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*TESTIMONY OF  
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MARCH 13, 2007*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 7361, An Act Concerning Child Support Enforcement Program Compliance and Improvements.

This proposal adopts the 2001 changes to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) that were recommended by the Commission on Uniform State Laws. These changes clarify which state court maintains jurisdiction over a child support order when the parents live in different states and assists in the enforcement of child support orders through the registration of wage withholding orders issued in another state. In addition, the legislation makes a number of improvements to our enforcement authority that have been mandated by Congress in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Importantly, the bill prevents an obligor who owes at least \$5,000 in past due child support from registering recreation vehicles with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Attorney General's office, the Judicial Branch, and the Department of Social Services collaborate to collect more than \$232 million in child support annually, of which more than \$50.5 million flows to the General Fund in the form of reimbursement for state assistance. Unfortunately, there are tens of millions of dollars in unpaid child support obligations. These court ordered obligations are also a moral obligation on the part of the parent to provide financially for their sons and daughters. My office, along with the Judicial Branch and the Department of Social Services, is committed to ensuring that these children receive critical financial assistance from their parents.

These three offices worked closely on this legislation to facilitate the collection of child support, especially from obligors who reside in another state.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 7361.