

December 29, 2008

The Honorable Brad Owen
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
220 Legislative Building
PO Box 40400
Olympia, Washington 98504-0400

RE: Child Support Schedule Workgroup Report

Dear Lieutenant Governor Owen:

On behalf of the Child Support Schedule Workgroup, and as Chair, I am happy to present to you the Workgroup's final Report. This Workgroup and report are requirements of RCW 26.19.027.

The Workgroup was assigned the task of examining the current laws, administrative rules, and practices regarding child support. The Workgroup's objective was to continue the work of the 2005 child support guidelines work group, and to produce findings and recommendations to the legislature, including recommendations for legislative action, by December 30, 2008.

The Workgroup held a total of nineteen meetings. Each meeting of the Workgroup had time on the agenda for public comments, and three meetings were held with extensive time scheduled for input from members of the public. In addition, the DSHS Division of Child Support (DCS) established a listserv and an email address to solicit and disseminate information, as well as a web site <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/resources/workgroup.asp>.

I am very proud of the Workgroup members, and applaud their hard work and dedication. The workgroup's recommendations are the culmination of months of effort by thoughtful individuals who took into consideration their own experience and expertise with the child support schedule while evaluating comments from the public and other interested parties, and reviewing the research and reports that were made available to them regarding the Washington State Child Support Schedule. We hope that this report will prove helpful to the Legislature.

Very truly yours,

David Stillman, Director
Division of Child Support

Enclosure