

[YOUR STREET ADDRESS
YOUR CITY STATE AND ZIP]

[DATE]

The Honorable [YOUR CONGRESS MEMBER'S NAME]
[YOUR CONGRESS MEMBER'S ADDRESS]
Washington DC 20515

Re: How Funding for Fatherhood Programs Harmed Children

Dear Representative [YOUR CONGRESS MEMBER'S LAST NAME]:

Thank you for your interest in child safety. I want you to know children are being taken from safe mothers and being placed with abusers in [YOUR COUNTY] family court. This happened to my child. Although this appears to be a state issue, in fact, these children are being harmed by federal policies and funding.

The emphasis on the importance of fathers without regard to child safety, has become a detriment to children. As you can see from the enclosed White Paper, federal funding for the Health Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) and the Access and Visitation (AV) programs present a danger to children.

The HMRF program is up for reauthorization this year as *HR 3005 Julia Carson Healthy Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood* (Davis). It is in the House Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

We believe the \$150 million per year spent on father-only services such as relationship classes, legal assistance in custody matters, and assistance to prisoners to return to their families is not a good use of taxpayer dollars.

Violent felons and drug abusers are getting custody of their children because they have trouble getting jobs; instead, they get child support from their children's mothers. The mothers cannot access the services due to their gender, even though the programs are supposed to provide them access.

Not only are the goals of TANF not being fulfilled by these programs, children are actually being harmed by them, as you can see by the White Paper.

The HMRF programs should be eliminated.

A far better use of taxpayer dollars for helping children and families would be to invest in positive parenting classes for both genders so that corporal punishment of children can be eliminated. That would have excellent outcomes for the children. The reasons will be explained at a Congressional briefing on November 18, 2015 from 10:00-11:30 am at Cannon HOB 122.

It would be far better to increase funding for the existing Workforce Investment Act program to develop jobs for ex-prisoners.

It would better for children to have positive role models hired by schools to help children without fathers, rather than using federal funds to bring felonious fathers into their lives to use children to help re-socialize fathers and prevent recidivism.

The current HMRF and AV programs have done enormous damage to families and children. Thank you for helping end this child endangerment program.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER]