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Secretary Michael Leavitt
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

As President of the National Council of Child Support Directors, I am writing to inquire about the status of the Medical Support rules and regulations that are currently under review by ACF.

In May 2004 a workgroup developed involving Federal and State partners suggested rules and regulations that would improve the enforcement of Medical Support. These recommendations, such as defining "reasonable cost" of insurance are vital to the performance of our program. Today, almost 2 years later, it appears these policies and procedures are still under review. With the recent passage of the DRA and the focus on Medical Support, the need for these regulations takes on even greater significance.

As you are aware many of these policies are part of the National Child Support Enforcement Strategic Plan for 2005-2009. Specifically Goal 3: All Children in IV-D cases will have Medical Coverage. States are committed to the establishment and enforcement of medical support but we need the implementation of these policies to allow us to successfully do our work. Many states are unable to pursue their own regulations and or system modifications until federal regulations have been issued. All of this takes time and reduces the states' ability to successfully manage this aspect of the program.

Please advise us when we may expect the approval of the medical support regulations.

Sincerely,

Daryl D. Wusk, President
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