

SJR

21

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Interim:
600 East Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 376-3370
(907) 376-3157 Fax

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
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SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SJR 21

Urging the United States Congress to Extend the Authorization Date for Supplemental Block Grants to the State of Alaska under the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states. Alaska's TANF program, Alaska Temporary Assistance, was awarded a "high population" supplemental grant because the state's population grew by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994.

These supplemental grants included in the 1996 law were authorized only through fiscal year 2001, while PRWORA was authorized through fiscal year 2002. This means that beginning October 1, 2001, the state of Alaska will face a reduction of \$6.9 million in TANF funding, or 13% of its block grant.

The term "supplemental grant" is misleading in that these grants were never intended to be merely add-ons. They were designed by the architects of welfare reform as an integral part of the formula used to determine each state's block grant allocation. Alaska is currently using these funds for employment-related and supportive services that are helping to move people off welfare and into self-sufficiency. TANF funds also support a variety of essential services to non-welfare recipients including childcare, child protection and the Head Start program. The elimination of the supplemental grant will force the Department of Health and Social Services to scale back on these efforts compromising the ongoing success of welfare reform.

Many policymakers in Washington D.C. are aware of this issue and the American Public Human Services Association, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and the National Governor's Association support the continuation of the supplemental grants.

SJR 21 is addressed to Alaska's congressional delegation and all other members of Congress. Action to extend the supplemental grants will need to be taken by Congress this year before the new federal fiscal year begins in October.

SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR
SENATOR JERRY WARD, SENATOR GARY WILKEN, SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Health & Social Services	DIVISION Public Assistance	BILL NUMBER SJR 21	SPONSOR Senate (HES)
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Urging Congress to reauthorize TANF block grant			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Angela Salerno <i>AS</i>	DATE 3/20/01	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE	DATE

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL DHHS/DPH, DFYS; DEED; DPS-Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Recipients of ATAP Non-ATAP recipients who receive a variety of social services funded by TANF
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Advocates and providers of service to ATAP recipients	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL None known

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states. Alaska's TANF program, Alaska Temporary Assistance, was awarded a "high population" supplemental grant because the state's population grew by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994. These supplemental grants were authorized only through fiscal year 2001, while PRWORA was authorized through fiscal year 2002. This means that beginning October 1, 2001, the state of Alaska will face a reduction of \$6.9 million in TANF funding, or 13% of its block grant.

Alaska is currently using these funds for employment-related and supportive services that are helping to move people off welfare and into self-sufficiency. TANF funds also support a variety of essential services to non-welfare recipients including childcare, child protection and the Head Start program. The elimination of the supplemental grant will force the Department of Health and Social Services to scale back on these efforts compromising the ongoing success of welfare reform.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

This legislation urges the United States Congress to extend the authorization date for supplemental block grants to the State of Alaska under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program through FY 2002.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED



FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SJR 21
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: Urging Congress to reauthorize TANF block grant BRU: Public Assistance
 Component: ATAP
 Sponsor: Senate (HES)
 Requester: _____ Component Number: 220

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The federal TANF grant funds cash benefits as well as a variety of services to recipients of the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program including case management, job readiness training, supportive services, short-term job training and pregnancy prevention education. Alaska's high population supplemental TANF grant in the amount of \$6,887,000 has become an integral part of the state's block grant and its loss will negatively impact the state's efforts to move recipients from welfare to work. The expiration of the supplemental grant will also result in loss of TANF funding for essential services to non-ATAP families including Head Start, Healthy Families and child protection.

Prepared by: Jim Nordlund, Director Phone _____
 Division: Public Assistance Date/Time _____
 Approved by: Karen Perdue, Commissioner Date 3/23/01 3:50 PM
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

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SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

To: Senate HESS Members
From: Aurora Hauke, Committee Aide
Date: March 28, 2001
Subject: SJR 21 EXTEND FEDERAL TANF GRANTS

Please find attached additional back-up information for SJR 21 EXTEND FEDERAL TANF GRANTS.

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
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ORIGINAL
COPIES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to call your attention to a program, which has been critical to the success of welfare reform in our states. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 welfare law included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states, such as Texas and Florida. These grants were intended to reduce the very large disparity between poorer and wealthier states in TANF funding that resulted from the basic TANF funding formula. These grants have afforded states, like ours, a more adequate opportunity to achieve TANF goals.

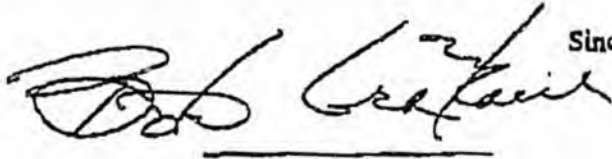
While TANF is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2002, the supplemental grants included in the 1996 law were authorized only through October, 2001. This means that under current law, the 17 states currently eligible for these grants will face a reduction in their TANF funding of as much as 10 percent of their block grant starting on October 1 of this year. The other, wealthier, lower growth states will experience no reduction.

These grants are not supplemental in the sense of being add-ons; they were designed as an integral part of the TANF allocation formula and are critical to the success of our states, and many others', TANF programs. These grants have allowed states to expand their welfare and related programs - such as child care and job training initiatives- to include a broader range of services that enable all welfare recipients to become self sufficient. Without the TANF supplemental grants these programs could not have been made available to individuals moving from welfare to work.

For these reasons, we are requesting that a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants be included in your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002. This step will help to ensure that high growth states can continue their welfare reform efforts and will enable the supplemental grants to be considered as part of the overall TANF reauthorization next year.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the accomplishments that states have made in helping people move from public assistance to independence can continue *throughout* the nation.

Sincerely,



President Bush
Page two

John Ensign

Paul Lamm

Pat Brown

Jeff Sessions

Sperry Reid

John Breau

Blake R. Lewis

John King

Frank W. Tompkins

John King

Jesse Helms

John King

**NATIONAL
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION**



12026245413

Harris N. Glendening
Governor of Maryland
Chairman

John Engler
Governor of Michigan
Vice Chairman

T-093 P.02/02 F-686

Raymond L. Scheppach
Executive Director

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
Telephone (202) 624-5300
<http://www.nga.org>

February 13, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

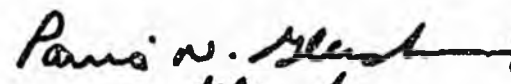
As you know, the historic welfare reform agreement of 1996 will need to be reauthorized during the 107th Congress and the nation's Governors look forward to working with you toward that end. As you prepare to submit your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002, we want to bring to your attention a key provision of the welfare reform agreement that must be addressed this year. Without an extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) supplemental grants, 17 states will face a reduction in TANF funding in fiscal year 2002.

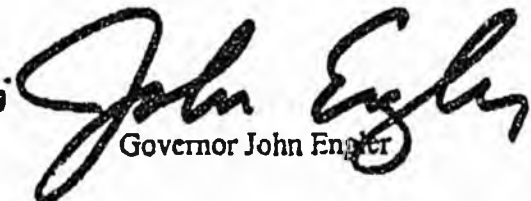
The TANF supplemental grants were designed to address the needs of states with especially high population growth or historically low welfare benefits. These grants represent a significant portion of the overall level of TANF funding for the 17 states receiving supplemental grants. Cuts of this magnitude would have a significant effect on continued state implementation of welfare reform. The TANF supplemental grants are not provided to states in the form of a bonus, but rather are calculated as an integral part of the states' allocation.

We recognize that this will be one of many TANF funding issues that will be debated within the context of welfare reform reauthorization next year. But in the interim, the nation's Governors are concerned that allowing the supplemental grants to expire while reauthorization is being discussed puts a number of states at a serious disadvantage. On many occasions since the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform package, Governors have voiced strong opposition to actions that would alter the nature of the original agreement. The expiration of the TANF supplemental grants without the benefit of full debate during the reauthorization process would be a violation of the historic agreement.

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we urge you to extend the TANF supplemental grants through fiscal year 2002.

Sincerely,


Governor Harris N. Glendening


Governor John Engler

C: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson



February 26, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
 President of the United States
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

As you decide on the priorities of your Administration for the next four years, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges you to give careful consideration to a number of issues within the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture that are extremely important to state legislators. As a bipartisan organization whose members are keenly aware of how federal decisions impact the lives of America's families, we are ready to work with you on the issues raised below.

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant

The bold reform of welfare in 1996 has been very successful. Welfare caseloads have declined by more than 50% since the implementation of PRWORA (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act). More recipients are in the labor force. This success is the result of a federal and state partnership. Making use of the flexibility given us in the 1999 TANF regulations, states have implemented creative strategies to assist both TANF recipients and the working poor. We hope that you will firmly support full funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

* { The TANF supplemental grants were designed to ensure that certain states with rapidly growing populations had adequate resources to carry out the goals of the TANF program. TANF supplemental allocations should be made for the next fiscal year to ensure that states can continue the progress of welfare reform and to allow time to deal with this issue during welfare reform reauthorization.

As the 2002 reauthorization approaches, state legislators will have TANF funding and flexibility to administer the TANF program as their highest priorities. A key feature of the law was the devolution to the states of decision-making authority. NCSL requests that members of your domestic policy staff and HHS officials meet with a small group of legislators early in the reauthorization process. This would be an ideal opportunity to discuss state issues and concerns before you finalize your reauthorization proposal.

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG, Title XX of the Social Security Act)

SSBG funds are a vital part of the delivery of community and home-based services to the most vulnerable segments of society including the disabled, elderly, and children in need of protective services. NCSL urges you to fund the SSBG at the \$2.38 billion level as agreed to as part of the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform act. In addition, it is critical that the amount states can transfer from their TANF grants to the SSBG remains at 10% and is not reduced.

Restoration of Benefits for Legal Immigrants

NCSL urges you to restore food and health benefits for legal immigrants and end a cost-shift to the states. The 1996 welfare reform law denied food stamps to all legal immigrants and their children and denied Medicaid to certain legal immigrants and their children. While NCSL supported the 1996 welfare

reform law, NCSL opposed these particular provisions. NCSL believes that in so doing, the federal government abdicated its responsibility to fund the consequences of its decisions regarding immigration. To their credit, states rose to the challenge. Many states, for example, created their own food assistance programs or increased state funding to food banks. The 1996 immigration provisions had nothing to do with the fundamental goals of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program— to promote self-sufficiency and family stability through a work-first, time-limited program. Efforts to restore food stamp benefits and ensure an option for states to provide Medicaid and SCHIP have bipartisan support. NCSL asks you to consider including funding for the restoration of benefits in your budget as way of helping hard-working new Americans and restoring equilibrium to the state/federal partnership.

Food Stamps

The food stamp program is in need of reform. NCSL is concerned that many working families whose income makes them eligible for food stamps are not receiving them. From 1994 to 1998, the participation rate fell from 71% of 59% of eligible individuals. Federal law is often a barrier to state innovation. Many times federal food stamp provisions are in conflict with state welfare reform efforts. While numerous factors influence the participation rate, NCSL believes that state outreach is hampered by fear of quality control errors. We urge you to consider changes in this program and to include NCSL in the discussion.

Waivers

As a general principle, NCSL encourages you to support waiver programs at U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture that allow states to implement innovative approaches to the delivery of human services programs. Waivers allow states to address the unique needs of their populations, and help the federal government discern best practices. Policy flexibility will result in better outcomes for our families and children.

Thank you for your attention to NCSL's concerns. NCSL is well aware that as a former governor, you understand the need for flexibility and partnership in delivering services that benefit Americans in need. If you wish to discuss these issues further, please contact Sheri Steisel, Federal Affairs Counsel, in our Washington office. Sheri can be reached at (202) 624-8693, or at sheri.steisel@ncsl.org.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Costa
California Senate
President, NCSL

Senator Stephen Saland
New York Senate
President Elect, NCSL

cc: The Honorable Tommy Thompson
The Honorable Ann Veneman
Mitch Daniels, OMB Director
Josh Bolten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

National Conference of State Legislatures
INFO@NCSL.ORG (autoresponse directory)

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Denver, CO 80202
Tel: 303-830-2200
Fax: 303-863-8003

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444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite
515
Washington, D.C. 20001
Tel: 202-624-5400
Fax: 202-737-1069

Nordlund, Jim

From: Sheri Steisel [sheri.steisel@ncsl.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2001 3:14 PM
To: Humserv-l; nalfo-dist@ncsl.org
Subject: TANF Supplemental Grants

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF TANF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS
 3/22/2001

TANF supplemental grants were awarded to 17 states and are set to expire this year. Efforts are now underway to try to extend this grant until reauthorization of the welfare reform law next year. Under the 1996 welfare reform law, supplemental grants were provided to states with high rates of population growth and with historically low levels of welfare spending per capita. Referred to formally as the "Population Growth and Poverty Adjuster", a total of \$800 million was authorized for FY 1998 to FY 2001 for the TANF supplemental. Without Congressional action, the TANF supplemental will expire at the end of FY2001.

The 17 states are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

NCSL included support for a one year extension of the TANF supplemental in a recent letter to President Bush on welfare-related budget issues (<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/humserv/bushltr2.htm>). On March 9, a group of US Senators sent a letter to President Bush urging him to support a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants in his budget recommendations for FY2002. The Senators signing the letter were Bob Graham, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Ensign, Thad Cochran, Ted Stevens, Jeff Sessions, Harry Reid, John Breaux, Blanche Lincoln, Larry Craig, Fred Thompson, Jeff Bingaman, Jesse Helms and Conrad Burns. If you would like a copy of the letter, please contact Lee Posey at NCSL at 202/624-8196 or Lee.Posey@NCSL.org

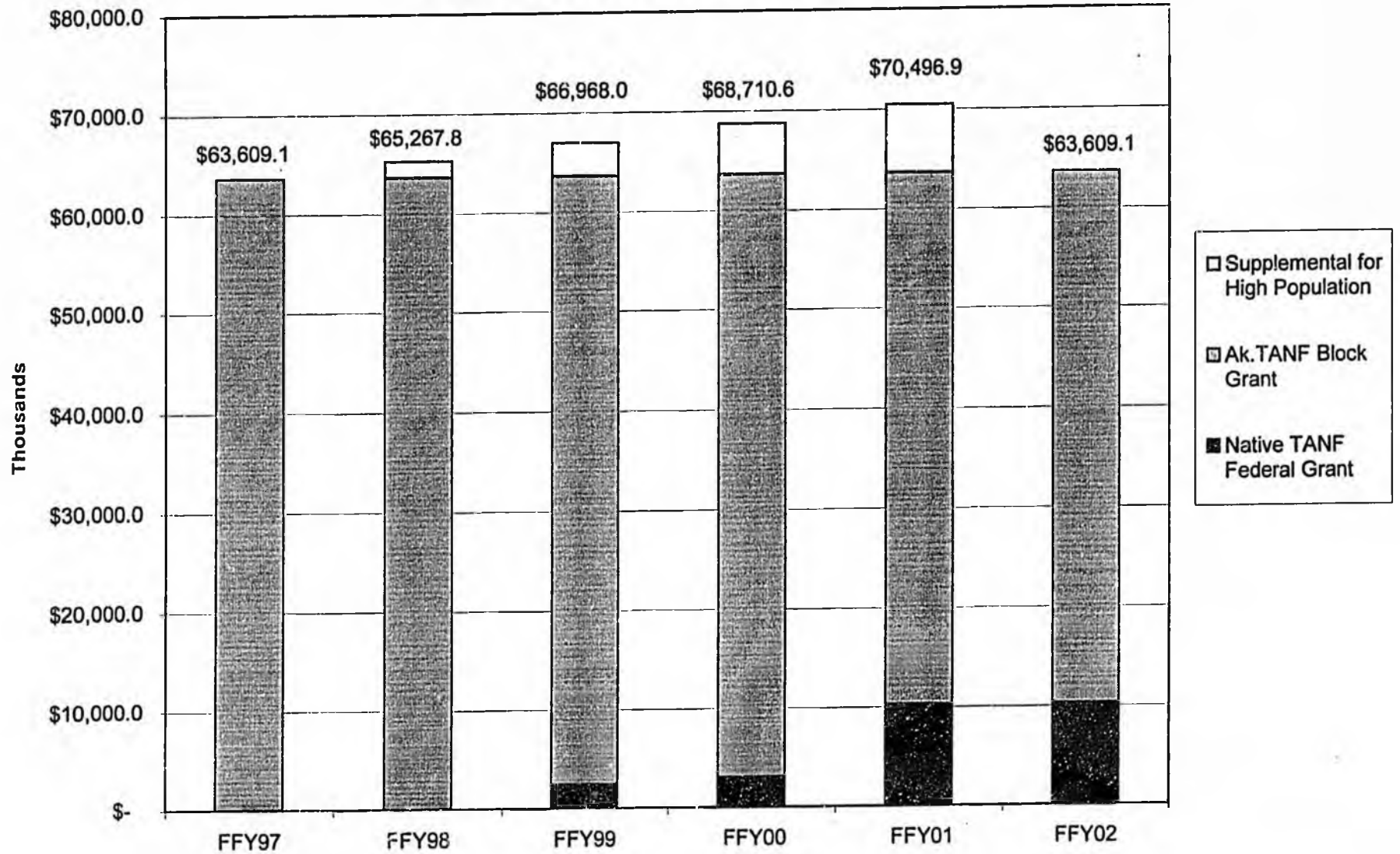
This is a good time for states to contact their House and Senate delegations to support a one-year extension of the TANF supplemental grant. For further information, please contact Sheri Steisel at sheri.steisel@ncsl.org or Lee Posey at NCSL.
[How States Qualify for Funding Under the TANF Supplemental](#)

Under the "automatic qualification" criteria for grants, states qualified for full supplemental grants in all four fiscal years if the level of state welfare spending per poor person by the state in FY 1994 was less than 35% of the national average or the state's population increased by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994. States automatically qualified for TANF supplemental grants are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, and Utah.

Under the "general eligibility qualification" criteria, states qualified for a grant for a fiscal year if the level of welfare spending per poor person in the state for the previous fiscal year is less than the national average and the state's population growth in the most recent year for which data are available is greater than the national average population for all states in the same period. These states receive supplemental grants in subsequent years, but amount of the grant they can receive depends on whether or not the state remains qualified for that particular year. States that met the general eligibility criteria in FY 1998 (and thus are eligible for subsequent fiscal years) are Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

-- Sheri Steisel
 Federal Affairs Counsel
 Director, Human Services Committee
 NCSL Washington DC Office
Sheri.Steisel@ncsl.org

**State of Alaska
FFY1997-FFY2002 TANF Block Grant Amount**



States Receiving TANF Supplemental Grants

State	Supplemental grant amount (<i>in millions</i>)
Alabama	11.1
Alaska	6.9
Arizona	23.9
Arkansas	6.2
Colorado	13.6
Florida	60.4
Georgia	37.3
Idaho	3.5
Louisiana	17.0
Mississippi	9.0
Montana	1.1
Nevada	3.7
New Mexico	6.6
North Carolina	36.1
Tennessee	21.6
Texas	52.7
Utah	8.7



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- ◆ [Sales Tax Simplification](#)
- ◆ [SSBG](#)
- ◆ [State Children's Health Insurance Program](#)

Letter

February 13, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the historic welfare reform agreement of 1996 will need to be reauthorized during the 107th Congress and the nation's Governors look forward to working with you toward that end. As you prepare to submit your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002, we want to bring to your attention a key provision of the welfare reform agreement that must be addressed this year. Without an extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) supplemental grants, 17 states will face a reduction in TANF funding in fiscal year 2002.

The TANF supplemental grants were designed to address the needs of states with especially high population growth or historically low welfare benefits. These grants represent a significant portion of the overall level of TANF funding for the 17 states receiving supplemental grants. Cuts of this magnitude would have a significant effect on continued state implementation of welfare reform. The TANF supplemental grants are not provided to states in the form of a bonus, but rather are calculated as an integral part of the states' allocation.

We recognize that this will be one of many TANF funding issues that will be debated within the context of welfare reform reauthorization next year. But in the interim, the nation's Governors are concerned that allowing the supplemental grants to expire while reauthorization is being discussed puts a number of states at a serious disadvantage. On many occasions since the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform package, Governors have voiced strong opposition to actions that would alter the nature of the original agreement. The expiration of the TANF supplemental grants without the benefit of full debate during the reauthorization process would be a violation of the historic agreement.

More Information

- [Letters](#)
- [Testimonies](#)
- [NGA Policy Positions](#)
- [Congressional Calendar](#)
- [Legislative Priorities](#)
- [Previous Congresses](#)

Recent News

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 Second NGA Policy Academy on Oral Health Care for Children to be Held in Tennessee

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- March 16, 2001*
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 Governors Set Course to Save America's Working Lands

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 Governor Geringer Calls on Congress to Restore State Authority in Internet Taxation Policy

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 Theodore Roosevelt to Address NGA Working Lands Conservation Summit

- March 08, 2001*
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 Streamlined Sales Tax Project Gains Momentum

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- [Terrorism](#)
- [Welfare Reform](#)

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we urge you to extend the TANF supplemental grants through fiscal year 2002.

Sincerely,

Governor Parris N. Glendening Governor
John Engler

C: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson

(Signatures on file)

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National Governors' Association, Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol St., Washington, D.C.
20001-1512

Telephone (202) 624-5300 | webmaster email address: webmaster@nga.org

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/19/01

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to extend the authorization date for supplemental**
2 **block grants to the State of Alaska under the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy**
3 **Families Program.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **WHEREAS** the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant
6 program established in the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation, the Personal
7 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), included
8 modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states; and

9 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska was awarded a supplemental grant because the state's
10 population increased by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1994; and

11 **WHEREAS** the supplemental grants included in PRWORA were authorized only
12 through federal fiscal year 2001, while the remainder of the law was authorized through
13 federal fiscal year 2002; and

14 **WHEREAS**, because the supplemental grants will expire, Alaska will face a reduction
15 in its TANF funding in the amount of \$6,900,000, or 13 percent of its block grant, starting at

1 the beginning of federal fiscal year 2002 on October 1, 2001; and

2 **WHEREAS** the elimination of the supplemental TANF grant could force Alaska to
3 scale back its welfare reform efforts, which have been very successful in moving people off
4 welfare, into work, and out of poverty; and

5 **WHEREAS** the TANF block grant provides a broad range of services to Alaskans
6 through the Alaska temporary assistance program, including cash benefits, child care, case
7 management, job development, job training and placement, program administration,
8 transportation, and other supportive services; and

9 **WHEREAS** the TANF block grant provides other essential services to needy
10 Alaskans not receiving welfare, including child care, child protection, the Head Start program,
11 victims of domestic violence, the Healthy Family program, pregnancy prevention, and teen
12 parent services; and

13 **WHEREAS** the elimination of the supplemental TANF grant will also result in the
14 loss of federal funding to some or all of these programs and services;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls upon the United States
16 Congress to continue the TANF supplemental block grants through federal fiscal year 2002,
17 the end of the full TANF authorization period.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
19 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
20 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all the other members
21 of the 107th United States Congress.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SJR 21

Urging the United States Congress to Extend the Authorization Date
for Supplemental Block Grants to the State of Alaska under the
Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states. Alaska's TANF program, Alaska Temporary Assistance, was awarded a "high population" supplemental grant because the state's population grew by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994.

These supplemental grants included in the 1996 law were authorized only through fiscal year 2001, while PRWORA was authorized through fiscal year 2002. This means that beginning October 1, 2001, the state of Alaska will face a reduction of \$6.9 million in TANF funding, or 13% of its block grant.

The term "supplemental grant" is misleading in that these grants were never intended to be merely add-ons. They were designed by the architects of welfare reform as an integral part of the formula used to determine each state's block grant allocation. Alaska is currently using these funds for employment-related and supportive services that are helping to move people off welfare and into self-sufficiency. TANF funds also support a variety of essential services to non-welfare recipients including childcare, child protection and the Head Start program. The elimination of the supplemental grant will force the Department of Health and Social Services to scale back on these efforts compromising the ongoing success of welfare reform.

Many policymakers in Washington D.C. are aware of this issue and the American Public Human Services Association, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and the National Governor's Association support the continuation of the supplemental grants.

SJR 21 is addressed to Alaska's congressional delegation and all other members of Congress. Action to extend the supplemental grants will need to be taken by Congress this year before the new federal fiscal year begins in October.

SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR
SENATOR JERRY WARD, SENATOR GARY WILKEN, SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS

Sponsor Statement



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Health & Social Services	DIVISION Public Assistance	BILL NUMBER SJR 21	SPONSOR Senate (HES)
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Urging Congress to reauthorize TANF block grant			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Angela Salerno AS	DATE 3/20/01	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE	DATE

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL DHHS/DPH, DFYS; DEED; DPS-Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Recipients of ATAP Non-ATAP recipients who receive a variety of social services funded by TANF
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Advocates and providers of service to ATAP recipients	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL None known

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states. Alaska's TANF program, Alaska Temporary Assistance, was awarded a "high population" supplemental grant because the state's population grew by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994. These supplemental grants were authorized only through fiscal year 2001, while PRWORA was authorized through fiscal year 2002. This means that beginning October 1, 2001, the state of Alaska will face a reduction of \$6.9 million in TANF funding, or 13% of its block grant.

Alaska is currently using these funds for employment-related and supportive services that are helping to move people off welfare and into self-sufficiency. TANF funds also support a variety of essential services to non-welfare recipients including childcare, child protection and the Head Start program. The elimination of the supplemental grant will force the Department of Health and Social Services to scale back on these efforts compromising the ongoing success of welfare reform.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

This legislation urges the United States Congress to extend the authorization date for supplemental block grants to the State of Alaska under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program through FY 2002.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: SJR 21
() Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
Title: Urging Congress to reauthorize TANF block grant BRU: Public Assistance
Sponsor: Senate (HES) Component: ATAP
Requester: _____ Component Number: 220

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The federal TANF grant funds cash benefits as well as a variety of services to recipients of the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program including case management, job readiness training, supportive services, short-term job training and pregnancy prevention education. Alaska's high population supplemental TANF grant in the amount of \$6,887,000 has become an integral part of the state's block grant and its loss will negatively impact the state's efforts to move recipients from welfare to work. The expiration of the supplemental grant will also result in loss of TANF funding for essential services to non-ATAP families including Head Start, Healthy Families and child protection.

Prepared by: Jim Nordlund, Director Phone _____
Division: Public Assistance Date/Time _____
Approved by: Karen Perdue, Commissioner Date 3/23/01 3:50 PM
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
(907) 465-3805 Fax

SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

To: Senate HESS Members
From: Aurora Hauke, Committee Aide
Date: March 28, 2001
Subject: SJR 21 EXTEND FEDERAL TANF GRANTS

Please find attached additional back-up information for SJR 21 EXTEND FEDERAL TANF GRANTS.

SENATOR JERRY V. ... SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR ... OR BETTYE DAVIS
Support Material

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to call your attention to a program, which has been critical to the success of welfare reform in our states. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 welfare law included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states, such as Texas and Florida. These grants were intended to reduce the very large disparity between poorer and wealthier states in TANF funding that resulted from the basic TANF funding formula. These grants have afforded states, like ours, a more adequate opportunity to achieve TANF goals.

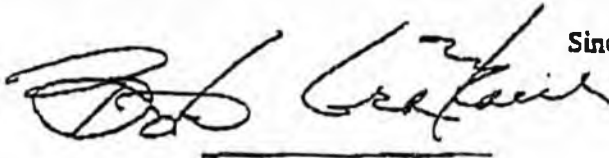
While TANF is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2002, the supplemental grants included in the 1996 law were authorized only through October, 2001. This means that under current law, the 17 states currently eligible for these grants will face a reduction in their TANF funding of as much as 10 percent of their block grant starting on October 1 of this year. The other, wealthier, lower growth states will experience no reduction.

These grants are not supplemental in the sense of being add-ons; they were designed as an integral part of the TANF allocation formula and are critical to the success of our states, and many others', TANF programs. These grants have allowed states to expand their welfare and related programs - such as child care and job training initiatives- to include a broader range of services that enable all welfare recipients to become self sufficient. Without the TANF supplemental grants these programs could not have been made available to individuals moving from welfare to work.

For these reasons, we are requesting that a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants be included in your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002. This step will help to ensure that high growth states can continue their welfare reform efforts and will enable the supplemental grants to be considered as part of the overall TANF reauthorization next year.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the accomplishments that states have made in helping people move from public assistance to independence can continue *throughout* the nation.

Sincerely,



President Bush
Page two

John Ensign

Paul Lamm

John Sununu

John Lewis

Harry Reid

John Breaux

Blank R. Levin

Jeff Bing

Frank W. Tompkins

Al Green

Jesse Helms

Condoleezza Rice

NATIONAL
GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION

12026245413
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Governor of Maryland
Chairman

T-093 P.02/02 F-686
Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

John Engler
Governor of Michigan
Vice Chairman

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
Telephone (202) 624-5300
<http://www.nga.org>



February 13, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

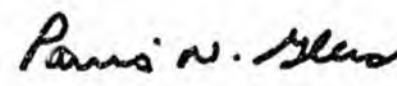
As you know, the historic welfare reform agreement of 1996 will need to be reauthorized during the 107th Congress and the nation's Governors look forward to working with you toward that end. As you prepare to submit your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002, we want to bring to your attention a key provision of the welfare reform agreement that must be addressed this year. Without an extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) supplemental grants, 17 states will face a reduction in TANF funding in fiscal year 2002.


The TANF supplemental grants were designed to address the needs of states with especially high population growth or historically low welfare benefits. These grants represent a significant portion of the overall level of TANF funding for the 17 states receiving supplemental grants. Cuts of this magnitude would have a significant effect on continued state implementation of welfare reform. The TANF supplemental grants are not provided to states in the form of a bonus, but rather are calculated as an integral part of the states' allocation.

We recognize that this will be one of many TANF funding issues that will be debated within the context of welfare reform reauthorization next year. But in the interim, the nation's Governors are concerned that allowing the supplemental grants to expire while reauthorization is being discussed puts a number of states at a serious disadvantage. On many occasions since the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform package, Governors have voiced strong opposition to actions that would alter the nature of the original agreement. The expiration of the TANF supplemental grants without the benefit of full debate during the reauthorization process would be a violation of the historic agreement.

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we urge you to extend the TANF supplemental grants through fiscal year 2002.

Sincerely,


Governor Parris N. Glendening


Governor John Engler

C: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson



February 26, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
 President of the United States
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

As you decide on the priorities of your Administration for the next four years, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges you to give careful consideration to a number of issues within the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture that are extremely important to state legislators. As a bipartisan organization whose members are keenly aware of how federal decisions impact the lives of America's families, we are ready to work with you on the issues raised below.

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant

The bold reform of welfare in 1996 has been very successful. Welfare caseloads have declined by more than 50% since the implementation of PRWORA (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act). More recipients are in the labor force. This success is the result of a federal and state partnership. Making use of the flexibility given us in the 1999 TANF regulations, states have implemented creative strategies to assist both TANF recipients and the working poor. We hope that you will firmly support full funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

* { The TANF supplemental grants were designed to ensure that certain states with rapidly growing populations had adequate resources to carry out the goals of the TANF program. TANF supplemental allocations should be made for the next fiscal year to ensure that states can continue the progress of welfare reform and to allow time to deal with this issue during welfare reform reauthorization.

As the 2002 reauthorization approaches, state legislators will have TANF funding and flexibility to administer the TANF program as their highest priorities. A key feature of the law was the devolution to the states of decision-making authority. NCSL requests that members of your domestic policy staff and HHS officials meet with a small group of legislators early in the reauthorization process. This would be an ideal opportunity to discuss state issues and concerns before you finalize your reauthorization proposal.

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG, Title XX of the Social Security Act)

SSBG funds are a vital part of the delivery of community and home-based services to the most vulnerable segments of society including the disabled, elderly, and children in need of protective services. NCSL urges you to fund the SSBG at the \$2.38 billion level as agreed to as part of the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform act. In addition, it is critical that the amount states can transfer from their TANF grants to the SSBG remains at 10% and is not reduced.

Restoration of Benefits for Legal Immigrants

NCSL urges you to restore food and health benefits for legal immigrants and end a cost-shift to the states. The 1996 welfare reform law denied food stamps to all legal immigrants and their children and denied Medicaid to certain legal immigrants and their children. While NCSL supported the 1996 welfare

reform law, NCSL opposed these particular provisions. NCSL believes that in so doing, the federal government abdicated its responsibility to fund the consequences of its decisions regarding immigration. To their credit, states rose to the challenge. Many states, for example, created their own food assistance programs or increased state funding to food banks. The 1996 immigration provisions had nothing to do with the fundamental goals of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program-- to promote self-sufficiency and family stability through a work-first, time-limited program. Efforts to restore food stamp benefits and ensure an option for states to provide Medicaid and SCHIP have bipartisan support. NCSL asks you to consider including funding for the restoration of benefits in your budget as way of helping hard-working new Americans and restoring equilibrium to the state/federal partnership.

Food Stamps

The food stamp program is in need of reform. NCSL is concerned that many working families whose income makes them eligible for food stamps are not receiving them. From 1994 to 1998, the participation rate fell from 71% of 59% of eligible individuals. Federal law is often a barrier to state innovation. Many times federal food stamp provisions are in conflict with state welfare reform efforts. While numerous factors influence the participation rate, NCSL believes that state outreach is hampered by fear of quality control errors. We urge you to consider changes in this program and to include NCSL in the discussion.

Waivers

As a general principle, NCSL encourages you to support waiver programs at U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture that allow states to implement innovative approaches to the delivery of human services programs. Waivers allow states to address the unique needs of their populations, and help the federal government discern best practices. Policy flexibility will result in better outcomes for our families and children.

Thank you for your attention to NCSL's concerns. NCSL is well aware that as a former governor, you understand the need for flexibility and partnership in delivering services that benefit Americans in need. If you wish to discuss these issues further, please contact Sheri Steisel, Federal Affairs Counsel, in our Washington office. Sheri can be reached at (202) 624-8693, or at sheri.steisel@ncsl.org.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Costa
California Senate
President, NCSL

Senator Stephen Saland
New York Senate
President Elect, NCSL

cc: The Honorable Tommy Thompson
The Honorable Ann Veneman
Mitch Daniels, OMB Director
Josh Bolten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

National Conference of State Legislatures
INFO@NCSL.ORG (autoresponse directory)

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444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite
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Tel: 202-624-5400
Fax: 202-737-1069

Nordlund, Jim

From: Sheri Steisel [sheri.steisel@ncsl.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2001 3:14 PM
To: Humserv-l; nalfo-dist@ncsl.org
Subject: TANF Supplemental Grants

**EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF TANF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS
3/22/2001**

TANF supplemental grants were awarded to 17 states and are set to expire this year. Efforts are now underway to try to extend this grant until reauthorization of the welfare reform law next year. Under the 1996 welfare reform law, supplemental grants were provided to states with high rates of population growth and with historically low levels of welfare spending per capita. Referred to formally as the "Population Growth and Poverty Adjuster", a total of \$800 million was authorized for FY 1998 to FY 2001 for the TANF supplemental. Without Congressional action, the TANF supplemental will expire at the end of FY2001.

The 17 states are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

NCSL included support for a one year extension of the TANF supplemental in a recent letter to President Bush on welfare-related budget issues (<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/humserv/bushltr2.htm>). On March 9, a group of US Senators sent a letter to President Bush urging him to support a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants in his budget recommendations for FY2002. The Senators signing the letter were Bob Graham, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Ensign, Thad Cochran, Ted Stevens, Jeff Sessions, Harry Reid, John Breaux, Blanche Lincoln, Larry Craig, Fred Thompson, Jeff Bingaman, Jesse Helms and Conrad Burns. If you would like a copy of the letter, please contact Lee Posey at NCSL at 202/624-8196 or Lee.Posey@NCSL.org

This is a good time for states to contact their House and Senate delegations to support a one-year extension of the TANF supplemental grant. For further information, please contact Sheri Steisel at sheri.steisel@ncsl.org or Lee Posey at NCSL.
[How States Qualify for Funding Under the TANF Supplemental](#)

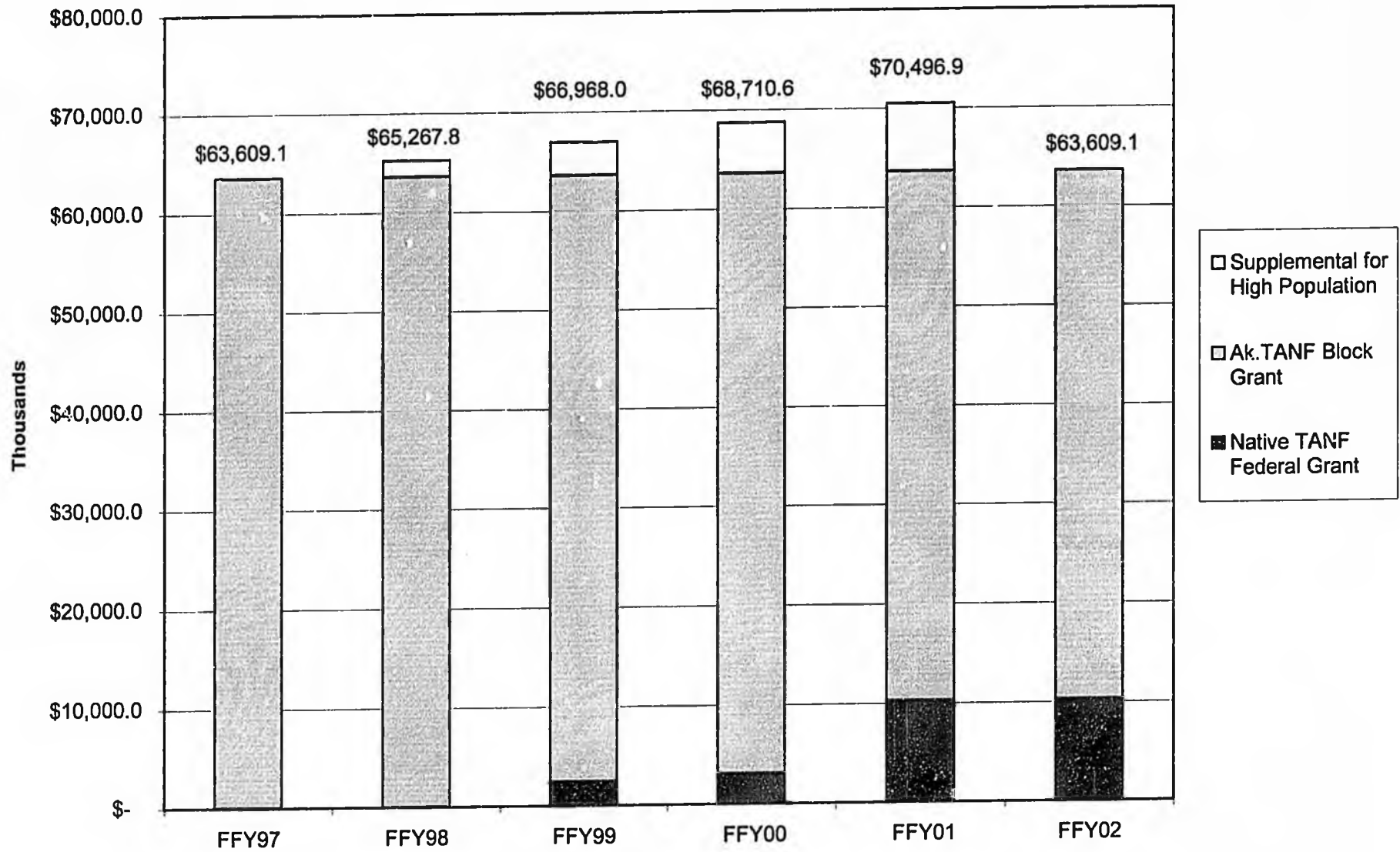
Under the "automatic qualification" criteria for grants, states qualified for full supplemental grants in all four fiscal years if the level of state welfare spending per poor person by the state in FY 1994 was less than 35% of the national average or the state's population increased by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994. States automatically qualified for TANF supplemental grants are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, and Utah.

Under the "general eligibility qualification" criteria, states qualified for a grant for a fiscal year if the level of welfare spending per poor person in the state for the previous fiscal year is less than the national average and the state's population growth in the most recent year for which data are available is greater than the national average population for all states in the same period. These states receive supplemental grants in subsequent years, but amount of the grant they can receive depends on whether or not the state remains qualified for that particular year. States that met the general eligibility criteria in FY 1998 (and thus are eligible for subsequent fiscal years) are Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

-- Sheri Steisel
Federal Affairs Counsel
Director, Human Services Committee
NCSL Washington DC Office
Sheri.Steisel@ncsl.org

3/28/2001

**State of Alaska
FFY1997-FFY2002 TANF Block Grant Amount**



States Receiving TANF Supplemental Grants

State	Supplemental grant amount (<i>in millions</i>)
Alabama	11.1
Alaska	6.9
Arizona	23.9
Arkansas	6.2
Colorado	13.6
Florida	60.4
Georgia	37.3
Idaho	3.5
Louisiana	17.0
Mississippi	9.0
Montana	1.1
Nevada	3.7
New Mexico	6.6
North Carolina	36.1
Tennessee	21.6
Texas	52.7
Utah	8.7



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Topics	Letter	More Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Appropriations and Budget ♦ Aviation ♦ Child Support Financing ♦ Child Welfare ♦ Clean Water Act ♦ Coastal Zone Management ♦ Crime and Juvenile Justice ♦ Election Reform ♦ Electric Industry Restructuring and Energy Issues ♦ Elementary and Secondary Education ♦ Endangered Species Act ♦ Fatherhood ♦ Federalism, Preemption, and Regulatory Reform ♦ Food Stamps ♦ Health Care Coverage for the Uninsured ♦ Health Insurance Regulation ♦ Indian Gaming ♦ Indian Gaming - Related Tribal-State Issues ♦ Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ♦ Minimum Wage ♦ Outer Continental Shelf Revenues ♦ Privacy ♦ Public Pension and Retirement Savings ♦ Sales Tax Simplification ♦ SSBG ♦ State Children's Health Insurance Program 	<p style="text-align: center;">February 13, 2001</p> <p>The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500</p> <p>Dear Mr. President:</p> <p>As you know, the historic welfare reform agreement of 1996 will need to be reauthorized during the 107th Congress and the nation's Governors look forward to working with you toward that end. As you prepare to submit your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002, we want to bring to your attention a key provision of the welfare reform agreement that must be addressed this year. Without an extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) supplemental grants, 17 states will face a reduction in TANF funding in fiscal year 2002.</p> <p>The TANF supplemental grants were designed to address the needs of states with especially high population growth or historically low welfare benefits. These grants represent a significant portion of the overall level of TANF funding for the 17 states receiving supplemental grants. Cuts of this magnitude would have a significant effect on continued state implementation of welfare reform. The TANF supplemental grants are not provided to states in the form of a bonus, but rather are calculated as an integral part of the states' allocation.</p> <p>We recognize that this will be one of many TANF funding issues that will be debated within the context of welfare reform reauthorization next year. But in the interim, the nation's Governors are concerned that allowing the supplemental grants to expire while reauthorization is being discussed puts a number of states at a serious disadvantage. On many occasions since the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform package, Governors have voiced strong opposition to actions that would alter the nature of the original agreement. The expiration of the TANF supplemental grants without the benefit of full debate during the reauthorization process would be a violation of the historic agreement.</p>	<p>Letters</p> <p>Testimonies</p> <p>NGA Policy Positions</p> <p>Congressional Calendar</p> <p>Legislative Priorities</p> <p>Previous Congresses</p> <hr/> <p>Recent News</p> <p><i>March 20, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Children's Health Second NGA Policy Academy on Oral Health Care for Children to be Held in Tennessee <p><i>March 19, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Education Higher Education Focus of Governors' Roundtable <p><i>March 16, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Private Lands Summit Governors Set Course to Save America's Working Lands <p><i>March 14, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Testimony Governor Geringer Calls on Congress to Restore State Authority in Internet Taxation Policy <p><i>March 09, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Working Lands Theodore Roosevelt to Address NGA Working Lands Conservation Summit <p><i>March 08, 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Streamlined Sales Taxes Streamlined Sales Tax Project Gains Momentum

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- [Taxes and Revenues](#)
- [Telecommunications](#)
- [Terrorism](#)
- [Welfare Reform](#)

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we urge you to extend the TANF supplemental grants through fiscal year 2002.

Sincerely,

Governor Parris N. Glendening Governor
John Engler

C: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson

(Signatures on file)

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National Governors' Association, Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol St., Washington, D.C.
20001-1512

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
(907) 465-3805 Fax

SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SJR 21

Urging the United States Congress to Extend the Authorization Date
for Supplemental Block Grants to the State of Alaska under the
Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states. Alaska's TANF program, Alaska Temporary Assistance, was awarded a "high population" supplemental grant because the state's population grew by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994.

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Many policymakers in Washington D.C. are aware of this issue and the American Public Human Services Association, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and the National Governor's Association support the continuation of the supplemental grants.

SJR 21 is addressed to Alaska's congressional delegation and all other members of Congress. Action to extend the supplemental grants will need to be taken by Congress this year before the new federal fiscal year begins in October.

SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR
SENATOR JERRY WARD, SENATOR GARY WILKEN, SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Health & Social Services	DIVISION Public Assistance	BILL NUMBER SJR 21	SPONSOR Senate (HES)
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Urging Congress to reauthorize TANF block grant			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Angela Salerno AS	DATE 3/20/01	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE	DATE

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL DHHS/DPH, DFYS; DEED; DPS-Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Recipients of ATAP Non-ATAP recipients who receive a variety of social services funded by TANF
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Advocates and providers of service to ATAP recipients	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL None known

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 federal welfare reform law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states. Alaska's TANF program, Alaska Temporary Assistance, was awarded a "high population" supplemental grant because the state's population grew by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994. These supplemental grants were authorized only through fiscal year 2001, while PRWORA was authorized through fiscal year 2002. This means that beginning October 1, 2001, the state of Alaska will face a reduction of \$6.9 million in TANF funding, or 13% of its block grant.

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ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

This legislation urges the United States Congress to extend the authorization date for supplemental block grants to the State of Alaska under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program through FY 2002.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SJR 21
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 Title: Urging Congress to reauthorize TANF block grant BRU: Public Assistance
 Component: ATAP
 Sponsor: Senate (HES)
 Requester: _____ Component Number: 220

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2002 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*
 The federal TANF grant funds cash benefits as well as a variety of services to recipients of the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program including case management, job readiness training, supportive services, short-term job training and pregnancy prevention education. Alaska's high population supplemental TANF grant in the amount of \$6,887,000 has become an integral part of the state's block grant and its loss will negatively impact the state's efforts to move recipients from welfare to work. The expiration of the supplemental grant will also result in loss of TANF funding for essential services to non-ATAP families including Head Start, Healthy Families and child protection.

Prepared by: Jim Nordlund, Director Phone _____
 Division: Public Assistance Date/Time _____
 Approved by: Karen Perdue, Commissioner Date 3/23/01 3:50 PM
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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(907) 376-3157 Fax

Session:

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-6600
(907) 465-3805 Fax

SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

To: Senate HESS Members

From: Aurora Hauke, Committee Aide

Date: March 28, 2001

Subject: SJR 21 EXTEND FEDERAL TANF GRANTS

Please find attached additional back-up information for SJR 21 EXTEND FEDERAL TANF GRANTS.

SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR

SENATOR JERRY V [REDACTED]

OR BETTYE DAVIS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to call your attention to a program, which has been critical to the success of welfare reform in our states. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant established in the 1996 welfare law included modest supplemental grants for 17 relatively poor or rapidly growing states, such as Texas and Florida. These grants were intended to reduce the very large disparity between poorer and wealthier states in TANF funding that resulted from the basic TANF funding formula. These grants have afforded states, like ours, a more adequate opportunity to achieve TANF goals.

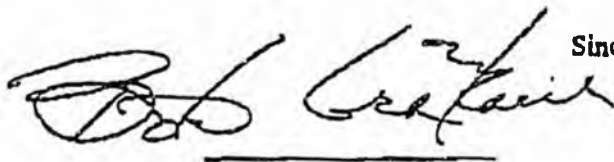
While TANF is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2002, the supplemental grants included in the 1996 law were authorized only through October, 2001. This means that under current law, the 17 states currently eligible for these grants will face a reduction in their TANF funding of as much as 10 percent of their block grant starting on October 1 of this year. The other, wealthier, lower growth states will experience no reduction.

These grants are not supplemental in the sense of being add-ons; they were designed as an integral part of the TANF allocation formula and are critical to the success of our states, and many others', TANF programs. These grants have allowed states to expand their welfare and related programs - such as child care and job training initiatives- to include a broader range of services that enable all welfare recipients to become self sufficient. Without the TANF supplemental grants these programs could not have been made available to individuals moving from welfare to work.

For these reasons, we are requesting that a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants be included in your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002. This step will help to ensure that high growth states can continue their welfare reform efforts and will enable the supplemental grants to be considered as part of the overall TANF reauthorization next year.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that the accomplishments that states have made in helping people move from public assistance to independence can continue *throughout* the nation.

Sincerely,



President Bush
Page two

John Ensign

Paul Lujan

Arturo

John Jones

Garrett

John Breaux

Blank R. Lewis

John

Frank W. Tompkins

John

Jesse Helms

John

**NATIONAL
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION**

12026245413
Parris N. Glendening
Governor of Maryland
Chairman

T-093 P.02/02 F-686
Raymond L. Scheppach
Executive Director

John Engler
Governor of Michigan
Vice Chairman

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
Telephone (202) 624-5300
<http://www.nga.org>



February 13, 2001

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

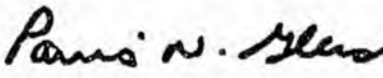
As you know, the historic welfare reform agreement of 1996 will need to be reauthorized during the 107th Congress and the nation's Governors look forward to working with you toward that end. As you prepare to submit your budget recommendations for fiscal year 2002, we want to bring to your attention a key provision of the welfare reform agreement that must be addressed this year. Without an extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) supplemental grants, 17 states will face a reduction in TANF funding in fiscal year 2002.

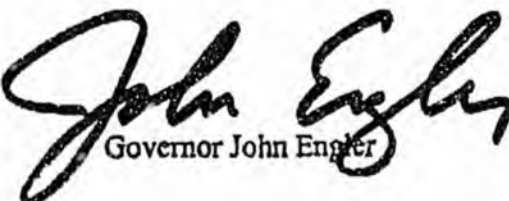
The TANF supplemental grants were designed to address the needs of states with especially high population growth or historically low welfare benefits. These grants represent a significant portion of the overall level of TANF funding for the 17 states receiving supplemental grants. Cuts of this magnitude would have a significant effect on continued state implementation of welfare reform. The TANF supplemental grants are not provided to states in the form of a bonus, but rather are calculated as an integral part of the states' allocation.

We recognize that this will be one of many TANF funding issues that will be debated within the context of welfare reform reauthorization next year. But in the interim, the nation's Governors are concerned that allowing the supplemental grants to expire while reauthorization is being discussed puts a number of states at a serious disadvantage. On many occasions since the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform package, Governors have voiced strong opposition to actions that would alter the nature of the original agreement. The expiration of the TANF supplemental grants without the benefit of full debate during the reauthorization process would be a violation of the historic agreement.

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we urge you to extend the TANF supplemental grants through fiscal year 2002.

Sincerely,


Governor Parris N. Glendening


Governor John Engler

C: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson



February 26, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
 President of the United States
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

As you decide on the priorities of your Administration for the next four years, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) urges you to give careful consideration to a number of issues within the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture that are extremely important to state legislators. As a bipartisan organization whose members are keenly aware of how federal decisions impact the lives of America's families, we are ready to work with you on the issues raised below.

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant

The bold reform of welfare in 1996 has been very successful. Welfare caseloads have declined by more than 50% since the implementation of PRWORA (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act). More recipients are in the labor force. This success is the result of a federal and state partnership. Making use of the flexibility given us in the 1999 TANF regulations, states have implemented creative strategies to assist both TANF recipients and the working poor. We hope that you will firmly support full funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

* { The TANF supplemental grants were designed to ensure that certain states with rapidly growing populations had adequate resources to carry out the goals of the TANF program. TANF supplemental allocations should be made for the next fiscal year to ensure that states can continue the progress of welfare reform and to allow time to deal with this issue during welfare reform reauthorization.

As the 2002 reauthorization approaches, state legislators will have TANF funding and flexibility to administer the TANF program as their highest priorities. A key feature of the law was the devolution to the states of decision-making authority. NCSL requests that members of your domestic policy staff and HHS officials meet with a small group of legislators early in the reauthorization process. This would be an ideal opportunity to discuss state issues and concerns before you finalize your reauthorization proposal.

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG, Title XX of the Social Security Act)

SSBG funds are a vital part of the delivery of community and home-based services to the most vulnerable segments of society including the disabled, elderly, and children in need of protective services. NCSL urges you to fund the SSBG at the \$2.38 billion level as agreed to as part of the enactment of the 1996 welfare reform act. In addition, it is critical that the amount states can transfer from their TANF grants to the SSBG remains at 10% and is not reduced.

Restoration of Benefits for Legal Immigrants

NCSL urges you to restore food and health benefits for legal immigrants and end a cost-shift to the states. The 1996 welfare reform law denied food stamps to all legal immigrants and their children and denied Medicaid to certain legal immigrants and their children. While NCSL supported the 1996 welfare

reform law, NCSL opposed these particular provisions. NCSL believes that in so doing, the federal government abdicated its responsibility to fund the consequences of its decisions regarding immigration. To their credit, states rose to the challenge. Many states, for example, created their own food assistance programs or increased state funding to food banks. The 1996 immigration provisions had nothing to do with the fundamental goals of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program-- to promote self-sufficiency and family stability through a work-first, time-limited program. Efforts to restore food stamp benefits and ensure an option for states to provide Medicaid and SCHIP have bipartisan support. NCSL asks you to consider including funding for the restoration of benefits in your budget as way of helping hard-working new Americans and restoring equilibrium to the state/federal partnership.

Food Stamps

The food stamp program is in need of reform. NCSL is concerned that many working families whose income makes them eligible for food stamps are not receiving them. From 1994 to 1998, the participation rate fell from 71% of 59% of eligible individuals. Federal law is often a barrier to state innovation. Many times federal food stamp provisions are in conflict with state welfare reform efforts. While numerous factors influence the participation rate, NCSL believes that state outreach is hampered by fear of quality control errors. We urge you to consider changes in this program and to include NCSL in the discussion.

Waivers

As a general principle, NCSL encourages you to support waiver programs at U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture that allow states to implement innovative approaches to the delivery of human services programs. Waivers allow states to address the unique needs of their populations, and help the federal government discern best practices. Policy flexibility will result in better outcomes for our families and children.

Thank you for your attention to NCSL's concerns. NCSL is well aware that as a former governor, you understand the need for flexibility and partnership in delivering services that benefit Americans in need. If you wish to discuss these issues further, please contact Sheri Steisel, Federal Affairs Counsel, in our Washington office. Sheri can be reached at (202) 624-8693, or at sheri.steisel@ncsl.org.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Costa
California Senate
President, NCSL

Senator Stephen Saland
New York Senate
President Elect, NCSL

cc: The Honorable Tommy Thompson
The Honorable Ann Veneman
Mitch Daniels, OMB Director
Josh Bolten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

National Conference of State Legislatures
INFO@NCSL.ORG (autoreponse directory)

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Washington, D.C. 20001
Tel: 202-624-5400
Fax: 202-737-1069

Nordlund, Jim

From: Sheri Steisel [sheri.steisel@ncsl.org]

Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2001 3:14 PM

To: Humserv-l; nalfo-dist@ncsl.org

Subject: TANF Supplemental Grants

**EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF TANF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS
3/22/2001**

TANF supplemental grants were awarded to 17 states and are set to expire this year. Efforts are now underway to try to extend this grant until reauthorization of the welfare reform law next year. Under the 1996 welfare reform law, supplemental grants were provided to states with high rates of population growth and with historically low levels of welfare spending per capita. Referred to formally as the "Population Growth and Poverty Adjuster", a total of \$800 million was authorized for FY 1998 to FY 2001 for the TANF supplemental. Without Congressional action, the TANF supplemental will expire at the end of FY2001.

The 17 states are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

NCSL included support for a one year extension of the TANF supplemental in a recent letter to President Bush on welfare-related budget issues (<http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/humse.v/bushltr2.htm>). On March 9, a group of US Senators sent a letter to President Bush urging him to support a one year extension of the TANF supplemental grants in his budget recommendations for FY2002. The Senators signing the letter were Bob Graham, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Ensign, Thad Cochran, Ted Stevens, Jeff Sessions, Harry Reid, John Breaux, Blanche Lincoln, Larry Craig, Fred Thompson, Jeff Bingaman, Jesse Helms and Conrad Burns. If you would like a copy of the letter, please contact Lee Posey at NCSL at 202/624-8196 or Lee.Posey@NCSL.org

This is a good time for states to contact their House and Senate delegations to support a one-year extension of the TANF supplemental grant. For further information, please contact Sheri Steisel at sheri.steisel@ncsl.org or Lee Posey at NCSL.

How States Qualify for Funding Under the TANF Supplemental

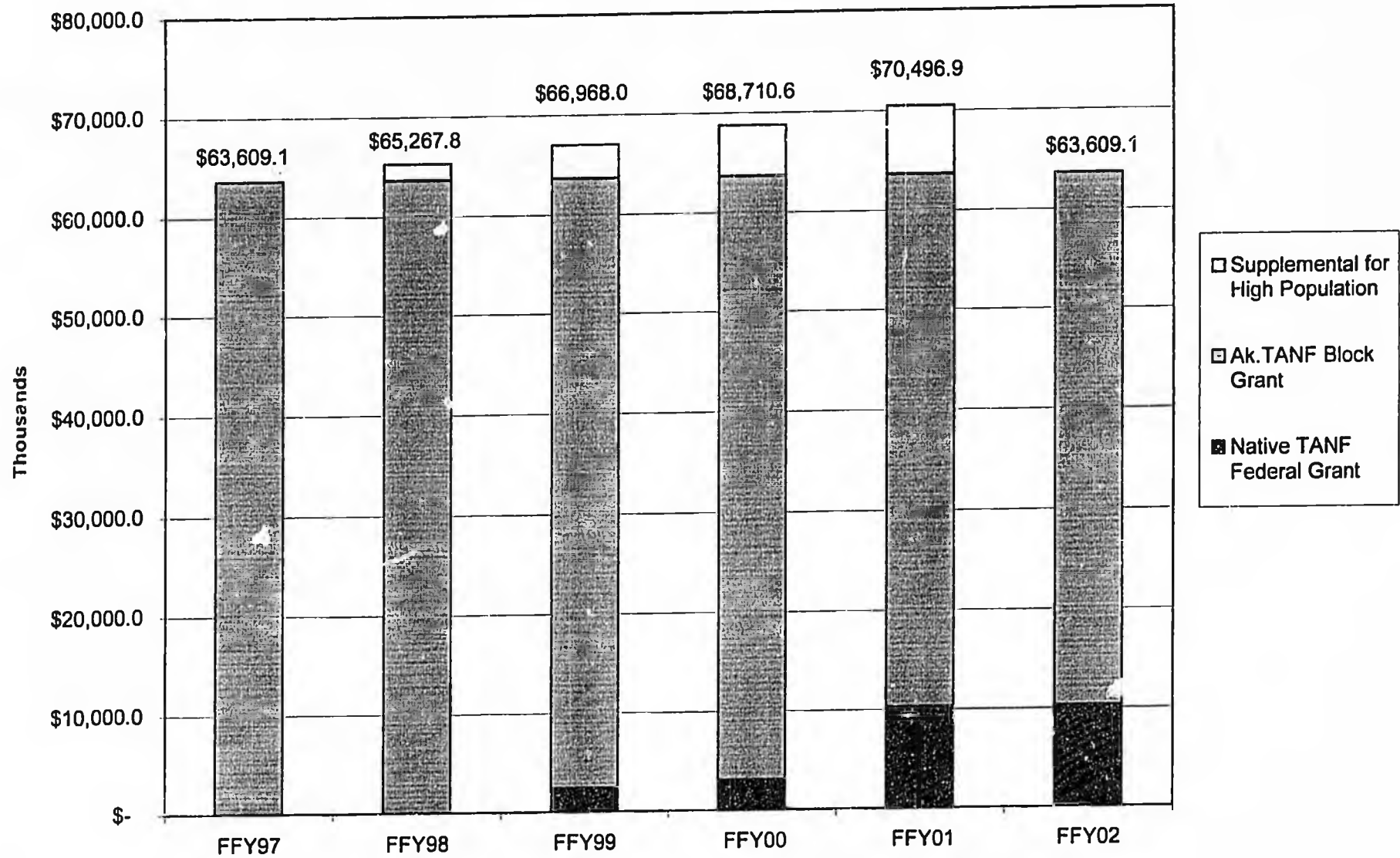
Under the "automatic qualification" criteria for grants, states qualified for full supplemental grants in all four fiscal years if the level of state welfare spending per poor person by the state in FY 1994 was less than 35% of the national average or the state's population increased by more than 10 percent between April 1, 1990 and July 1, 1994. States automatically qualified for TANF supplemental grants are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, and Utah.

Under the "general eligibility qualification" criteria, states qualified for a grant for a fiscal year if the level of welfare spending per poor person in the state for the previous fiscal year is less than the national average and the state's population growth in the most recent year for which data are available is greater than the national average population for all states in the same period. These states receive supplemental grants in subsequent years, but amount of the grant they can receive depends on whether or not the state remains qualified for that particular year. States that met the general eligibility criteria in FY 1998 (and thus are eligible for subsequent fiscal years) are Florida, Georgia, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

-- Sheri Steisel
Federal Affairs Counsel
Director, Human Services Committee
NCSL Washington DC Office
Sheri.Steisel@ncsl.org

3/28/2001

**State of Alaska
FFY1997-FFY2002 TANF Block Grant Amount**



States Receiving TANF Supplemental Grants

State	Supplemental grant amount (<i>in millions</i>)
Alabama	11.1
Alaska	6.9
Arizona	23.9
Arkansas	6.2
Colorado	13.6
Florida	60.4
Georgia	37.3
Idaho	3.5
Louisiana	17.0
Mississippi	9.0
Montana	1.1
Nevada	3.7
New Mexico	6.6
North Carolina	36.1
Tennessee	21.6
Texas	52.7
Utah	8.7



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Topics	Letter	More Information
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- [Taxes and Revenues](#)
- [Telecommunications](#)
- [Terrorism](#)
- [Welfare Reform](#)

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we urge you to extend the TANF supplemental grants through fiscal year 2002.

Sincerely,

Governor Parris N. Glendening Governor
John Engler

C: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson

(Signatures on file)

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