

Received: from netdoor.com  
by governor.state.ms.us; Wed, 08 Mar 2000 11:59:17 -0600  
Received: from rakintes (port50.blx.netdoor.com [208.148.205.50])  
by netdoor.com (8.9.3/8.9.3) with SMTP id MAA08438  
for <governor@governor.state.ms.us>; Wed, 8 Mar 2000 12:02:55 -0600 (CST)  
Message-ID: <000201bf8927\$a7e81d40\$32cd94d0@rakintes.netdoor.com>  
Reply-To: "Teri Setnikar" <terizset@netdoor.com>  
From: "Teri Setnikar" <terizset@netdoor.com>  
To: <governor@governor.state.ms.us>  
Subject: Fairness in child custody laws  
Date: Wed, 8 Mar 2000 11:55:39 -0600  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
Content-Type: multipart/alternative;  
boundary="-----\_NextPart\_000\_0006\_01BF88F5.38E59BC0"  
X-Priority: 3  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal  
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 4.72.3110.1  
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3110.3

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----\_NextPart\_000\_0006\_01BF88F5.38E59BC0  
Content-Type: text/plain;  
charset="iso-8859-1"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Dear Governor Musgrove:

First, let me congratulate you on becoming Mississippi's Governor for =  
the beginning of the New Milleneum. I voted for you and look forward to =  
following you and your administration.

Governor Musgrove, I would like to know how you feel about the role of =  
fatherhood and the importance of fathers in their children's lives.

I, for one, feel that far too many fathers have been relegated to merely =  
"visitors" in their children's lives in our society today, when a =  
divorce occurs. Unfortunately, divorce is all too common these days, =  
and many children are scarred for life because of it. I feel that we as =  
a society need to re-evaluate the family/chancery laws in our country. =  
No matter was anybody says, there has been a great deal of gender bias =  
with respect to custody arrangements. I am not advocating taking =  
children away from their mothers. I am, however, strongly advocating =  
the need for immediate changes with respect to how children and fathers =  
are being treated. I believe that children need BOTH PARENTS. CHILDREN =  
SHOULD NOT HAVE TO FEEL THAT DADDY MUST NOT LOVE THEM, BECAUSE HE ONLY =  
SEES THEM TWICE A MONTH. Sadly, in most divorce cases, the fathers are =  
lucky if they get 2 weekends a month with their children. Fathers are =  
second class citizens, and are turned into merely "visitors", rather =  
than parents.

Yes, there are some deadbeat parents (I detest the term Deadbeat Dads) =  
It is used too loosely and inaccurately, by an uninformed general =  
public. The sad thing is, our court system helps to perpetuate the myth =  
of Deadbeat Dads. Many fathers start out paying child support =  
faithfully, only to be denied access to their child(ren) by a vindictive =  
ex-spouse time and time again. The custodial parent can keep children =  
away from the other parent and in most cases, gets away with it, and =  
might get a little warning not to do it again, after the non-custodial =  
parent has to spend more money to go back to court and ask for his =  
rightful "visitation", as already outlined in his divorce decree.

There needs to be a department set aside to give free advice and legal =  
assistance to these non-custodial parents, just like there is currently =  
with respect to child support enforcement. In fact, the laws concerning =  
divorce should be amended to include certain changes. For example, many =

people believe there should be mandatory mediation, mandatory parenting =  
classes, and stipulations in each and every divorce decree protecting =  
the parent/child relationship for both parents, not just the mother. =  
There should be a paragraph in each divorce decree stating that if =  
either parent is in contempt (not paying child support, not allowing the =  
other parent their rightful custody, etc.) that the party that is in =  
contempt, will be responsible for any and all legal expenses incurred by =  
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now though, not many of the custodial parents are concerned if they =  
should decide on their own that the non-custodial parent just doesn't =  
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concerned, when all they will most likely receive is a little slap on =  
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automatically be in each and every divorce decree where minor children =  
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the parent being denied custody/visitation, can get on a court docket.

Please keep in mind, that I am referring to the majority of cases =  
involving minor children of divorce, when 2 equally capable, loving and =  
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neighborhood "hardened criminal". =20

I hope that all the citizens of the State of Mississippi can count on =  
you, Governor Musgrove, to assist in bringing much needed changes in the =  
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I agree with you, in that it is time Mississippi moves out of 50th. =  
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CHILDREN - WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Good Luck in your administration, I know you will face many challenges. =  
I look forward to speaking to you over the telephone soon or perhaps in =  
person 1 day.

Sincerely,

Teri Setnikar  
Concerned Citizen, Mother and Grandmother in Long Beach, MS

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charset="iso-8859-1"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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</HEAD>

<BODY bgColor=3D#ffffff>  
<DIV><FONT color=3D#000000 size=3D2>Dear Governor Musgrove:</FONT></DIV>  
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