



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-221498

March 27, 1986

Ms. Meredith Anne McElroy, Counsel
Governor's Commission on Child Support
Louisiana House of Representatives
Legislative Services
P.O. Box 44486
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804


Dear Ms. McElroy:

Thank you for your recent letter, enclosing a resolution passed by the Subcommittee on Cost Effectiveness/Monitoring of Child Support Enforcement, Louisiana Governor's Commission on Child Support. Your letter, and the enclosed resolution, express concern about reductions in the Federal Child Support Enforcement Program necessitated by Public Law 99-177, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Public Law 99-177 included a specific provision detailing the manner in which reductions under the Act are required to be made in the Federal Child Support Enforcement Program. See section 256(e) of the Act. Neither this Office, in specifying the reductions required by section 256(e), nor the President, in carrying out those reductions, has the discretion to depart from the statutory requirements because of budgetary constraints that required reductions would impose. While we recognize that there may be a number of cases in which reductions in individual programs will lead to hardships, the determination that such hardships justify amendment of the statute is a matter within the judgment of the Congress.

We appreciate having your views on the matter.

Sincerely yours,


James F. Hinchman
Deputy General Counsel