

Testimony of Mark Mahnkey, Director, Public Policy and Media Relations,  
Washington Civil Rights Council to the Child Support Work Group, January  
21, 2011, Tumwater, WA

Hi folks—

My name is Mark Mahnkey, and I am appearing today on behalf of the  
Washington Civil Rights Council, as Director of Public Policy and Media  
Relations.

So you know something about me, let me tell you that I paid Child Support  
for thirty some years, and when I started paying I handed my check to  
another young guy you may know, Brian Sonntag, who hand wrote me a  
receipt. Long time ago. So, what is a Geezer—that is what my baby calls  
me, affectionately—like me doing here talking to you? I have three sons,  
and I don't want them to be subject to the indignities I was subject to by this  
system.

I have driven a truck, pushed a broom, and served on the faculty of the  
College of Business and Economics at WSU attached to the Small Business  
Development Center, where I taught the broad base of business courses, and  
assisted folks in launching many, many businesses. Along the way, I  
provided expert testimony in various Superior Courts about forensic  
financial analysis of various firms.

My encore job is as a Human Resources Service Delivery Coordinator at the  
Boeing Company, helping to roll out a new service delivery model. I work  
at the Everett Delivery Center, where folks roll in to town, hand us very,  
very large checks, and we hand them keys to a shiny new airplane. It is a  
very very good gig indeed!

Now, the Washington Civil Rights Council believes in equal rights, but  
along with that, demands equal accountability, and equal responsibility.

The old perffesser in me calls me to give you a “pre-test” so I know where to  
start edumacating you, based on what you already know.

So, here we go. These are all yes or no questions, and are about your opinions, so no right or wrong. Keep your own score, and you don't even have to do that very accurately, just keep in mind mostly or all yeses, or mostly or all nos.

Ready?

1. Do you believe only one parent should be responsible for providing for their kids?
2. Do you believe that the two adults in a family should have separate automobile insurance policies, paying twice the premium, even though the coverage is an exact duplicate and they gain no benefit for the additional premium?
3. Do you believe that the amount of money ol' Mark spends on clothes has anything to do with what it costs to raise up kids?
4. Do you believe that when a non-residential parent exercises his (mostly his) residential time, that a friendly fairy comes down, tosses some pixie dust, and that one bedroom hovel the NCP parent lives in turns into a three bedroom place, complete with a set of clothing, toys, recreational equipment equal to their room at the residential parent's house. Oh, and throw in a couple of move tickets too.
5. Do you believe that the US Supreme Court erred in their ruling in *Troxel V. Granville*?
6. Do you believe that the government should set a minimum amount all parents, even in intact families **MUST** spend on their kids?
7. Do you believe that Head of Household filing status and dependent deductions on income tax does **NOTHING** to better the living standard of families?
8. Do you believe that Section 8 housing allowances, lifeline telephone rates, free or reduced priced school lunches and the like does **NOTHING** to increase the standard of living for kids?

9. Do you believe that if I stick a gun in your ribs, and say gimme your money, and you do, that you *agreed* to give me your money?
10. You agree to buy me a car. Should I get to pick the exact car, at any price, regardless of practicality?
11. I am your doctor. Should I have a right to delay rendering my bill, until after the time your medical insurance would pay?
12. Do you believe it should be the public policy in this state to encourage additional school dropouts, more drug use, more teenage drinking, earlier pregnancy and higher rates of incarceration?

Ok, does anyone have more yeses than nos? Does anyone have all nos?

If you have all or mostly nos, then you have some heavy lifting to do my friends.

Any question you answered no to indicates that you **MUST** change the policy of the state of Washington, for all my questions/ statements are **EXACTLY** what is the public policy in our state currently. If you answered **NO**, then you must work to change those things in this exercise.

You will be hearing more from me as this exercise continues. Thanks to most of you, and certainly to the CPs and NCPs who give up their personal time, and often income, to come and participate.

Be aware that many who you sit with have a dog in the hunt, and an agenda to pursue, and it t'aint about or good for kids, but most often is to line their personal pockets, or advance political agendas that flat out hurt kids.