

National Council on Family Relations  
1219 University Avenue, S. E.  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A governmental program of family income maintenance is needed to improve the quality of family life in America. The National Council on Family Relations, the major professional organization of persons concerned with family life, has endorsed the concept of family income maintenance and urges its adoption by the appropriate governmental bodies.

The concept of family income maintenance was carefully studied and discussed by participants at the annual meeting held in New York City in October. Recent action by the Board of Directors approved the concept of family income maintenance and "urges that an income maintenance system be adopted which provides economic guarantees and comprehensive supportive social services for all Americans." Support of this policy was taken because, "We believe such a policy would serve as a wise, preventive measure by dealing with destructive social behaviors at their root causes, eventually alleviating future monetary and social costs."

Action by the National Council on Family Relations on this controversial issue came as a result of a year-long study conducted by a specially appointed task force. The position statement issued by the task force as a result of the study said, "The National Council on Family Relations endorses the concept of income maintenance as a step toward establishing economic security for individuals and families. Family life may be improved by alleviating problems derived from financial conflicts and from a lack of resources, especially among low-income people. Such a program would encourage more rewarding interpersonal relationships and relief from a constant concern about meeting primary needs. Social research indicates that such expectations are well founded. Therefore, the National Council on Family Relations urges adoption of an income

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maintenance system which provides economic guarantees and comprehensive supportive social service programs for all Americans as the basis for a national policy of preventing destructive human behavior."

The specially appointed task force which studied this issue was led by Dr. Roger Rubin of the Department of Family and Community Development of the University of Maryland. Their complete 42-page report included a Position Statement, a Position Paper on Family Income Maintenance, and a detailed Resource Paper.

President of the National Council on Family Relations, Dr. William C. Nichols, a Consulting Psychologist in Birmingham, Michigan, indicated that, "The adoption of a Family Income Maintenance Program is an important first step in the creation of a national policy aimed at the strengthening of family life in America. The National Council will attempt to implement this position statement by serving as a professional resource to legislators and governmental officials in their consideration of this important decision."

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