



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

James S. Gilmore, III  
Governor

Claude A. Allen  
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

July 23, 2001

Stephen Baskerville, Ph.D.  
2901 Pine Spring Road  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

Dear Dr. Baskerville:

In accordance with state and federal statutory mandates, Virginia must conduct a review of its Child Support Guideline, currently required triennially. Certain government and special interest groups must be represented on the Panel convened for this purpose. To accomplish this for the upcoming guideline review, we invited nominations of persons believed by advocates of such groups to be able to represent their particular interests. Your name was suggested, along with a number of others, as a potential noncustodial parent (NCP) representative, and was submitted to this office for review and final selection.

After looking over the credentials that you sent demonstrating your qualifications to serve on this Panel, we offered you appointment as an NCP representative on April 27, 2001, which you accepted. However, upon reviewing your opinions published in the June 17, 2001, *Washington Times*, we question whether you would be able to work effectively with other Panel members.

The sole purpose of the Panel is to review the existing Virginia Guideline as set forth in *Code of Virginia §§ 20-108.1 and 20-108.2*. I understand that some interest groups take major issue with some of the premises of the child support enforcement laws and regulations, as well as implementation practices. That certainly is their right. However, the panel is not the appropriate forum for addressing these issues, but rather the U. S. Congress.


I have read your statement in the June 17, 2001, *Washington Times*, and the criticism of the motivations of those who either sit on the Panel or administer the program. Your statement that "The review panel was selected by the director of the state's Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) ..." is erroneous. Factually, the Director submitted only a nominee to represent the Executive branch. He was unaware of all other nominees for the Panel.

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From this, I find it difficult to see how you could effectively participate along with representatives of other groups that very likely have different perspectives than yours, in a cooperative effort to improve Virginia's existing Guideline within its existing legal and regulatory parameters.

Accordingly, I believe it to be in the best interest of all concerned to rescind your appointment to the 2001 Virginia Triennial Child Support Guideline Review Panel. Thank you for your willingness to participate, even if in a context counter to the Panel's purpose.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis F. Rossiter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Louis F. Rossiter, Ph.D.

*Secretary of Health and Human Resources*

LFR/jsc

c: Bill Brownfield  
Panel Liaison