



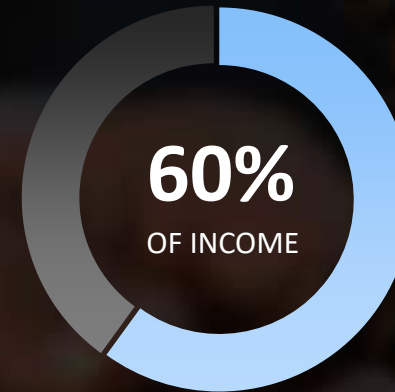
UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

CRIMINAL NONSUPPORT AMENDMENTS

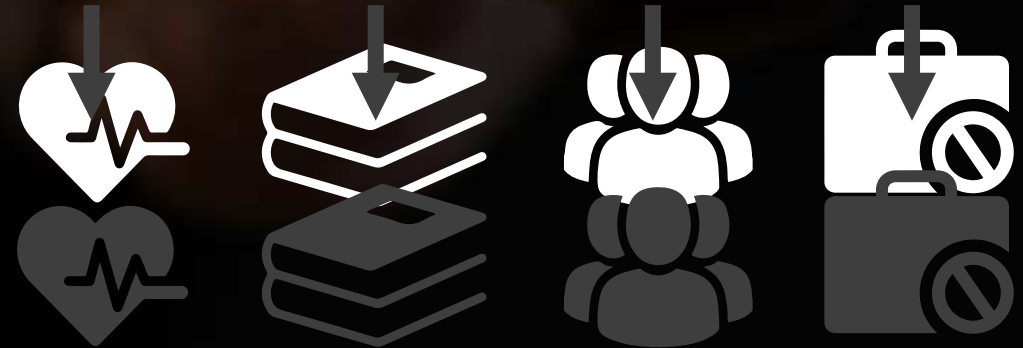
Sponsor: Representative Karianne Lisonbee

HALF OF CHILDREN NATIONWIDE NOT RECEIVING OWED PAYMENTS

Payments account for over 60% of the income generated by single-parent families living at or below the poverty line.



Children in poverty are **more likely** to suffer diminished physical health, poor academic performance, poor social and behavioral development, as well as becoming chronically underemployed or unemployed.



STRENGTHEN SINGLE PARENTS



- Both parents share responsibility for the upbringing and development of children.
- Failure to pay child support can turn into a form of child abuse.

LONG CASES MEAN MORE CHILD POVERTY

Overtime, custodial parents are less likely to receive the full amount of their awarded support.



UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

- Many CNS offenders have been non-compliant for at least five years.
 - Arrears increase substantially before the case is referred for criminal prosecution.



HB 291

2018 Legislative Session

Limits total probation time

Limits the amount of time CNS offenders have to pay arrears

5

YEARS

\$100,000

ARREARS COULD EXCEED

QUICK STATS

On average, it can take **10 years** before a case is referred to Criminal Nonsupport (CNS).

300

Open criminal non-support cases

72-78

Approx. cases referred to AGO last year

14

Incarcerated Individuals

44

Individuals on probation

WHAT DOES IT DO?

- Provides that the most egregious offenders with greater incentives to begin paying child support.
 - Alleviates the financial burden on the State of Utah.
 - Increases the likelihood of noncustodial parents complying with their child support obligations.
 - Provides penalties for the crime of Aggravated Criminal Nonsupport.
- Lowers the dollar amount from **\$10,000 → \$5,000**
Arrears for a **Third-Degree Felony**, consistent with other financial crimes.
 - **Aggravated Second-Degree Felony**, applicable to those who have been previously convicted of or pleaded guilty to Criminal Nonsupport, and to those who owe **more than \$15,000 in child support**.