

**SENATE . . . . . No. 70**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Cynthia Stone Creem***

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*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.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Cynthia Stone Creem*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Norfolk and Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 70**

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By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 70) of Cynthia Stone Creem for legislation to further family-centered child support. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 92 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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  
18 inserting at the end of the first paragraph the following:-

19 Child support collected on behalf of a recipient of benefits under this chapter shall be  
20 paid to the family. In determining the family's countable income, the department shall disregard  
21 the first \$500 per month in child support paid to the family.

22 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 119A of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
23 adding at the end of subsection (a) the following:-

24 The IV-D agency shall provide paternity only services in an intrastate case upon the  
25 request of an individual who is not required to cooperate with the IV-D agency to establish  
26 paternity or to establish, modify, or enforce a child support order.