



## **H.R. 6903, *Ensuring Children Receive Support Act***

**Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX), Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)**

### **Background:**

- The Child Support Enforcement (CSE) program is a federal-state partnership to help establish paternity, set child support orders, collect payments from non-custodial parents, and distribute those funds to custodial families.
- **Research indicates that child support constitutes a significant portion of income for low-income families**, making up on average 41 percent of total income when received, and can help reduce poverty and reliance on welfare.
- **Under current law, the State Department must refuse to issue a passport if an individual owes more than \$2,500 in past-due child support**, and *may* revoke, restrict, or limit a passport that has already been issued. This is called the Passport Denial Program, and is used by state child support agencies for enforcement.
- **In 2024, states reported nearly \$30 million in collections through the Passport Denial Program** and over 5,000 payments were made to custodial families.

### **How the Passport Denial Program Works:**

1. A state child support enforcement agency determines a noncustodial parent owes more than \$2,500 in past-due support.
2. The agency certifies that debt to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE).
3. OCSE compiles the certified list and transmits it to the State Department electronically.
4. The Secretary of State:
  1. **Shall** deny issuance of a new passport; and
  2. **May** revoke, restrict, or limit a passport already issued.

### **H.R. 6903, *Ensuring Children Receive Support Act*:**

- **H.R. 6903 amends existing law to *require* the Secretary of State to revoke a passport that has previously been issued**, which generally occurs at the time of passport renewal or when an individual seeks a consular service.
  - **The bill includes an exception for individuals who are abroad to allow the Secretary to issue a limited, temporary passport** for the purpose of returning home to the United States.
- The National Child Support Engagement Association supports this bill.