



August 31, 2005

Mr. Chuck Currie

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Webster Groves, MO 63119-2630

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to Tony Perkins's letter, asking you to help Family Research Council meet our year-end budget goal. We appreciate learning your thoughts and having the opportunity to correspond with you.

We are aware of the many families that are struggling financially and having trouble feeding their children. Our hearts go out to these neighbors of ours, and we love them and pray for them. Many of us volunteer within our communities and financially assist churches and organizations that provide aid to the disadvantaged.

Regarding the role of government in helping the poor: Family Research Council recognizes the responsibility of government to those in our society who cannot care for themselves –this includes the elderly, the permanently disabled, and abused and neglected children. Yet, we see that far too often government involvement has encouraged long-term dependency that is unnecessary. Government programs such as the former AFDC subsidized lifelong dependency. The result of this has been egregious, including the loss of individual dignity, the birth of intergenerational poverty and the rapid decay of entire communities.

FRC supported the federal government's changed role with welfare families in the Welfare Reform Bill of 1996. This legislation eliminated the 60-year-old AFDC program and replaced it with a new program, called TANF. This policy ends lifelong cash assistance for able-bodied adults with children. Now, mothers and fathers with children are expected to work and use welfare cash assistance as a short-term, last resort measure. We saw this radical change in public policy as a necessary first step in freeing families trapped in welfare dependency.

Government's changed role underscores the need for the family and the church to fulfill their respective callings toward the poor. FRC's work in strengthening marriage in our country is built on the knowledge that the best prevention measure for poverty is a two-parent family. Sadly, many welfare families lack a supportive family, due in large part to

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL

801 G STREET NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • 202-393-2100 • 202-393-2134 fax • (800) 225-4008 order line • www.frc.org

