

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

September 26, 2022

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of supporters of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) around the country, I write in strong support of S.4512/H.R.8362, the Unborn Child Support Act. Life begins at conception, and so does motherhood and fatherhood. Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-North Dakota) and Rep. Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) introduced legislation affirming this truth by incentivizing states to have a child support program that provides for costs of parenting that many know begin well before the baby's first birthday.

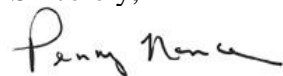
In a post-*Dobbs* America, now is as good a time as ever for our laws to ensure that a baby has as much parental involvement and resources as she needs for her healthy development. This bill does just that by creating a way for the father to be accountable for his parental responsibilities sooner. The bill would require any state that receives federal child welfare dollars to have in place a system that makes child support available for pregnancy, which the mom can obtain while she is pregnant or for a period of time after childbirth. The mom would have to be totally involved in the process, which would begin upon her request, for the court to award this support. There would be no requirement for an award if the father's involvement would be unsafe for the mom or the baby. Paternity tests would be at the mother's discretion and would not be conducted if it puts a child at risk.

The Act's recognition of parental responsibilities beginning at conception is a step in the right direction for any child in need. America has suffered a decline in the family institution for generations. Single motherhood and paternal abandonment is sadly the norm. This is no more evident than by the fact that 13.2 million children, or 1 in 5 children in the U.S., received child support. Over 400,000 children are in foster care today, the number one reason being neglect and abuse in the home. No child deserves the pain of an absent parent.

In fiscal year 2021, there was \$32.7 billion in child support collection. Ninety-six percent of child support collected went to families, while the remaining 4% became reimbursed public assistance dollars. Child support thus far has been determined to nearly double the average income of recipients below the poverty line. No child has to enter the welfare of the state or suffer the absence of a mother or father who is still alive if both parents step up.

Children deserve better, and they deserve to be recognized as worthy of care from the moment they are created. We thus support the Unborn Child Support Act.

Sincerely,



Penny Young Nance
CEO and President
Concerned Women for America LAC