

Promoting Responsible Fatherhood



International Father's Rights Foundation



Cultural Issue and Policy

Many in the fatherhood movements view the cultural issue. As such the impact of government policy will be limited at best. Now don't get me wrong this does not mean the government doesn't have a role to play. Law and policy structures both reflect and shape cultural values. In addition to shaping behavior through creating rules and incentives, laws and policies also transmit cultural messages about the institutions they are set up

to regulate. Also government policy can address economic and structural factors that threaten family stability, especially in poor and disadvantaged communities.

Government can help provide social support and an economic structure that is conducive to two parent homes (families.) One issue that has consistently received strong support over the past few years is the importance of promoting

responsible fatherhood. However, despite consensus on the importance of promoting responsible fatherhood for a child's well being, debate remains over the best way to actually increase the number of fathers positively involved in their children's lives. Since promoting father involvement is still a relatively recent goal, policy makers really do not know what if anything will succeed in reducing high levels of a father's absences.

Point of Agreement

There is one overarching point of agreement among those concerned about the effects of father's absence with their children. Our nation cannot afford to idly stand by and do nothing in the spirit of unanimous consensus that we try to do something to stem the tide of father absences.

The liberty interest at issue, for all parents in the care, support and custody implementation for their children, is perhaps the oldest of fundamental liberties. The recognition of the due

process clause of the fourteenth amendment protects the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning control of their children.

Here are some policies that can be implemented at modest to no cost that will reap dividends for our children and their future.

1. Mandatory classes for high school boys in parenting skills and their responsibilities as a father.
2. Job Training for young

fathers that want to pay support but are unable due to lack of training.

3. An amnesty program which allows parents to come forward and set up a plan for their financial support and re-enter their children's lives and stop being an enforcement headache. The states role will be reduce the long-term caseloads and the dollars used for enforcement of orders.

4. Authorize full or partial

personal exemptions for supported children on federal takes, you pay your support you can deduct.

5. Allow tax deductions for travel expenses to visit children over 500 miles distance. This should be for both parents, depending on who pays and not who travels. All parents need to be current with support payments; we should all value our time with our children.