

**FW: Child support increase**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sat 5/31/08 5:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Child support increase
Date: Sat, 31 May 2008 02:37:34 -0700
From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Law makers and dignitaries present.

I am the non-custodial father of two amazing children ages 3 and 5 and I have a few concerns regarding the proposed Washington State child support increase. Even though I am the non-custodial parent I try to be actively involved in my children's life as much as I can. I take my daughter out on daddy dates and take my son out for guy time 1 on1. The children and I look for word and cherish those times together. I also take my kids shopping and buy them clothes and shoes. I also like to try and take them on vacation at least once a year. Currently, my children have been relocated over 4 hours away. Just to spend one night in the Portland area to hang out with my kids it costs me about \$100+ for hotel \$60+ in gas and about \$60+ in food for me and the kids. If I want to take them someplace special like the zoo or science center it could easily cost me an additional \$100. So if I wanted to visit my children and be apart of their lives where they are currently living it will cost me \$220 to \$320 just for a one day and one night visit. If the proposed child support increase is passed, how do you expect the non-custodial parents to be able to financially afford to do things and buy things for their own kids and still be able to maintain a reasonable standard of living?

I feel the current system that it used to figure child support is already too high. What is currently taking place with many non-custodial parents who are paying exuberant amounts of child support under Washington's states current child support system is they are forced to have to work more hours and sometimes take second jobs just to be able to pay their child support and maintain a decent standard of living. It forces the non-custodial parent to sacrifice quality time with their children in order to pay an already high child support. While others who choose to not sacrifice their time with their kids to make more money or who are unable to make more money are forced to live on or near the poverty line and are unable to do much in providing for their own childs needs other than paying for child support. Wouldn't it be better for the the non-custodial parent to be able to be around and participate in the child's activities such as games, field trips, and other extra curricular activities then have to work more and more just to pay child support?

I think it is important that law makers take into consideration each individual non-custodial parents situation and not make a blanket system. I realize that some fathers are not involved much at all with their children's life by their own choices. Other fathers like myself are very involved (or at least as much as possible given my circumstances) and are aware of their children's needs and try to provide for those needs above and beyond there current child support payment.

Furthermore, in my situation the custodial mother makes \$50 an hour and I make \$23.9 an hour. She has chosen to live in a very high end suburb of Portland, Oregon that being Lake Oswego. She drives a brand new SUV and I drive a 15 year old car with 130,000 miles on it. The truth is even though she is making such a great hourly wage she can't afford to live there either but yet I am expected to support her life style when I only make \$23.9 an hour. How is that right? Not to mention if I am forced to move to a higher cost of living region—how can I live on 1/4 of my income.

Where could I live that would be safe?

I strongly feel that the current system for figuring out the child support, needs to be re-evaluated and the average amount of child support should be decreased not increased. This would help those the non-custodial parents that want to spend more time with their children but are unable to because they have to work so much or simply can not afford to visit them or do much with them due to the high child support they are paying. Also, during the summer months that I might have them 3 weeks on and 1 week off—I would request that those weeks, she pay me, or at least I don't have to continue to pay the support at the regular rate.

All I am asking for is a fair system that takes into consideration the non-custodial parent and their relationship with there children's, not just the custodial parent.
Thank you.

Sincerely,


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