

SENATE No. 92

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia Stone Creem

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to further family-centered child support.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>3/24/2021</i>

SENATE No. 92

By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 92) of Cynthia Stone Creem and Susan L. Moran for legislation to further family-centered child support. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to further family-centered child support.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 18 of the general laws is hereby amended by striking section 18A
2 and inserting in place thereof the following new section:--

3 Section 18A. (a)(1). The department shall impose the sanction required by federal law on
4 any recipient of public assistance funded under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act who,
5 without good cause, does not cooperate with the IV-D agency specified in chapter 119A to
6 establish paternity or to establish, modify, or enforce a child support order on behalf of a child
7 for whom the recipient receives such public assistance.

8 (2) The department shall determine that a recipient has good cause for not cooperating
9 with the IV-D agency for purposes of this section if:

10 (A) The child was conceived as a result of incest or rape;

11 (B) Proceedings for the adoption of the child are pending or under consideration;

12 (C) Cooperation risks discouraging the noncustodial parent or other relatives of the child
13 from maintaining a relationship with the child or providing emotional or other support;

14 (D) Cooperation risks physical or emotional harm to the child or the relative with whom
15 the child resides; or

16 (E) Cooperation is otherwise not in the child's best interest.

17 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 118 of the general laws is hereby amended by inserting
18 at the end of the first paragraph the following:- Child support collected on behalf of a recipient of
19 benefits under this chapter shall be paid to the family. In determining the family's countable
20 income, the department shall disregard the first \$500 per month in child support paid to the
21 family.

22 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 119A of the general laws is hereby amended by adding
23 at the end of subsection (a) the following:- The IV-D agency shall provide paternity only
24 services in an intrastate case upon the request of an individual who is not required to cooperate
25 with the IV-D agency to establish paternity or to establish, modify, or enforce a child support
26 order.