

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** May 13, 2002

**THROUGH:** LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE (May 7, 2002)

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** SUPPORT SENATE BILL 940/HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
BILL 1990 (DODD/MILLER) *THE ACT TO LEAVE NO CHILD  
BEHIND*

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that City Council:

1. Support Senate Bill 940/House of Representatives Bill 1990 (Dodd/Miller)  
*The Act to Leave No Child Behind*
2. Authorize the Mayor to send letters to the appropriate authorities stating Pasadena's position.
3. Join the cities of Clifton (New Jersey), Deltona (Florida), Elkhart (Indiana), Gilbert (Arizona), Richmond (California), South Gate (California) and Warwick (Rhode Island) in proclaiming the City of Pasadena as an official "Leave No Child Behind" city.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Act to Leave No Child Behind is a comprehensive measure to address the total well being of all children. By consolidating the various aspects of a child's well being, the bills seek to ensure that children will be served efficiently and effectively. The act is composed of 12 sections, each addressing a key area for the healthy development of a child. The twelve sections are:

1. Healthy Start: Children's Health Insurance
2. Parenting: Support Children's Healthy Development
3. Every Child Needs a Head Start
4. Tax Relief for Low-Wage Working Families
5. Every Child Needs A Fair Start: Community Resources
6. Children's Nutrition: Getting Enough to Eat
7. Having a Safe, Affordable Place to Live

8. Every Child Needs a Safe Start
9. Successful Transitions to Adulthood: Youth Development
10. Every Child Needs a Safe Start: Juvenile Justice
11. Every Child Needs a Safe Start: Gun Safety
12. Every Child Needs the Support of the Entire Community

Due to its comprehensive nature, the Leave No Child Behind Act will serve as an umbrella encompassing several smaller initiatives. It is projected that over the next few years, the Act will move through the Federal Legislature in the form of various bills addressing the different sections of the Act. Some of the smaller bills that are currently being discussed are:

- The TANF Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3113) which amends and reauthorizes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The aim of the bill is to change and improve TANF, specifically the punitive and time limited elements. These proposed changes will enable mothers to parent in dignity and allow children to grow up with economic security. Some of the changes includes expanding the definition of "work activity" to include education, treatment, care giving for children under age 6 and treatment, stopping the 5 year clock from running if the recipient is engaged in an allowable work activity, make paternity establishment and child support enforcement voluntary instead of mandatory and prohibit states from establishing "family caps" that withhold benefits from a child born to a mother on welfare.
  - The Child Development and Family Employment Act of 2002 (H.R. 3524) which reforms the 10-year-old federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) by authorizing an \$18.5 billion increase in mandatory funding for CCDBG over five years as well as a \$20 billion increase in discretionary funds. The aim of the bill is to strengthen childcare, make child care more accessible to families and increase the information available regarding childcare. Specifically the bill assists States in targeting more money to improve the quality of child care, helps States increase the reimbursement rate for child care services, requires child care providers to have some level of training before working with children and provides States with monies to attract and retain staff. One of the main components of the legislation is an increase in Federal aid for child care with a goal of increasing the percentage of eligible families served from only 12 percent currently, to over 30 percent within five years. Since funding through this bill will be block granted to each State, each State will be responsible for developing a plan specific to its own circumstances.
  - The Next Step in Reforming Welfare Act (H.R. 3625) which reauthorizes and improves the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and enhances several related programs. The aim of the bill is to assist families in escaping poverty and moving up the economic ladder since families are not leaving poverty when they leave welfare for work. The bill has 8 key points which include maintaining the monies for the TANF program, adding an additional \$11.25 billion to the Child Care and Development Block Grant, eliminating the current cap on the number of TANF recipients who can be enrolled in vocational education and revising the harsh immigrant provisions in the 1996 law by restoring TANF and SSI eligibility to non-citizens who are legal residents.
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- The Family Opportunity Act of 2001 (S. 321) which allows the States to offer Medicaid coverage to children with severe disabilities living in middle income families through a buy-in program. The aim of the bill is to end the financial hardships that families often face in attempting to access quality treatment for their children with severe mental illness. The bill also establishes "Family to Family Health Information Centers" to provide support and assistance to families of children with disabilities and/or special health care needs.
- State Farm Bill (S. 1731) which includes \$6.2 billion in additional funding for Food Stamps over 10 years, allowing more low-income families with children to get benefits, and restoring eligibility to legal immigrant children and to immigrants who have worked at least 4 years in the US. Currently the House of Representatives and Senate are in conference to resolve differences between each House's versions of the bill.

This Act is important to Pasadena because it addresses the city's desire to meet the needs of the children who reside in Pasadena. It is estimated that 64% of Pasadena Unified School District children are living in poverty. Furthermore, approximately 55% of Pasadena's children under that age of 18 live in the eight census tracts that have the lowest incomes, highest density, and greatest number of single-parent families. In addition, 19.5% of households must survive on less than \$15,000 income per year (Quality of Life In Pasadena Report, 1998).

In regards to childcare, there is a high need for all families to access safe, affordable and high quality childcare. In Pasadena there are 137 licensed childcare providers working in 73 licensed childcare centers and 236 unlicensed childcare providers such as persons watching the children from one family (CCIS, 2002). One of the main concerns is that low and middle-income families spend a disproportionate amount of their incomes on childcare. The average cost of childcare for *one* child per year is \$7,500 (under 2 years old), \$6,600 (2-4 years old) and \$4,800 (6-12 years old). (CCIS, 2001). Currently there are 1,558 Pasadena families (2,771 children) being served on subsidized programs with 254 Pasadena Families (384 children) on the eligibility waiting list. (CCIS, 2002). In addition to the lack of affordable childcare, there is also a lack of childcare for infants and children with special needs.

The Leave No Child Behind Act will assist Pasadena's children to have a well-rounded development. The Act addresses the many needs of children from health care to safety to family support. Please refer to Attachment A for more specific information regarding Pasadena's children and to Attachment B for information regarding America's children. The information clearly demonstrates the critical importance of this Act. Further materials in the form of a booklet have also been provided as well.

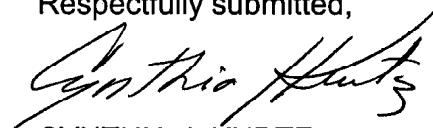
As of April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002, the Leave No Child Behind Act had 83 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 12 co-sponsors in the Senate. In addition, 1,109 organizations, 313 state legislators, and 79 mayors have extended their support for the movement. (Children's Defense Fund Campaign, 2002). Neither the California League of Cities nor National League of Cities have taken an official position on the Act.

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

Currently, there are no direct fiscal impacts to the City of Pasadena. However, nationally it is anticipated that the Leave No Child Behind Act will cost approximately \$377 billion over the next 5 years or about \$75 billion a year. Options to fund the act include re-allocation of funds or further taxation.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments A and B

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