



The Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc.
The NY affiliate of the American Coalition of Fathers and Children

“Working to Keep Fathers and Families Together”

July 17, 2006

Volunteer Family
Advocates

New York State:

Mr. James
Hays,
FaFNY President

Mr. Randall L.
Dickinson,
Vice President

Mr. David
Mysliwicz,
Treasurer

Ms. Debby
Fellows,
Secretary

National:

Dr. Stephen
Baskerville
ACFC President

Mr. Michael
McCormick
ACFC
Executive
Director

Dear President Bush:
By fax 202-456-2461

I am sending this personal letter to you from my heart as a father and as a good and committed parent in the hopes that you will see the current injustices forced upon so many of us. I apologize for distributing it widely, but I also have a calling on a par with parenthood and that is in service to this great country and the Constitution on which it is formed. There can be no responsible parents without liberty; there can be no liberty without parents who strive for this for their children.

I want to thank you for recognizing the value of parents to children and society in the Parents Day Proclamation (follows below). Unfortunately there exists today a class of parents to which these are just hollow words and promises, as they are willing to be there for their children but unfortunately have been removed from them by the *barriers put into place by our own government*. These are the parent who has had their parental rights terminated, not for cause, but because of the label **“Non Custodial Parent” (NCP)** was placed upon them by their state courts due to separation/divorce/out-of-wedlock. Not “unfit” parents but just not “as fit” to the system which views single parenthood as the acceptable norm.

The vast majority of the time this label is placed upon fathers due to continued gender bias towards mother custody of children from the Tender Years Doctrine, Gender bias against men under the “Violence Against Women Act” (VAWA), and Gender bias against fathers under our child “support” system which views fathers only as a wallet, imputes income they do not have and can not pay and penalizes and incarcerates in debtors prisons many for the inability to pay.

Unfortunately, many (if not most) states do not recognize parental rights post separation/divorce/out-of-wedlock and to show that they are not gender biased they have begun to award sole custody to fathers at increasing rates to the detriment of mother-child relationships. Regardless if the award of “Non Parent” is placed upon a mother or a father it results in a child losing that parent (and grand parents too!).

A Single Mother by Choice is a Fatherless Child by Force

While many label these issues as “states rights” issues the impact of federal policies on the actions of states is driving the states policies, policies which are driving a wedge between children and their parents and policies which foster single parent households. VAWA, “Child Support” and denial of parental rights at the federal level combined with financial incentives to the states from these federal programs have fostered state level programs which are incentivizing divorce and out-of-wedlock births and breaking apart families to garner the federal incentive.

It is this view of men/fathers as “abusive” and “controlling” (even in marriage), and valued only for the financial support of children and women, which is disenfranchising fathers from their children. Indeed, through federal subsidies to single mothers by choice the government has fostered what it claims to want to prevent, single parent homes and fatherless children.

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“Child Support” is nothing more than a “Child Excise Tax” as it is money taken from fathers who were already financially supporting their children and given to the government to offset the federal single mother by choice subsidies. Even in those cases where the Child Excise Tax is passed through to the single mother by choice it serves as an income redistribution only as there is no accountability for the funds and the levels are set, not based upon the cost of raising a child but upon a percentage of income, a “Child Excise Tax” used to financially support single mother by choice, fatherless child by force families.

I’m a “Non Custodial Parent” – NCP by FORCE

I am often averse to using my personal circumstance as an example lest it be construed that my sole objective is my personal circumstance only and not the status of the “NCP’s”, the “Non” parents or the suffering of the children but as my children have now “aged out” of this system I feel safe that this will not be the case.

I have not seen my children for the past 8 years due to having all of the aforementioned placed upon me, against my will, violations of my civil liberties which I believe are on a par with the atrocities inflicted upon our founding fathers. Ironically, while I was deemed not as fit, but never unfit, as my ex wife (who wanted to be a single mother by her choice) to parent my children I was allowed (barely) to continue in my career in Environmental Law Enforcement. While I was considered to be a “threat” to my ex and my children I was called on to protect the innocent at events such as the 9-1-1 attacks on my home state of NY, indeed even called upon to protect you sir in your sojourn to the Adirondacks some years back (I was one of the little “green spots” in the snowstorm on Whiteface Mountain). While I was deemed not as fit to teach my children about my family and our heritage, I was allowed to teach our young people (but not mine) in hunter and firearms safety or to teach them in the schools in environmental conservation. While I placed myself in harms way to protect the public, I have had my income garnished at about the 65% level to pay the legal fees and the “Child Excise Tax”, this for children I would gladly give my entire service to, including financial resources, if allowed (and which I did before they were forced into being fatherless children).

I was a committed father/parent who had the label “NCP” placed on me for no cause. I was a protector of the innocent and law abiding man but was labeled an abusive threat. I supported my children financially and had this responsibility taken for no cause and was charged an excise tax to boot. My family was attacked and I was labeled aggressive for defending it and sent to “anger management” classes. I was beat dead, dead broke and disenfranchised and then labeled a deadbeat. And I am not alone for there are hundreds of thousands of us and, unfortunately, our numbers continue to increase today. .

We Need Words - Then Action

Now that we recognize the importance and value of parents to children and society we need to put into actions what we understand and recognize. We understand that “NCP’s” are forced into this situation against their will and we need to remove the barriers to their participation in the raising, upbringing and care of their children. To this end we need:

1. Reform of VAWA, the Violence Against Women Act. Go to <http://www.mediadar.org/> (RADAR) Respecting Accuracy in Domestic

Abuse Reporting for current and unbiased information on this topic. This program has turned into a boondoggle, is biased in that it serves only women (even though not mandated) and its programs work to destroy families. It needs to be renamed and refocused as the Violence Against Families Act and its programs need to work to make healthy families which are the cornerstone of violence free families.

2. Enact the Parents' Rights and Responsibilities Act. Go to <http://www.fafny.org/> and click on [Parents Rights and Responsibilities Act](#) and [How Congress Can Protect the Rights of Parents to Raise Their Children](#) for the act and a discussion on its importance. The Judiciary has not shown the ability to restrain from interfering in the family and it is up to the other branches to rein them in.
3. Reform the "Child Excise Tax". You can review the [Ten Myth's of Child Support](#) and we need to reform the system and make it so it mirrors the cost of raising a child (a cost shares model). <http://www.guidelineeconomics.com/> has more information in this area. Federal incentives need to be based upon children in intact families and those NOT in need of child support which would lessen the burden on Government.

All that now said, and with the proclamation of yours below it is now time to get to work. I intend to spend July 23, 2006 in service to parents and intend to fax this letter to New York State elected representative (at the state and national level). It will be posted on our web page at www.FaFNY.org and I will spend part of the day adding to that. Being removed from my children I will apply hard work and sacrifice so that others will not also be removed from their children.

Personally, and on behalf of the 2.5 Million "NCP's" in NY; I remain yours in service to parents, even the "Non Custodial" Parents.

Sincerely,

Mr. James H. Hays, Jr.

Mr. James H. Hays, Jr.
President, Coalition of Fathers and Families NY, Inc.

Cc: Public posting and distribution.

Encl: Parents Day 2006 A Proclamation of the President of the United States of America, follows.

Parents' Day, 2006

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

As a child's first teachers, mentors, and role models, parents shape the character of those who will help to build the future of our Nation. On Parents' Day, we pay tribute to the hard work and sacrifice of the millions of devoted parents who provide guidance, support, and unconditional love to their children.

Mothers and fathers help kindle imaginations, inspire a love of learning, nurture the formation of young minds, and give children the courage and the drive to realize their dreams. By instilling in children the difference between right and wrong, parents guide their children toward developing into successful adults and responsible citizens who lead lives of purpose. In addition, the commitment of parents to the welfare of young people strengthens families and communities throughout our great country.

My Administration supports grants and programs to promote healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. The No Child Left Behind Act is helping us ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn, and recognizes that parental involvement is a vital part of the success of schools across America. Federal, State, and local programs, and faith-based and community groups provide additional resources to help parents as they work to raise children of conviction and character.

On this special day, we express our deep gratitude to parents for their dedication to a bright and hopeful future for their children. We also pray for parents in the military who stand up for America, and we resolve that their sacrifice will always be honored by a grateful Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States and consistent with Public Law 103-362, as amended, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 23, 2006, as Parents' Day. I call upon citizens, private organizations, and governmental bodies at all levels to engage in activities and educational efforts that recognize, support, and honor parents, and I encourage American sons and daughters to convey their love, respect, and appreciation to their parents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH



In support thereof,