

**Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Public Safety**

Co-Chairs Senator Winters and Representative Williamson:

My name is Keary DeBeck. I am a Systems Analyst for the Child Support System in the Division of Child Support (DCS), Department of Justice (DOJ). I also serve as the President of the SEIU Local of the Department of Justice.

I am providing this testimony in support of the Child Support System Modernization Project. I have been a Systems Analyst with the Child Support System for over 15 years. I worked on the system during systems certification under the Family Support Act (FSA) and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA). I act as the Technical Liaison for DCS with the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE). My experience has made me keenly aware of the existing system's capabilities and limitations. Our system has reached, and in many areas exceeded, its life cycle.

From a strictly systems perspective, it is extremely difficult to maintain and very labor intensive to modify. Its limitations preclude us from taking advantage of existing and emerging technologies. On the business side, child support staff are engaged in a great deal of manual processes which could be automated given current technology. This staff time would be better spent establishing and enforcing child support orders. Every task the system can perform for the case manager frees them to apply their expertise to improving the bottom line, collection of child support.

OCSE provides states with clear guidance for development of a Child Support Enforcement Automated System. They also require oversight to ensure the state is developing the correct system and doing it correctly. Modernization of Child Support Systems in other states has been successful under OCSE's process.

I strongly urge approval of funding for the Child Support System Modernization Project.