and Human Services Subcommittee  
Colorado State Senate

Re: Parents to Work program, Senate Bill 09-100

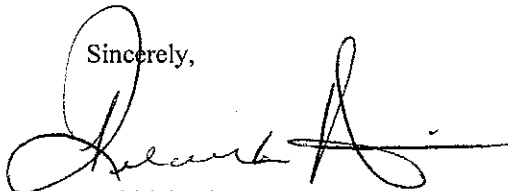
Dear Health and Human Services Subcommittee,

I am writing to share my thoughts on the Parents to Work program. This program was something that helped me gain employment at a time where I seemed to be down on my luck. I have always supported my daughter financially. And now that I was unemployed it was hard to provide the support needed. I'm a non-custodial parent who has made continual payments until 2008. I was unable to meet my monthly contribution for a couple of months and my driver's license was suspended. This made it hard to find work because I carry a commercial driver's license. This was a losing situation for everyone involved. The state loses because there are no tax dollars coming in from me, but most importantly the child suffers.

I am a non-custodial parent of a child who doesn't receive TANF. It saddened me that other parents in the same position I was in do not qualify for these programs under the current legislation. This program should be made available to anyone who needs the assistance. Though this program I was able to find a good paying job and now I'm able to provide for my child. I'm an army war veteran and I was able to find employment with General Dynamics one of leading military contractors. And it was this program that helped me do that. Please take the time to put yourself in my shoes. If it came a time where you needed some assistance but you didn't qualify for it because you did all the right things.

I would like to thank Arapahoe County for this opportunity. I hope the state will see the good that can come out of programs like this and make them available for parents like myself.

Sincerely,



Keldrick Hines

January 30, 2008

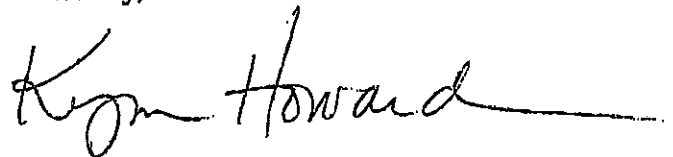
Kym Howard  
1914 Little St.  
LaMarque, TX 77568

Health and Human Services Subcommittee,  
Colorado State Senate  
Re: Parents to Work program, Senate Bill 09-100

I am writing to let you know my thoughts about the Parents to Work program. I feel like this program should be implemented for any non-custodial parent to find employment because it's a win-win situation. First and foremost, the children involved, as well as the custodial parent, would benefit from being supported. The non-custodial parent would benefit because this may help them feel like a job is attainable in this economic crisis, and that they have support (from the other non-custodial parents they meet in the program) instead of always being looked at as the "bad guys". This would also push them to be more involved and to own up to the responsibility they have to their child(ren). The state wins because it will see a decrease in funds that are doled out for welfare or state assistance, as well as see an increase in self-sufficiency of the custodial parent. The Child Support Enforcement would be able to better track employment and this would help to reduce the time it takes to find an employer and submit a request for garnishment.

I can honestly say this plan has benefitted myself and my child personally. My daughter's father, Keldrick Hines, had been paying child support regularly until June 2008. He encountered a hiccup in his employment, and learned of this program through the Child Support Enforcement. He met other fathers that were in his situation- unemployed but wanting to contribute to his child financially. Within a matter of a few months, he attended resume writing classes, gained some support through the other participants, and got a job! I was unaware of this program until it was just recently brought to my attention, and I'm saddened the state of Colorado feels like the Parents to Work program will only benefit non-custodials if they are receiving TANF or assistance. This program's benefits reach all involved, the state included, and should be implemented to make our corner of the world a little better for those who need it most- our children!

Sincerely,



Kym Howard