WESTERN INTERSTATE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL,
Austin, TX, October 18, 2000.

Re Bankruptcy reform conference report for H.R. 2415.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As President of the Western Interstate Child Support Enforcement Council (WICSEC), an organization comprised of child support professionals from the private and public sectors west of the Mississippi River, I would like to express our membership's unqualified support of H.R. 2415. The primary purpose of WICSEC is to ensure that child support workers have effective enforcement tools to carry out our mandated responsibility to establish and collect child support. The passage of H.R. 2415 will greatly enhance our efforts in this regard by establishing an equitable system of debt repayment and discharge in bankruptcy proceedings.

The current structure of the bankruptcy process allows child support obligors who file for protection under the Bankruptcy Code to repay debts to customary collectors, but does not hold them accountable for the ongoing financial support of their children. The provisions of H.R. 2415 will reprioritize the elements in bankruptcy plans by establishing child support as the debtor's primary obligation, with all other debts assuming a secondary role. As a result, our nation's child support agencies will be able to pursue collection efforts without encountering the restrictions caused by existing bankruptcy proceedings.

We greatly appreciate your demonstrated support of legislation which benefits families and children. At this time, we respectfully ask you to continue that commitment by signing H.R. 2415.

Sincerely.

HOWARD G. BALDWIN, Jr.,
President.

CALIFORNIA FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL,
Sacramento, CA, October 17, 2000.

Re Bankruptcy reform conference report for H.R. 2415.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing you on behalf of the California Family Support Council, an organization of professionals who are responsible for carrying out the federal child support program in California pursuant to Title IV–D of the Social Security Act. Our membership consists of approximately 2,500 persons employed by county and state agencies which administer the program.

Support of the bankruptcy reform legislation by the Council is reflected in the attached resolution, approved by the general membership at our Annual Training Conference in February of this year. It is based on our experience that bankruptcy remains an impediment to our ability to collect support and a haven for those who want to avoid their familial obligations. Our membership feels strongly that this legislation will strengthen substantially the child support enforcement program and improve the collection of child support.

Bankruptcy should no longer interfere with the payment of collection of support. This legislation is the first major revision of the treatment of support during bankruptcy since the Banruptcy Code was enacted in 1978. We strongly urge you to sign this legislation.

Respectfully,

KRIS REIMAN,
President.

CALIFORNIA FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL 2000—RESOLUTION II

Whereas the California Family Support Council is composed of state and local professionals who have the responsibility of operating the federal child support enforcement program in the State of California; and

Whereas the filing of a bankruptcy petition by debtors owing child support substantially impairs the ability of government and private child support creditors to enforce support obligations; and

Whereas the Bankruptcy Code conflicts in many significant ways with federally mandated child support program requirements; and

Whereas the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 provided child support obligees with a new and considerable right to child support arrearages which were previously assigned to the government, and under current law these arrears are treated unfavorably in bankruptcy; and

Whereas in 1999 both houses of Congress passed bankruptcy reform bills, each of which contained child support provisions which would accomplish the following:

a. Give support debts a very high priority in payment from the bankruptcy estate;

b. Eliminate the distinction between support owed to a spouse or parent and support assigned to the government;

c. Insure that support in any form would not be dischargeable in bankruptcy;

d. Allow federally mandated support enforcement procedures such as wage withholding orders, license revocations processes, credit reporting, and medical support enforcement, to be unaffected by automatic bankruptcy stays;

e. Eliminate the conflicts between provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and the Social Security Act which affect the treatment of a support arrearage debt; and

Whereas the California Family Support Council is on record in support of both the House and Senate 1998 bankruptcy reform bills; and

Whereas the support provisions were improved and strengthened in the 1999 House and Senate Bankruptcy Reform bills; and

Whereas the support provisions in the 1999 House and Senate bills contain all improvements for collecting support during bankruptcy as approved by the California Family Support Council; now therefore be it

Resolved that the California Family Support Council:

1. Supports both the House and Senate Bankruptcy Reform Bills as passed by their respective bodies; and

2. Urges the House and Senate to preserve the current child support provisions in conference; and

3. Urges the President to sign the bankruptcy reform legislation if the final conference report maintains the current child support provisions; and

4. Directs the President of the California Family Support Council to convey to the California Congressional Delegation and to the President its enthusiastic endorsement of the Bankruptcy Reform Bills.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Chair and yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business with certain administrative wrapup responsibilities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN MEMORY OF TODD PORTERFIELD

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, It has come to my attention that a young man, Todd Porterfield, was struck by a car and killed over the summer while he was participating in a philanthropy event for Pi Kappa Phi social fraternity, of which I am an alumnus. Todd, a senior at the University of Washington, was on a cross-country bike ride called the Journey of Hope. Each year, the Journey of Hope raises approximately $300,000 for the national organization Push America that supports people with disabilities. Todd's commitment to service was remarkable in someone so young. He not only helped lead philanthropy efforts within his fraternity, but also traveled to Mexico to build homes for the disadvantaged and volunteered for three different shelters and outreach programs for the homeless in Seattle. Todd had a bright future and no doubt would have continued to be an active and caring member of his community. My thoughts are with his friends and family, members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and the University of Washington.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC–11744. A communication from the Special Assistant, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of FM Allotments; FM Broadcast Stations (Elkhart, Texas)'' (MM Docket No. 00–152) received on November 30, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–11745. A communication from the Special Assistant, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments; DTV Broadcast Stations, Scottsbluff, NE'' (MM Docket No. 00–140, RM–9916) received on November 30, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–11746. A communication from the Special Assistant, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments; FM Broadcast Stations (Eatonville, Wenatchee, Moses Lake, Spokane, and Newport, Washington)'' (MM Docket No. 99–74, RM–9269, RM–9736) received on November 30, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–11747. A communication from the Special Assistant, Mass Media Bureau, Federal