

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 22, 2006

## **JOIN THE SENATE CAUCUS ON CHILDREN, WORK, AND FAMILY**

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to invite you to join the Senate Caucus on Children, Work, and Family. As the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress begins, we believe that important issues that face Americans each and every day deserve stronger national attention. Today our citizens find greater challenges in balancing work with caring for their children, an aging or ill family member, or themselves. While the demands on individuals and families have changed in recent decades, the structure of most work environments remains relatively unchanged. Currently most of our nation's children live in homes where all adults are employed - a reality that is not likely to change anytime soon. Children represent one-quarter of our population but one hundred percent of our future and the well-being of children impacts families, our diverse and aging workforce, and our nation's economic prosperity.

Together we founded the original Senate Children's Caucus in 1983 to examine the needs of our youngest citizens who were then largely absent from national debate. Since then, significant progress has been made with policies benefiting children such as childcare, after school care and laws that protect our children from harm. Despite this progress, challenges remain and it is time to begin a new conversation about the everyday needs facing American children and families and their connection to the workplace. Workplace policies play an integral role in the lives of employees, their children and families, and employers as well.

The Senate Caucus on Children, Work, and Family will convene a conversation between Members and staff from different committee jurisdictions and policy interests. Experts and researchers will provide information on the current status of children and families and the workplace. The mission of the caucus is to bring national attention to the "kitchen table" issues that impact individuals, families and our economic security. The bipartisan conversations of the caucus will eventually lead to policy solutions to improve the lives of all Americans.

**We invite you to join us as a member of the Senate Caucus on Children, Work, and Family. An inaugural event will be held in January.**

To join the caucus or for additional information, please contact Catherine Graham of Senator Dodd's staff at 4-2823 or Jessica Foster of Senator Specter's staff at 4-4254.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD  
United States Senator



ARLEN SPECTER  
United States Senator