

1999 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1479

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1479

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 26, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	X		21.1 - End
2		X	0.0 - 16.0
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Susann Lindtegen</i>			

Minutes:

Rep. CAROL NIEMEIER, District 20, testified (Testimony attached).

Senator JUDY DEMERS, District 18, testified that during the 1997 session this committee put in a huge amount of work in terms of refining the TANF Program, Welfare Reform Act. Not many amendments to that welfare bill have been done because of the work this committee did. I echo the statements of Rep. Carol Niemeier. This bill will change the exemption for the work requirement for a single parent with a child at home for an additional 4 months. The reasons I'm supportive of this is it provides a choice for the mom. Babies do a lot of development from 0 - 8 months and a lot of bonding takes place. I don't think that going back to work 4 months earlier will make or break this state.

Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN, District 17, testified that you will hear a great deal of hard data about the benefits this bill will create for infants. The longer an infant can remain in its mother's care

the better the chances of that infant positively developing, especially for single mothers. They earn too little to afford child care. Infant child care is considerably more costly than for a 4 year old. Annual cost of infant care is \$536 more per year.

Rep. RALPH METCALF asked why are we going to 8 months when the federal law allows 12 months? Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN stated the decision is that this might be a worthy change after we have had a years worth of experience with the law. Rep. RALPH METCALF stated this is a compromise then and so why not 12 months? Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN stated someone might propose a 12 month exemption.

Rep. PAT GALVIN asked why the single parent and not the married parent? Rep. ROXANNE JENSEN stated I tend to agree that perhaps all parents should have this consideration. However, the burden of raising a child is a little greater for a single parent than a married parent.

JOHN OPP, Director, Public Assistance Division, Department of Human Services, testified (Testimony attached). This is one area that is new and if it passes and becomes law, we feel this is an area that we need to monitor very closely which we can. We don't know how many second children are born; how soon; we don't know the health of the family; recidivism; and all of these factors. There will be a great deal of monitoring and reporting to the interim committee.

Rep. ROBIN WEISZ asked would the department have a problem if you limit the total exemptions to 12 months for that first child but in reality you would only have four months to have an additional child? JOHN OPP stated from an administrative standpoint that's a point that we feel would be excellent to have. In the last few years, the number of children has dropped to less than half.

Rep. RALPH METCALF asked about page 2 of the testimony on a penalty, does it mean that you could lower the number of months allowed? JOHN OPP stated yes, HB 1226 from the 1997 legislative session, the clauses permit the department to do that.

BARB ARNOLD-TENGESDAL, ND Association for the Education of Young Children, testified (Testimony attached). Its real difficult to recruit infant care workers. Infant care referral calls are about 41%.

Rep. AMY KLINISKE asked what is the availability of training sessions and what is the cost? BARB ARNOLD-TENGESDAL stated its very available. The Exciting Project funded by the Bush Foundation provided millions of dollars to train persons in infant toddler care giving. There are parent education classes available.

Rep. RALPH METCALF asked how long are the parent education classes? BARB ARNOLD-TENGESDAHL said they are all different lengths from one hour to twelve weeks.

Rep. RALPH METCALF asked is there anything that would relieve them of the TANF requirements by participating in these classes? BARB ARNOLD-TENGESDAHL didn't know. VIVIAN SCHAFER for LINDA ISAKSON, Children's Caucus, (Testimony attached). Included letter from the NDAYC Magazine about a child care giver writing a note to the parent on baby's first day.

SISTER MARGARET ROSE for CHRISTOPHER DODSON, ND Catholic Conference, (Testimony attached).

JUDITH SAND, Catholic Family Services, testified (Testimony attached. Included attachments - ND Department of Human Services on number and capacity of county child care facilities, county data sheet, Michael Hughes workshop materials, and PL 104-193, Sec 5)

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House Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HB 1479

Hearing Date January 26, 1999

NEUTRAL TESTIMONY

KATHY HOGAN, Director, Cass County Social Services, testified we are concerned if we go to a 12 month time frame and maintain a 12 month lifetime limit. How do we explain that to clients. Most single parents don't plan on getting pregnant again and they don't anticipate ever needing it a second and third time. My concern is that its left too open-ended. They might use the full 12 months the first time and might not be eligible if they need assistance for a second birth for any time off. Or, if it were the wishes of the committee, for every birth you could have 8 months or 12 months off. Then the work participation rate will run into major problems. I encourage you to perhaps keep the 8 months in the original bill.

OPPOSITION

None

Hearing closed.

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1479

House Human Services Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 2, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	16.0 - 48.7
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Susann Lidteigen</i>			

Minutes:

Committee Discussion.

Change in welfare reform to allow mother to stay home with new baby. Rep. CAROL

NIEMEIER proposed 12 months for single parent to stay home with newborn child.

Rep. AMY KLINISKE expressed concern on misinterpretation in that all the time would be used for the first child and in the event there is a second child no time would remain.

Rep. CLARA SUE PRICE stated we are only into Welfare Reform one and one-half years which is not enough time to determine a trend.

Rep. CAROL NIEMEIER moved DO PASS.

Rep. WANDA ROSE second the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE #3: 5 yeas, 9 nays, 1 absent

Motion FAILED.

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House Human Services Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HB 1479

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Rep. CLARA SUE PRICE stated we are still in the first biennium of welfare reform and don't have enough information to determine a trend.

Rep. WILLIAM DEVLIN moved DO NOT PASS.

Rep. BLAIR THORESON second the motion.

Further committee discussion.

Rep. CLARA SUE PRICE stated its better to help the new parent get education quicker to become self-sufficient and raise their self-esteem. The child benefits from a mother who feels good about herself.

Rep. DALE HENEGAR stated the concept would put legislators into the enable category.

ROLL CALL #4: 9 yeas, 5 nays, 1 absent

Motion carried.

CARRIER: Rep. TODD PORTER

FISCAL NOTE

(Return original and 14 copies)

Bill / Resolution No.: HB 1479

Amendment to: _____

Requested by Legislative Council

Date of Request: 01/20/99

1. Please estimate the fiscal impact (in dollar amounts) of the above measure for state general or special funds, counties, cities, and school districts.

Narrative:

This bill would exempt single parents from required work activities if the parent has a child under eight months of age. The fiscal impact of this bill is unknown as although the Department will see initial savings in child care and work activity costs, these savings will be offset by additional cash grants.

2. State fiscal effect in dollar amounts:

	1997-1999		1999-2001		2001-2003	
	<u>Biennium</u>		<u>Biennium</u>		<u>Biennium</u>	
	General	Special	General	Special	General	Special
	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Funds</u>
Revenues:						
Expenditures:	-0-		Unknown		Unknown	

3. What, if any, is the effect of this measure on the appropriation for your agency or department:

- a. For rest of 1997-99 biennium: -0-
- b. For the 1999-01 biennium: Unknown
- c. For the 2001-03 biennium: Unknown

4. County, City, and School District fiscal effect in dollar amounts:

	1997-1999			1999-2001			2001-2003		
	<u>Biennium</u>			<u>Biennium</u>			<u>Biennium</u>		
	<u>Counties</u>	<u>Cities</u>	<u>School Districts</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>Cities</u>	<u>School Districts</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>Cities</u>	<u>School Districts</u>
	-0-			-0-			-0-		

If additional space is needed, attach a supplemental sheet.

Signed

Brenda M. Weisz

Typed Name

Brenda M. Weisz

Date Prepared: January 25, 1999

Department

Human Services

Phone No.

328-2397

Date: 2-2-99
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1479

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on _____
 or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken No Pass

Motion Made By Carol Niemeier Seconded By Wanda Rose

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairwoman		X	Bruce A. Eckre		
Robin Weisz - Vice Chairman		X	Ralph Metcalf	X	
William R. Devlin		X	Carol A. Niemeier	X	
Pat Galvin		X	Wanda Rose	X	
Dale L. Henegar		X	Sally M. Sandvig	X	
Roxanne Jensen	X				
Amy N. Kliniske		X			
Chet Pollert		X			
Todd Porter		X			
Blair Thoreson		X			

Total Yes 5 No 9
 Absent 1

Failed

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-2-99
 Roll Call Vote #: 4

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1479

House Human Services Committee

Subcommittee on _____
 or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By William Devlin Seconded By Blair Thoreson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price - Chairwoman	X		Bruce A. Eckre		
Robin Weisz - Vice Chairman	X		Ralph Metcalf		X
William R. Devlin	X		Carol A. Niemeier		X
Pat Galvin	X		Wanda Rose		X
Dale L. Henegar	X		Sally M. Sandvig		X
Roxanne Jensen		X			
Amy N. Kliniske	X				
Chet Pollert	X				
Todd Porter	X				
Blair Thoreson	X				

Total Yes 9 No 5
 Absent 1

Floor Assignment Porter

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 2, 1999 5:05 p.m.

Module No: HR-21-1731
Carrier: Porter
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1479: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (9 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1479 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

HB 1479

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 26, 1999

HB1479

CHAIRPERSON, Price

Members of the Human Services Committee

For the record, I am Representative Carol Niemeier, District 20 and I will introduce HB 1479 which would extend the TANF Work Exemption for a parent of an infant to 8 months.

While it is gratifying to see state welfare numbers falling as reported in yesterday's tribune, we want to implement regulations with consideration for the well-being of the TANF clients.

If I may, I want to give a little background of the Welfare Reform Act of 1997. This first engrossment has 73 pages of specific directives. I am addressing section 75 on TANF which includes 31 eligibility requirements. Under the federal welfare law, states had the option to exempt TANF families from work participation requirements if their child is under age 1. North Dakota enacted the law allowing a four month exemption. The Bill before you seeks to amend that section.

This extension offers an option for the parent who desires to be at home with the child for the additional months. And there are viable reasons for making that choice.

Child care for infants is more costly than for older children. A recent survey of five Bismarck care facilities showed an average of \$30 more per month. This is a substantial amount for low income families.

Good infant care is less available. Appropriate staffing and equipment is needed.

Especially, in the early years of life, the infant's development benefits directly from time spent with a parent.

The eight month exemption allows an average duration of breast feeding, contributing to infant and maternal health and bonding.

A TANF parent and child receive a total benefit of \$363 per month while the child care payment is \$440 per month, providing a savings to the state.

At least 20 states and the District of Columbia exempt families with a child younger than 12 months from work requirement.

There are approximately 300 eligible TANF children under eight months of age in North Dakota. This will not be an option for all. Some parents are in school and others choose to work, but for those who are able to provide extra nurturing, it is a logical choice.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
ON H. B. #1479**



**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR
NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) PROGRAM
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
JANUARY 26, 1999**

**TESTIMONY ON H.B. 1479
BEFORE THE HOUSE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 26, 1999**

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Madam Chair and members of the House Human Services Committee, for the record, my name is John Opp, Director of the Public Assistance Division for the Department of Human Services. This testimony is intended to provide you with information regarding the suggested amendments to Subsection 1 of Section 50-09-29 of the North Dakota Century Code relating to the requirements for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, known as the TEEM Program in North Dakota. The proposed amendment would increase the work exemption for single parents from four months to eight months, based on the age of the youngest dependent child.

Federal law allows States the option to exempt single parents from the work requirement if they are caring for a child under twelve months or age and, further, to exclude that single parent from the work rate calculation for a maximum of twelve months. This option was discussed during the 1997 Legislative session and the primary reason for allowing a work exemption of four months was to preserve eight months for an exemption from the work activities and the work rate calculation should the individual have a second or third child.

As the amendment is now written, the parent would be exempt from the work activities for eight months for each child, however, the exemption from the federally-required work rate calculation would only be allowed for a total of twelve months, after which the individual would be considered in the calculation even though he or

she is not required to participate under State law. The concern would be the related impact on the federal requirement that the State maintain a certain percentage of adult recipients in approved work activities.

The amendment does provide some advantages to the client and to the State. While allowing the parent to spend more time at home to care for the child, it would also mean less State expense for work activities and related child care during those months. This savings will most likely be offset, however, since the expense will be incurred at a later date. The individual would also be removed from the work rate calculation as long as the exemption is no longer than 12 months.

The disadvantages would include those already mentioned as well as other considerations. The exemption from the work rate can last no more than 12 months according to federal law and there is a potential impact of a penalty should the State fail to meet the work rate requirement. In addition, the individual may remain on assistance longer since their work activities are delayed. It should be considered that even though the individual is allowed an exemption from the work activities, each month that TANF assistance is received will likely count toward the 60-month lifetime limit.

Currently, we have been able to meet the federal work participation rate. The number of individuals participating in the JOBS Program along with the caseload reduction have combined to keep North Dakota in compliance with the TANF requirement. We are unable to determine the direct impact of the amendment on the work rate but we would ensure the Legislature that we will monitor the number of participants closely so as to avoid the potential of a penalty.

It should also be mentioned there are "safety nets" provided under federal law to prevent serious impact on the individual or the State. One of the safeguards

prohibits States from penalizing a single parent who cannot meet the work requirements because child care is unavailable, inadequate or too costly. While reimbursement for child care is provided to those individuals participating in work activities, if they cannot find suitable child care, a penalty cannot be imposed if the lack of child care causes them to fail the work activities. A second safeguard allows States to consider a single parent with a child under 6 years of age as having met the work requirements if that individual is participating for a least 20 hours per week. This minimum is less than the hours expected of other clients who must participate a minimum of 25 hours per week this year and 30 hours per week next year.

Madam Chair, this concludes the formal portion of my testimony. If there are any questions from the committee members, I will try to answer those at this time. Thank you.



*North Dakota Association for
the Education of Young Children*

PO Box 5797 • Fargo, ND 58105-5797

To: Clara Sue Price, Chairperson
House Human Service Committee

Date: January 26, 1999

From: Barb Arnold-Tengesdal
North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children (NDAEYC)

Re: HB 1479
Testimony in support of HB 1479.

The North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children (NDAEYC) consist of 386 paid members and approximately 250 local chapter affiliate members. The local chapters are in Grand Forks, Fargo, Valley City, Jamestown, Minot, and Bismarck. Members represent a variety of jobs in the early childhood profession- family and group day care providers, day care center staff and directors, preschool staff, Head Start staff, Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Base Child Development Center staff, Child Care Resource & Referral agencies, lab schools from higher education institutions, elementary teachers and many other professionals within the field.

We support HB 1479 which provides a more family-centered approach in supporting heads of families in their role as parents as well as workers.

Current research on infant brain development affirm what many parents and caregivers have known for years: (1) good prenatal care, (2) warm and loving attachments between young children and adults, and (3) positive, age-appropriate stimulation from the time of birth really do make a difference in children's development for a lifetime. Statistical data on the lack of available, affordable and quality infant care in North Dakota is a hurdle parents face when blending family and work responsibilities. The implementation of House Bill 1479 would ease the transition to work stress faced by many single parents, ultimately affecting dependent children.

We support this bill for the following six reasons.

1. The attachment and bonding that occurs between a parent and their infant is fundamental in the development of strong feelings of love and security that provide the foundation for good parent-child relationships.

When parents feel the need to nurture and love their children, they will seek out ways to support this relationship. It is a societal view that good parenting plays the most important role in how children develop into healthy adults. Providing a safe and healthy environment, guiding and setting limits, providing opportunities for moral and character development can give children the tools to necessary to become successful and responsible adults.

2. New brain development research confirms "an infants' mind is primed for learning.... But it takes early experiences to wire neural circuits" *Carla Schatz, University of Berkley 1997*

Re Produced TIME" Feb 3, 1997

When a child is born, the brain produces trillions more neurons and synapses (connections between the brain cells) than she will ultimately need. Positive interactions with caring adults stimulate a child's brain profoundly, causing synapses to grow and existing connections to be strengthened. Those synapses in a child's brain that are used to become permanent fixtures; those that are not used tend to be eliminated. If a child receives little stimulation early on, synapses will not sprout or develop, and the brain will make fewer connections. Therefore, a



North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children

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child's experiences during the first few days, months, and years may be more decisive than scientist once believed. We now know that during the first three years the brain has the greatest capacity for change. Neural plasticity, the brain's ability to adapt with experience, confirms that early stimulation sets the stage for how children will continue to learn and interact with others throughout life. *Julie Newberger, Young Children, 1997.*

The relationship between secure attachment and healthy brain development makes for the best environment for a child to have a great chance at growing up into a healthy adult.

3. A child's healthy development is dependent on warm, enduring relationships with a limited number of caring adults who provide a stimulating and secure environment.

Providing high quality infant care is fundamental to a family working outside the home. Quality infant care is earmarked by:

- Responsive and consistent caregiving. A suggested adult to infant ratio of 3-1 with care being given to the child by the same adult.
- A safe, healthy and stimulating environment with age-appropriate toys and equipment.
- Learning materials and teaching styles responsive to the age and individual differences of children and respectful of children's cultural heritage.
- Staff with education and training in early childhood growth and development, with continued participation in professional development.
- Parent partnerships that see the based on open communication through an environment where parents contribute, not only financially, but through support of staff, policies and program.

4. A family-centered approach to child care rather than a service-system centered approach.

The family-centered approach essentially sees the family as the constant in the child's life, around which the services systems must revolve. It is distinct from the provider or service-system centered approach which sees the services as the center around which the child and family must revolve. A family-centered approach sees the parents of children as usually the most important persons in a child's life. Services are then structured around what is the best situation for the family. This doesn't mean that families should "just sit at home." Parents of infants and toddlers could be required to participate in comprehensive early childhood and parent education programs. We recommend an approach to welfare reform that offers some exemptions from work and training participation for mothers of infants while providing a program resources that can benefit children and parents alike. (*concept from Zero to Three, April/May 1994*)

5. The lack of available infant care in the State of North Dakota blocks the ability for parents seeking employment opportunities.

Child Care Resource & Referral offices statewide report a significant number of calls from parents seeking infant care. Over 40% of all calls from parents seeking child care, are from



*North Dakota Association for
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parents needing infant care. The availability of infant care slots can only meet the needs of half of those calls. Many caregivers chose not to provide infant care because of the expense and difficulty of providing high quality infant care.

6. The expense of providing high quality care has a significant impact on the lack of quality infant care available.

Infants require costlier supplies and equipment (cribs, changing tables, high chairs for feeding, formula & diapers) than older children. With the high adult/child ratio's required, the space needed for equipment and parents who cannot afford to pay more for infant care, our state has had very limited success in recruitment efforts trying to provide this type of out-of-home care. Child care providers are among the lowest paid work force participants with a turnover rate of approximately 35% annually, resulting in higher training cost.

NDAEYC supports HB 1479 with any suggested amendments that increases the amount of time parents can stay at home- federally allowed up to 12 months. We suggest that transition activities become a part of the TANF requirements for stay at home parents, which could include parent education and other resources that educate parents on how to blend career and family in an appropriate fashion.

January 25, 1999
House Bill 1479
House Human Services Committee

Chairperson Price and members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Isakson. I am the executive director of the Children's Caucus. The mission of the Caucus is to promote the health, safety and welfare of North Dakota's children through education and policy. The Caucus stands in support of House Bill 1479.

The members of the Children's Caucus feel that extending the length of time that a mother can stay home with an infant enhances the growth of the child. We know that those early months are important to the mother child relationship. It is important to the mental and physical growth of the child. The extension of months simply allows the young mother to make an informed choice about returning to work and placing her child in acceptable childcare setting. This is a choice that many women must make. Women participating in TEEM should not be any different.

The other concern that we ask you consider is the lack of infant care in many areas of our state and the additional cost of infant childcare. Mothers who have a family member or trusted friend is more likely to return to the work place earlier than 8 months if she is comfortable with her care situation. But someone who must search for care and is unsure of the quality of care is more apt to make a choice to remain at home longer.

The Children's Caucus would like this committee to consider an amendment to allow for a 12-month exemption. The federal law allows for a 12-month exemption and we believe that this choice should be available for women in North Dakota. We also agree that women should be warned that this is one time exemption and when her 12 months are gone so is the exemption for additional children. Women provided with this information are capable of making an informed choice and we should respect that choice. A choice that we believe is in the best interest of children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted:
Linda Isakson, Children's Caucus

This letter from a caregiver to a new mother gives us an idea of quality care for an infant.

As we read this, one can only guess how long it took this mother to tailor just the right provider for her infant daughter.

We also wonder about the long waiting list that she must have faced to secure this quality care.

We also are concerned about the number of choices she had as she sought quality care.

We are not told if she could stay home long enough with her infant to know all the special care that her infant needs. This is such important information to share with a provider.

It would be nice to know if her employer is one that allows breaks to nurse the infant and visit during the day. If not she will not be with that little one for eight hours or more.

We can only hope that the mother has had a year to bond with this little one, or will this be one that the state will need to pick up later when problems arise from separation anxiety.

Tuesday you will listen to testimony on HB 1479. This addresses the issue of welfare to work program for new mothers. We ask you to consider the longest length possible under law for these mothers to stay home with their infants.

Thank you for your consideration,



Vivian I Schafer
Child Advocate
1020 W Highland Ac Rd
Bismarck, ND 58501
701 223 4465

Letter from Child Care Provider to Mother on Baby's First Day

Rita M. Warren

1

We are only beginning to know each other, so I want to tell you exactly how I feel on this first morning you are returning to work and leaving your infant daughter in my care. When you read this, it may help you feel better, although nothing I can say today will help very much. When you left this morning, whether you handled the parting by crying a little or smiling a lot, I know you felt torn apart. No matter how carefully planned, necessary, and realistic your decision to go back to work, leaving your baby the first day is terribly hard.

Coping would probably *seem* easier if I were to tell you that I will feed and change your baby and keep her comfortable until your return. That might ease how you feel the first time you add up the number of waking hours I will spend with your baby during the work week and compare them to the number you will have with her. That would seem to make it possible for you to keep your relationship with your baby the kind of special, exclusive relationship that babies and their mothers need. Babies, however, need that kind of relationship every minute of every day, which leads me to the special partnership that you and I have to work out.

If your daughter needs the kind of mother's love that finds her the most lovable, beautiful, entrancing baby in all the world, that delights in her every waking moment and pays attention even while she sleeps, then that is what she must get. You will need to give her this most precious gift: your permission to me to love her in your absence exactly as you would if you could be with her. The natural jealousy you feel, the deprivation, the fear that she will not know which one of us is her mother—coping with these emotions is what this gift is made of.

Rita M. Warren received her certification at Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute. She is a volunteer supervisor of court-ordered visitations at Children's Safety Centers and a parent educator in early childhood and family education at Dayton's Bluff School in St. Paul, Minnesota.

2

You will find as we go along together that this gift freely given by you will help to ease the pain of those daily separations. Because your baby is not going to lose out as she would if you were unwilling for me to give her the same loving attention you give her. Of course you will lose out, because you can't be with her; but, as everybody knows, that's the kind of noble sacrifice mothers are willing to make when their children's welfare is at stake. Because I know what you are giving up, I will do my very best to keep you informed not only about feedings and bowel movements and naps but also about smiles and tears and chortles and hugs.

I began by saying I would tell you how I feel on this first day I am to care for your child. First, I am aware of the magnitude of your gift to your child. I feel proud and privileged to be chosen to take your place. I appreciate the size and shape of my responsibilities to you and your baby, and I will never do less than my best to meet them.

This may sound like a very complicated way to talk about a baby starting day care in a family child care home or infant center. But it's really about meeting the needs of mothers and babies and ensuring the fullest possible development for both. These needs are not complicated but do require us to think and feel our way through what being separated for many hours every day means for everybody concerned. Please ask me if you have any questions or talk to me if what I have said doesn't make sense. The better we understand each other, the better we both will be able to share the care of "our baby" and help her grow up to be all she can be.

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Read a classic lately?

Caring: Supporting Children's Growth

by Rita M. Warren

Find positive ways to help children deal with the challenges of growing up, including divorce, abuse, and death.

NAEYC order #213/\$4.

ISBN: 0-912674-54-7.





Representing the Diocese of Fargo
and the Diocese of Bismarck

Christopher T. Dodson
Executive Director

To: House Human Services Committee
From: Christopher T. Dodson, Executive Director
Subject: House Bill 1479 (TANF Work Requirements for New Mothers)
Date: January 26, 1999

The North Dakota Catholic Conference supports House Bill 1479.

The first months of a child's life are crucial to his or her well-being and every child deserves to be with a parent during this time. It is, therefore, appropriate to change the conditions for temporarily excusing a parent from TANF work requirements so that the parent can care for a child under eight months of age. It affirms the importance of children and parenting.

Perhaps the most common argument heard in favor of short exemptions is that such relief from work is not available to most working parents. At first glance, this argument sounds appealing to our sense of fairness. On further examination, however, it fails on several points. First, we accomplish little by lowering societal expectations for the sake of perceived fairness. The fact that some parents do not receive comparable parental leave proves an injustice done to them, not reason to do it to others. Second, the argument fails to recognize that the poor have the single most urgent claim on our conscience and our policies. This is what is meant by the Christian tradition of giving priority concern for the poor. Third, the argument fails to recognize that since federal law limits the total number of months available for the exemption in a life-time to twelve, any parent with parental leave from an employer would have more, not less, excused time than any parent receiving TANF.

We also realize that competing interests are involved here, such as the desire to move recipients into work as soon as possible, reduce welfare assistance, and strengthen the economy. However, every part of our welfare system should strengthen families and do what is best for children. This principle should prevail over all others.

We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation.

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**Testimony on House Bill 1479
Hearing before Human Service Committee
Chairman: Clara Sue Price**

My name is **Judith A. Sand**. I work for Catholic Family Service as a Tribal Child Care Consultant. I have been in this position since 1991.

I am her today to provide you with testimony in regards to changing the North Dakota Century Code dealing with the exemption with single parents that have a child under 12 months of age who, because of their participation in the TANF program are required to participate in a work activity after their child reaches 4 months of age. **The bill is deleting 4 months and raising that to 8 months of age.**

It is important to note that under the Personal Responsibility Act that was signed by President Clinton in 1996 changed the entire operation of what used to be called AFDC. **It dropped it from an entitlement program to a work program.**

While I agree that it is very important for individuals to have skills and/ or training to be self-sufficient through employment, we must not forget the importance of parents bonding with their children at this very early age. With the new data that has become available on brain development the environmental exposure and stimulation are crucial for children under one year of age. The importance of positive, nurturing environment is vital to the appropriate development of the child socially, emotionally and cognitively.

As you may be aware there is the high percentage of participants on TANF that are living on the reservations. A large percentage are single mothers. Therefore, a bill such as this has its strongest impact on Indian children and families. In very rural areas of North Dakota and on the reservations job opportunity is at a minimum. For individuals to come into compliance means either relocating family or making long commutes. Another very difficult obstacle that rural citizens in small towns face is the limited availability of child care services. Resource and Referral Agencies have admitted that the most difficult child care service to access is that for infant care.

The rules under the Personal Responsibility Act are very stringent when it comes to the requirement of work but it does give the states authority to exempt certain individuals for a limited period of time. The maximum is a 12 month period for a life time. The states must also continue their calculations of the work participation rates. The Federal Government also limits participation in TANF for a period of no more than 60 months in a life time.



We must be continually mindful of the struggles of that of single mothers and fathers. This bill would provide a choice for families. The extension of an additional four month period may also provide a crucial time in which the mother would be afforded an opportunity to nurse her child if she were to so choose. It may also provide enough additional time so that the mother in small rural communities could access a neighbor that would be willing to care for their child. Not every community has a licensed child care giver. I draw your attention to the two reports, from the Department of Human Services and the other from Resource and Referral. At your leisure you can look at your county or district to verify how many child care opportunities there are in your area.

For example, in my county of residence which is Kidder County there are 12 facilities or homes that are either licensed or self-certified. At the present there are no child care providers in Tuttle where I reside. There is one certified at Robinson which is 20 mile round trip and four licensed facilities in Steele which is 44 miles round trip. As you can see for small town North Dakota it can create quite a problem for families seeking child care.

I would be amiss if I did not give you both sides of the coin for you as legislators to consider for discussion.

- 1) From the human, maternal stand point allowing a mother choice is crucial. Extending the 4 months to 8 months would be a positive move.
- 2) This extended period of time would be especially important if the mother had a premature baby or if the mother had a special needs child.
- 3) For those residing on the reservations, should their area have a 50% unemployment rate or higher that is either determined by BIA Labor Force or by the state the mother would be exempt from the work requirement and the state would not have to count her in the work participation rate.
- 4) Under the new Welfare Law of 1996, everyone has a life time limit of 60 months to be able to access a welfare subsidy such as TANF.
- 5) The individual still has their 60 month clock ticking which would mean that almost a year would have been consumed with the care of her children and may not leave much option in terms of getting an appropriate education or training.

*imposed
60 month*

Testimony for HR1479

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As you can see it is all very complicated and each family has their own set of circumstances that lead them to seek out assistance. We need to be very much aware that whatever is adopted that the overall picture, for the good of the family, is kept in mind.

Attachments:

You may look at all of the attachments to see your areas in regards to the availability of child care for your area.

You may refer to the attachment which is found on the back of my testimony which was provided by the Resource and Referral Office. It will provide you will numbers concerning child care and population. These figures are the most current as of September 1998. However, I have gleaned the counties that are a part of the Indian Reservations to give you some idea as to what the child population is and the availability of child care in these counties. The four columns in the middle of the R&R report are from data given by NDSU..

There are two pages taken from the Personal Responsibility Act of 1996.

Thank you for your time and for hearing my testimony today.
I would be happy to answer any questions, if I can.

Data for the reservation counties

Rolette/ 14 licensed facilities/ 1411 # of children 0-5/ 1355 # of children 5-9 / 51% working mothers with children 0-5/ 66.8% working mothers with children 6-17.

Sioux County/ 2 licensed facilities/ 458 # of children 0-5/ 991 # of children 5-9 / 60.2 % working mothers with children 0-5/ 70% working mothers with children 6-17.

Benson County/ 7 licensed facilities/ 719 # of children 0-5/ 743 # of children 5-9 / 44.7% working mothers with children 0-5/ 69.5% working women 6-17.

Mountrail County/ 17 licensed facilities/ 500 # children 0-5/ 583 # of children 5-9 / 68.4 % working mother with children 0-5/ 77.5% working mothers with children 6-17.

McLean County/ 19 Licensed facilities/ 666 # children 0-5/ 841 # of children 5-9 / 60.9 % working mothers with children 0-5/ 72.5% working mothers with children 6-17.

Mercer County / 15 licensed facilities/ 854 # of children 0-5/ 947 # of children 5-9 / 57.2% working mothers with children 0-5/ 73.2 % working women with children 6-17.

Dunn County/ 5 licensed facilities/ 313 # of children 0-5/ 317 # of children 5-9/ 68.1% working mothers with children 0-5/ 70.2% working mothers with children 6-17.

Williams County/ 53 licensed facilities/ 1543 # of children 0-5/ 1992 # of children 5-9/ 67.6 % working woman with children 0-5/ 78.3% woman working with children 6-17.

Divide County / 2 licensed facilities/ 177# of children 0-5/ 184 # of children 5-9/ 83.1 % working woman with children 0-5/ 76% working woman with children 6-17.

Mckenzie County/ 9 licensed facilities/ 586 # of children 0-5/ 595 # of children 5-9/ 61.8 % working woman with children 0-5/ 73.3 % working woman with children 6-17.

An example of my own county goes like this:

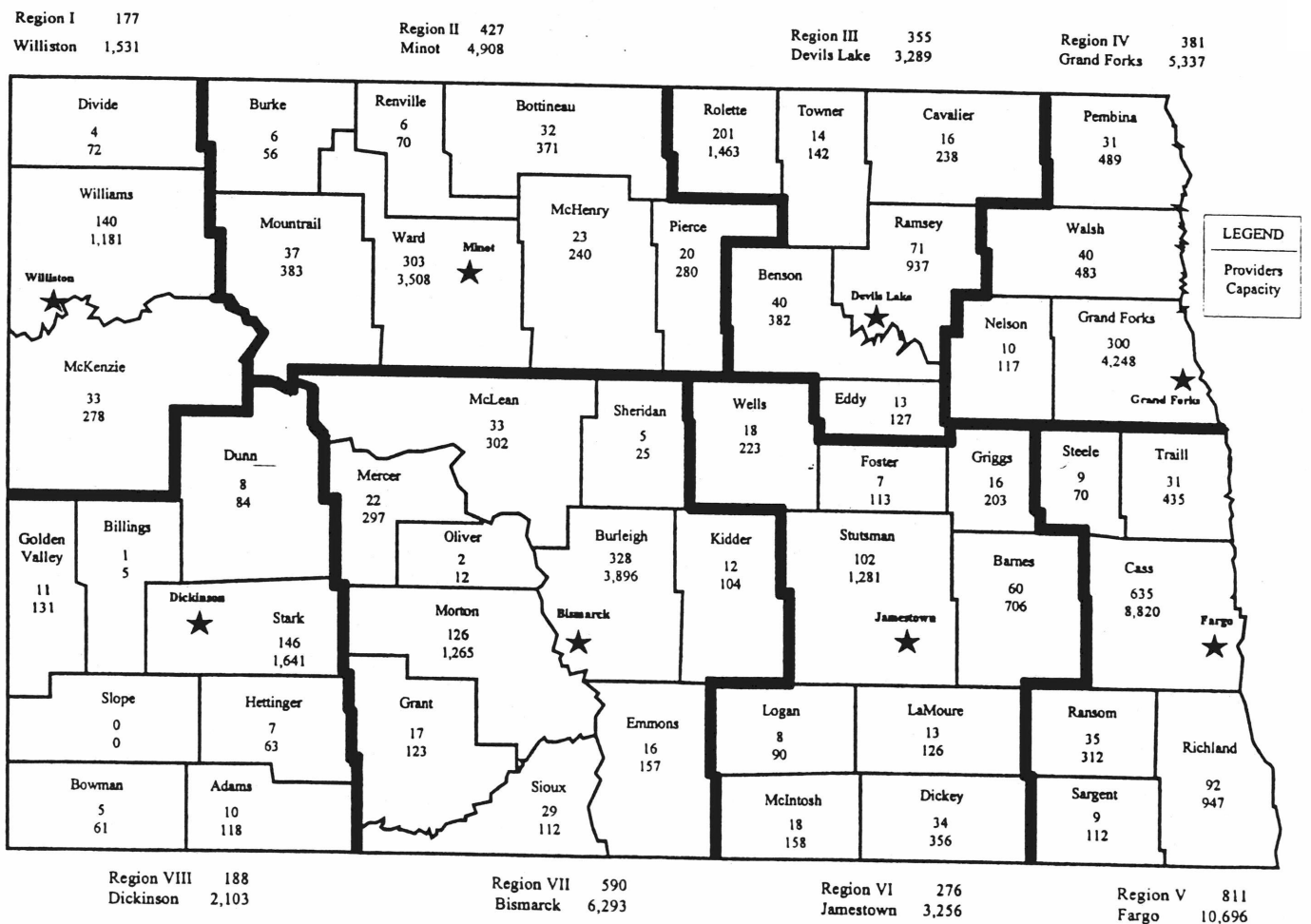
Kidder County/ 4 licensed facilities/ 202 # of children 0-5/ 251 # of children 5-9/ 62.5 % working women with children 0-5/ 83.8 % working woman with children 6-17.

Data provided by Resource and Referral along with population figures from NDSU. September 1998.

North Dakota Department of Human Services
Number and Capacity of Licensed, Self-Certified, and Registered Child Care Providers (as of December 1, 1998)
All Regions

TYPE	NUMBER	PERCENT	CAPACITY	PERCENT
CENTER (C)	106	3.3%	7,153	19.1%
PRE-SCHOOL (E)	61	1.9%	1,303	3.5%
FAMILY (F)	808	25.2%	5,540	14.8%
GROUP-HOME (G)	947	29.5%	12,940	34.6%
GROUP-FACILITY (H)	66	2.1%	1,083	2.9%
IN-HOME (I)	4	0.1%	20	0.0%
MULT. LICENSED FACILITY (M)	32	1.0%	2,549	6.8%
PUBLIC APPROVAL (P)	9	0.3%	510	1.4%
RESERVATIONS (R)	198	6.2%	1,467	3.9%
SPEC./STD. COMPLIANCE CERT. (S)	974	30.4%	4,848	13.0%
TOTAL	3,205	100.0%	37,413	100.0%

Total excludes 78 Air Force Base (A), 67 Out-of-State (O) providers, and 623 Approved Relative Providers



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County License Program
North Dakota Child Care Statistics

County	Current vacancy	capacity	Child count 0-5Yrs	Child count 5-9 yrs.	% of working women with children 0-5	% of an working wit children 6-17yrs	Ave. monthl rate 0-2	Ave. Monthl rate/ toddl	Ave. Monthl rate/ Preschool	rate/hr. school-age	Total Prog. open later than 6PM	Total prog. open Sun.	
Adams	6	9	102	202	226	79.1	78.9	\$276.47	\$264.35	\$264.35	\$1.57	1	0
Barnes	35	11	440	789	851	67.2	78.9	\$294.83	\$290.33	\$290.33	\$1.58	2	1
Benson	7	7	106	719	734	44.7	69.5	\$311.20	\$311.20	\$311.20	\$1.65	0	0
Billings	0	0	0	80	106	49.3	51.6	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0
Bottineau	26	55	343	472	565	70.2	82	\$326.14	\$322.11	\$322.11	\$1.76	7	3
Bowman	4	4	39	232	277	85	84	\$296.61	\$296.61	\$284.44	\$1.48	0	0
Burke	3	4	50	136	204	59.8	64.7	\$313.93	\$313.93	\$313.93	\$1.75	0	0
Burleigh	227	495	3242	4449	4892	76	86	\$371.04	\$363.50	\$361.04	\$1.98	30	13
Cass	416	594	6698	7481	7351	75.1	84.6	\$368.22	\$347.05	\$339.91	\$1.99	22	2
Cavalier	9	42	136	413	453	59.4	69.3	\$357.40	\$357.40	\$357.40	\$1.64	2	0
Dickey	15	4	185	337	435	60.1	83.2	\$315.87	\$300.24	\$300.24	\$1.58	1	1
Divide	2	16	36	177	184	83.1	76	\$308.51	\$308.51	\$308.51	\$1.57	0	0
Dunn	5	5	57	313	375	68.1	70.2	\$296.17	\$296.17	\$296.17	\$1.71	1	0
Eddy	8	0	103	162	206	75.5	78.5	\$311.76	\$307.60	\$307.60	\$1.58	2	0
Emmons	10	12	121	302	333	67.3	69.8	\$284.44	\$284.44	\$284.44	\$1.53	4	0
Foster	6	20	90	278	320	74.1	77.9	\$345.58	\$345.58	\$345.58	\$1.84	0	0
Golden Valley	9	14	120	139	179	69.6	80	\$318.60	\$318.60	\$318.60	\$1.79	0	1
Grand Forks	195	270	3747	5824	5269	67.5	79.2	\$368.53	\$351.94	\$346.44	\$1.81	31	6
Grant	5	6	57	213	268	75.7	73.8	\$267.46	\$267.46	\$267.46	\$1.42	0	1
Griggs	11	28	148	195	245	75	81.5	\$313.10	\$313.10	\$313.10	\$1.71	4	1
Hettinger	6	7	71	226	253	72.5	75.3	\$296.39	\$296.39	\$296.39	\$1.53	1	0
Kidder	4	5	66	202	251	62.5	83.8	\$345.84	\$345.84	\$345.84	\$1.85	0	0
LaMoure	10	2	117	327	401	56.4	74.9	\$266.55	\$266.55	\$266.55	\$1.46	3	2
Logan	7	1	73	168	180	65.5	73	\$280.11	\$280.11	\$280.11	\$1.50	3	0
McHenry	13	29	199	382	496	59.5	72.9	\$309.34	\$295.96	\$295.96	\$1.54	6	3
McIntosh	10	6	80	210	290	81.3	91.6	\$317.30	\$317.30	\$317.30	\$1.75	0	0
McKenzie	9	13	105	586	595	61.8	73.3	\$343.76	\$339.95	\$339.95	\$1.74	1	1
McLean	19	28	203	666	841	60.9	72.5	\$327.04	\$327.04	\$327.04	\$1.96	1	3
Mercer	15	40	275	854	947	57.2	73.2	\$371.64	\$360.39	\$360.39	\$1.92	1	0
Morton	80	168	1024	1666	2062	71.2	85	\$343.11	\$332.15	\$329.56	\$1.82	15	7
Mountrail	17	4	227	500	583	68.4	77.5	\$321.68	\$316.48	\$342.46	\$1.67	2	1
Nelson	11	6	149	229	291	79.1	75.1	\$348.57	\$342.98	\$342.98	\$1.81	2	1
Oliver	1	0	7	175	231	62.7	68.5	\$340.99	\$340.99	\$340.99	\$1.75	0	0

* Data compiled from the NDCCRR Network

^ Data from the State Data Center at NDSU

Statistics compiled by the North Dakota Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

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01/22/1999

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North Dakota Child Care Statistics

County	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children	Children
Pembina	26	44	455	823	738	68.3	74.9	\$340.16	\$331.63	\$338.48	\$1.70	6	2
Pierce	11	23	182	278	362	88.8	78.9	\$350.57	\$353.15	\$363.15	\$1.82	2	1
Ransom	56	75	734	866	985	73.8	85.9	\$345.01	\$338.13	\$337.65	\$2.19	11	4
Ransom	18	20	170	355	443	73	71.6	\$321.50	\$311.76	\$311.76	\$1.58	1	0
Renville	1	3	18	177	266	61	77.8	\$321.50	\$321.50	\$321.50	\$1.65	0	0
Richland	59	42	701	1279	1418	65.1	77.9	\$344.36	\$335.32	\$332.63	\$1.73	7	1
Rolette	14	23	204	1411	1355	51	66.8	\$321.24	\$322.71	\$320.29	\$1.74	0	0
Sargent	7	0	84	285	323	70.2	83.1	\$369.48	\$369.48	\$369.48	\$1.52	0	0
Sheridan	0	0	0	130	147	36.6	63.1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0
Sioux	2	0	32	458	491	60.2	70.8	\$330.16	\$330.16	\$330.16	\$1.75	1	1
Slope	0	0	0	53	77	65.5	54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0
Stark	114	245	1369	1742	2029	66.5	75.2	\$314.31	\$305.05	\$302.36	\$1.78	14	7
Steele	1	0	7	157	166	67.9	76.6	\$340.99	\$340.99	\$340.99	\$1.75	0	0
Stutsman	80	84	1033	1452	1642	73.3	86.4	\$337.09	\$329.90	\$329.69	\$1.80	10	4
Towner	3	31	4	256	270	65.2	80.7	\$298.77	\$298.77	\$298.77	\$1.62	1	0
Trall	23	26	361	536	647	72.4	75.5	\$395.42	\$364.50	\$364.50	\$1.80	0	0
Walsh	21	48	339	975	1102	75.6	79.6	\$347.44	\$335.83	\$331.89	\$1.82	1	0
Ward	172	436	2697	4872	4494	64.9	75.6	\$331.33	\$324.27	\$321.11	\$1.82	21	2
Wells	12	11	180	346	407	70.2	75.8	\$298.16	\$283.14	\$283.14	\$1.55	2	0
Williams	53	196	713	1543	1992	67.6	78.3	\$328.58	\$315.14	\$313.06	\$1.70	15	9
TOTAL	1872	3212	27699	46895	50236	69.1	79.4					246	78

Capacity may be overstated because many providers do not choose to fill their program to capacity, but to maintain a smaller group of children.

While current vacancies may appear sufficient to meet the needs, the vacancy does not always meet the schedule, location and age group required by a family. A vacancy rate of 10% of capacity rate allows families minimal choices in choosing child care.

* Data compiled from the NDCCRR Network

^ Data from the State Data Center at NDSU

- Subsidized public sector employment.
- Work experience (including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing) if sufficient private sector employment is not available.
- On-the-job training.
- Job search and job readiness assistance.
- Community service programs.
- Vocational educational training (not to exceed 12 months with respect to any individual).
- Job skills training directly related to employment.
- Education directly related to employment, in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency.
- Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate.
- The provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.

C. Mandatory Work Participation Rates

The law imposes mandatory work participation rates on the states. For all families, the minimum work participation rates are:

Fiscal Year	Minimum Participation Rate
1997.....	25%
1998.....	30
1999.....	35
2000.....	40
2001.....	45
2002.....	50

For 2-parent families, the minimum participation rates are higher:

Fiscal Year	Minimum Participation Rate
1997.....	75%
1998.....	75
1999 and after.....	90

The law provides each state with the option of counting Indians who are being served under a tribal family assistance plan in its calculations of the minimum participation rates. This also means that a state may decide not to include Indian people who are being served in a tribal TANF program in the state's calculation of minimum participation rates. Assuming that it will be difficult to provide employment training and find jobs for Indian people on many Indian reservations, most states will opt not to count Indian people being

served by tribal TANF programs. (Tribes may have different work participation rates, to be determined by the Secretary of HHS, in cooperation with tribes.)

In general, states may not provide Federally-funded TANF benefits to any family for more than 5 years. States may establish certain hardship exceptions to the rule, but not more than 20 percent of the state's caseload may be included in the hardship exemption.

The law provides a narrow exception to the 5-year limitation for Indian reservation residents:

Disregard of Months of Assistance Received by an Adult While Living on an Indian Reservation or in an Alaskan Native Village with 50 Percent Unemployment.--In determining the number of months for which an adult has received assistance under the State program funded under this part, the State shall disregard any month during which the adult lived on an Indian reservation or in an Alaskan Native village if, during the month--(i) at least 1,000 individuals were living on the reservation or in the village; and (ii) at least 50 percent of the adults living on the reservation or in the village were unemployed.

In practice, this exception will not apply to most tribes. A large number of tribes have resident populations less than 1,000. Also, the major source of data, the BIA "Local Estimates of Resident Indian Population and Labor Force Status Report," is published every two years, and the data is not collected on a monthly basis. The requirement to live on a reservation would exclude Indian families for many tribes in Oklahoma. Also, it is not clear whether a tribe would be able to apply this exclusion to its own population, assuming that the tribe met the criteria described above.

D. Funding to the States

The Federal funding for the TANF block grants would be \$16.4 billion per year from FY 1996 to FY 2001. The formula for funding to each state would be based upon its Federal funding for AFDC in either FY 1995 or FY 1994, or on the average annual funding during Fiscal Years 1992-94, whichever is higher.

The law establishes several other sources of funding to states for TANF programs:

- A special fund for states with growing populations and low welfare payment levels. The fund would be \$800 million, starting in FY 1998.
- Federal matching funds for states with high unemployment rates or rapidly increasing food stamps caseloads. \$2 billion for the five-year period FY 1997-2001.
- An incentive fund to reward states that are most successful in moving TANF recipients into the workforce. \$1 billion for the five-year period.

The law also establishes a loan program for states. The loan may be used to fund TANF program activities. The law also authorizes the following uses of loan funds:

“(b) CALCULATION OF PARTICIPATION RATES.—

“(1) ALL FAMILIES.—

“(A) AVERAGE MONTHLY RATE.—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), the participation rate for all families of a State for a fiscal year is the average of the participation rates for all families of the State for each month in the fiscal year.

“(B) MONTHLY PARTICIPATION RATES.—The participation rate of a State for all families of the State for a month, expressed as a percentage, is—

“(i) the number of families receiving assistance under the State program funded under this part that include an adult or a minor child head of household who is engaged in work for the month; divided by

“(ii) the amount by which—

“(I) the number of families receiving such assistance during the month that include an adult or a minor child head of household receiving such assistance; exceeds

“(II) the number of families receiving such assistance that are subject in such month to a penalty described in subsection (e)(1) but have not been subject to such penalty for more than 3 months within the preceding 12-month period (whether or not consecutive).

“(2) 2-PARENT FAMILIES.—

“(A) AVERAGE MONTHLY RATE.—For purposes of subsection (a)(2), the participation rate for 2-parent families of a State for a fiscal year is the average of the participation rates for 2-parent families of the State for each month in the fiscal year.

“(B) MONTHLY PARTICIPATION RATES.—The participation rate of a State for 2-parent families of the State for a month shall be calculated by use of the formula set forth in paragraph (1)(B), except that in the formula the term ‘number of 2-parent families’ shall be substituted for the term ‘number of families’ each place such latter term appears.

“(3) PRO RATA REDUCTION OF PARTICIPATION RATE DUE TO CASELOAD REDUCTIONS NOT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW.—

Regulations.

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for reducing the minimum participation rate otherwise required by this section for a fiscal year by the number of percentage points equal to the number of percentage points (if any) by which—

“(i) the average monthly number of families receiving assistance during the immediately preceding fiscal year under the State program funded under this part is less than

“(ii) the average monthly number of families that received aid under the State plan approved under part A (as in effect on September 30, 1995) during fiscal year 1995.

The minimum participation rate shall not be reduced to the extent that the Secretary determines that the reduction in the number of families receiving such assistance is required by Federal law.

“(B) ELIGIBILITY CHANGES NOT COUNTED.—The regulations required by subparagraph (A) shall not take into account families that are diverted from a State program funded under this part as a result of differences in eligibility criteria under a State program funded under this part and eligibility criteria under the State program operated under the State plan approved under part A (as such plan and such part were in effect on September 30, 1995). Such regulations shall place the burden on the Secretary to prove that such families were diverted as a direct result of differences in such eligibility criteria.

“(4) STATE OPTION TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE UNDER A TRIBAL FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLAN.—For purposes of paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B), a State may, at its option, include families in the State that are receiving assistance under a tribal family assistance plan approved under section 412.

“(5) STATE OPTION FOR PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT EXEMPTIONS.—For any fiscal year, a State may, at its option, not require an individual who is a single custodial parent caring for a child who has not attained 12 months of age to engage in work, and may disregard such an individual in determining the participation rates under subsection (a) for not more than 12 months.

“(c) ENGAGED IN WORK.—

“(1) GENERAL RULES.—

“(A) ALL FAMILIES.—For purposes of subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), a recipient is engaged in work for a month in a fiscal year if the recipient is participating in work activities for at least the minimum average number of hours per week specified in the following table during the month, not fewer than 20 hours per week of which are attributable to an activity described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), or (12) of subsection (d), subject to this subsection:

“If the month is in fiscal year:	The minimum average number of hours per week is:
1997	20
1998	20
1999	25
2000 or thereafter	30.

“(B) 2-PARENT FAMILIES.—For purposes of subsection (b)(2)(B), an individual is engaged in work for a month in a fiscal year if—

“(i) the individual is making progress in work activities for at least 35 hours per week during the month, not fewer than 30 hours per week of which are attributable to an activity described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), or (12) of subsection (d), subject to this subsection; and

“(ii) if the family of the individual receives federally-funded child care assistance and an adult in the family is not disabled or caring for a severely disabled child, the individual’s spouse is making progress in work activities during the month, not fewer than 20 hours per week of which are attributable to an activity