

WILLIAM SILVERMAN

The Washington

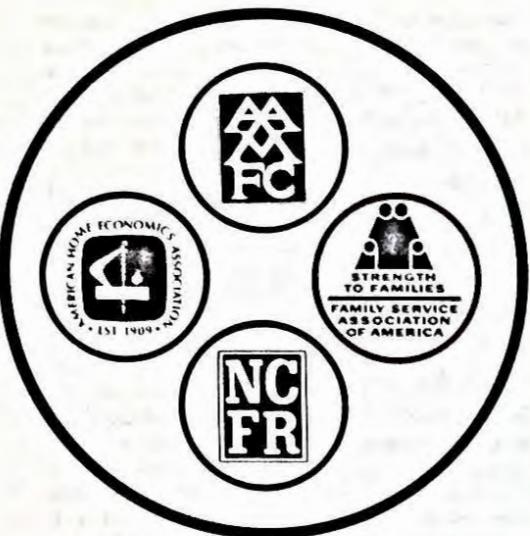
# cofo memo

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American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors  
American Home Economics Association  
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National Council on Family Relations

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**FUTURE AMERICAN FAMILIES**

By Paul C. Glick, Senior Demographer  
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A reasonable expectation is that changes in American family life, in its diverse forms, will be slower during the next two decades than during the last two decades. Three demographic developments are among the factors that underlie this expectation.

First, the decline in the U.S. birth rate from the peak it reached two decades ago has provided much of the momentum for a variety of other changes, and this decline has gone about as far as it can go. Most demographers do not expect the birth rate to rise very significantly in the next decade or two, even if a majority of the women who have been postponing marriage and childbearing should decide to have one or two children before they pass through their late twenties or early thirties. The increasing popularity of sterilization as a method of family limitation will prevent a growing proportion of adults who have all the children they want from contributing to another baby boom.

Second, the great amount of increase in school and college enrollment in the United States during the last two decades has influenced other changes, but is unlikely to be repeated again in the next couple of decades. The proportion of young people who graduate from high school has been on a plateau of about 85 percent during the 1970's. The number of men enrolled in college actually declined between 1977 and 1978, and the number of women enrolled in college has almost reached the corresponding level for men. These developments could be a harbinger of an approaching end to the increase in college enrollment.

Third, the proportion of U.S. women in the labor force has increased dramatically from 38 percent in 1960 to 50 percent in 1978, but the projected rate for 1995 -- 57 percent -- implies a slower pace of increase during the

next 17 years. Such a slackening in the rate of increase in the labor force participation rate should not be surprising in view of the anticipated lack of stimulation from a further decline in the birth rate and in view of the anticipated reduction in the rate of increase in educational attainment of young adults.

The expected slowdown in these three aspects of population change seem likely to be associated with a corresponding slowdown of future changes in patterns of family life.

**CONTINUING POSTPONEMENT OF MARRIAGE**

For several reasons, young adults in the United States have been increasingly postponing entrance into marriage. Women who did marry were about a year older at first marriage in 1977 than a decade earlier, according to a recent analysis (median of 21.0 years in 1977 versus 19.9 years in 1967). Women who did not marry accounted for one-third more of the women 20 to 24 years of age in 1978 than in 1968 (48 percent versus 36 percent); during this period the rate of increase in the proportion never married was even greater among those 25 to 29 years of age (18 percent in 1978 versus 10 percent in 1968, or an increase of four-fifths).

One of the tangible factors that helps to explain the increasing delay of marriage is the "marriage squeeze." During recent years the number of women in the United States who were in the age range when most of their first marriages occur (18 to 24 years) has been up to 11 percent higher than the number of men in the age range when most of their marriages occur (20 to 26 years). This imbalance or squeeze is a consequence of past fluctuations in the birth rate. For example, many women born in 1957 at the peak of the baby boom, were ready to marry at the age of 21; but the pool of men 3 years older -- the men most likely to include a prospective husband for them -- were born in 1954 when the birth rate was

\*Paul Glick was President of the National Council on Family Relations from 1978-1979. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the COFO Organizations.

somewhat lower. Other factors related to this delay of marriage include the increase in the employment of women and the concurrent increase in the difficulty of young adults born during this baby boom to be absorbed into the labor force. Finally, more young couples are living together outside marriage.

The longer young adults postpone marriage, the more likely they are to remain unmarried throughout life. Hence, instead of all but 4 or 5 percent of adults never marrying -- like those now about 50 years old -- closer to 8 or 9 percent of adults now in their twenties may experience a lifetime of singleness. That level was last reached at the end of the depression period of the 1930's.

By the mid-1980's, the direction of the marriage squeeze will have reversed. At that time, there will be more young men than young women in the age range when most people enter their first or only marriage. This development will be a consequence of the declining birth rate during the 1960's. Young men born in 1960 will have a relatively small pool of eligible marriage partners from whom to marry a woman born in 1963. Also, during the late 1980's and 1990's young adults should be more easily absorbed into the labor market because the numbers involved will be declining by that time. These circumstances should increase the proportion of persons who marry and who do so at a relatively young age, especially if domestic and international conditions are relatively stable.

#### SHORTENING SPAN OF CHILDBEARING

Many of the longtime trends in demographic variables that are used to study the family life span have been primarily affected by downward trends in the birth and death rates. Except for the baby boom after World War II, the U.S. birth rate has followed a generally downward direction for well over a hundred years until the present time. The average family that was formed during the early years of the 20th century included four children, whereas, the average family formed during the familialistic era of the 1950's had one additional child, but those forming at the present time expect to have only two children, on the average.

The young family of two children now stands in sharp contrast with their great-grandparents' family of four children. Other things being equal, one would expect that the father and mother of today can spend more time with each of their children and with each other apart from their children. The period of childbearing has been shortened by about 3 years; and the period after the children leave home has been increased by 11 years (from 2 years to 13 years), largely as a consequence of the improvement in survival rates among adults. Therefore, young couples today who remain married can expect to live as a "child-free" twosome for about 14 years longer than their elders, with most of the increase coming in middle age and later.

The degree of satisfaction those later years bring depends on many tangible and intangible factors concerning how well the two relate to each other as marital partners who are no longer parents of growing children.

#### SLOWDOWN OF THE RISE IN THE DIVORCE RATE

The longtime upward trend in divorce became an upsurge between 1965 and 1975, when the U.S. divorce rate per 1,000 married women nearly doubled, from 10.6 per 1,000 in 1965 to 20.3 in 1975. That decade included a war period, a time of considerable domestic violence, and an era when many traditional behavior patterns relative to the status of women were undergoing change; these changes are in addition to the other types of social change mentioned at the outset of this paper.

But since 1975, the divorce rate has risen much more slowly than from 1970 to 1975. By 1978, the number of divorces per 1,000 married women was about 22.0, or less than 10 percent above the level of 20.3 per 1,000 that was recorded 3 years earlier in 1975. Vital statistics for the first 4 months of 1979 indicate a small further increase in the rate. The divorces in a given year, however, occur to couples who married during a wide range of earlier years. One-half of the divorces after first marriage occur within 7 years after the marriage, and one-half of those after remarriage occur within 3 years after the remarriage. The most recent data show a tendency toward a slightly longer period between marriage and divorce. Moreover, more of the marriages during recent years have been remarriages, and more of the divorces have been redivorces.

These results reflect, among other things, a slowly growing pool of recently married young adults, and those adults are prime candidates for divorce; the older people are when they marry, the older they will be when they become divorced. The slackening of the rise in divorce could also reflect to some extent, the growing practice among young adults of living together informally without becoming married; separations that occur among unmarried couples are not represented in the divorce rate. Some marriage and family therapists have reported that the increase among their clients has been greatest among persons in middle age, whereas the most rapid rate of increase in the divorce rate has been among persons 25 to 39 years of age. Persons in middle age are most likely to be sufficiently affluent to afford marital stress counseling and are also most likely to have complex property settlements to consider if a divorce is impending.

A frequently reported impression is that more children of divorced parents are placed in the custody of the father. As a matter of fact, more than three times as many children in 1978 than in 1960 lived with a divorced father, but the same rate of increase has occurred among children living with a divorced mother. Consequently, a fairly constant one-tenth of all children living with a divorced parent are living with their father, but this proportion may move upward during coming decades if current changes in the roles of fathers and mothers should continue.

During the next decade or two, barring unforeseen developments, the odds seem to favor some continuation of the current slow rise in the divorce rate, with the trend broken periodically by a year or more of stability or decline. This appraisal is based on many of the recent and projected changes in demographic, social, and economic conditions that have been discussed above. But demographers have learned that their projections are subject to error and should therefore be revised at rather short intervals in order to take account of changing times.

#### CONTINUING INCREASE IN ONE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

As long as the amount of separation, divorce, and pre-marital childbearing keeps on rising, the number and proportion of one-parent households may be expected to continue moving upward. But such households probably account for a much smaller segment of the population at a given point in time than one might realize. The preponderant majority of people still live in households that are maintained by a nuclear family. Specifically, close to 7 of every 8 persons in the noninstitutional population of the United States in 1978 were members of nuclear family households.

- 76 percent were in married-couple households; and
- 10 percent were in one-parent households; thus,
- 86 percent were in nuclear family households.
- 8 percent were living alone as one-person households;
- 1 percent were in households of unmarried couples; and
- 5 percent were in various other living arrangements.

Persons living in one-parent households represent a relatively small proportion of the population, partly because their households include only one parent instead of the traditional two, and because only 54 percent of all families have any "own" children under 18 years of age in the household; most of the rest formerly had children in the house or will do so sometime in the future. As a matter of fact, 19 percent of the 63 million noninstitutional children in 1978 were living with only one parent.

- 78 percent of all children under 18 lived with two parents;
- 19 percent lived with one parent; and
- 3 percent lived with neither parent, but usually with relatives.

But some of the 78 percent of children under 18 in a home with two parents were living with one natural parent and one stepparent, or were born to their current parents after one or both had remarried.

- 63 percent lived with both natural parents in their first marriage;
- 5 percent lived with both natural parents but one or both had remarried; thus,
- 68 percent lived with both of their natural parents.
- 10 percent lived with one natural parent and a stepparent. (This includes some adopted children, not separately identified.)

The 19 percent of children who lived in one-parent families in 1978 were very unevenly distributed according to the sex, marital status, and race of the parent with whom they lived. They also represent a doubling of the corresponding proportion in 1960 (up from 9 percent to 19 percent). About 17 percent of all children under 18 were living with their mother only and 2 percent with their father only. Two-thirds of the children living with one parent lived with a divorced or separated parent; the others lived with a widowed or never-married parent. The total number of children under 18 was about the same (63 million) in 1978 as in 1960 (64 million), but in the meantime, the number living with a separated parent doubled, the number living with a divorced parent tripled, and the number living with a never-married parent became seven times as high. During the same period, the number living with two parents declined by 10 percent, and the number living with a widowed parent declined 20 percent.

On balance, there were still close to 4 of every 5 young children in 1978 living with two parents and most of the rest were living with one parent. But the picture is very different between Whites and Blacks. Fully three times as large a proportion of Black children as White children were living with only one parent (44 percent vs. 14 percent). Even though less than 1 of every 6 children under 18 were Black, one-third of those living with a separated or divorced parent were Black.

Living with two relatively harmonious parents is probably the optimum situation for most children, but census data do not provide a measure of this dimension of family life. Available figures do show a sharp decline in the proportion of one-parent children living with a poorly educated mother and a complementary increase in the proportion living with a well educated mother. In fact, the number of children in one-parent families whose mother was a college graduate doubled between 1970 and 1978. And yet, nearly one-half of the children in one-parent families live with a parent who has not graduated from high school, as compared with only one-fourth of those in two-parent families.

Most of the children who live with one parent are in a period of transition between two successive two-parent families. By 1990, probably more than one-half of all children will have spent some of the time before they reach 18 years of age in a one-parent family or house-

hold. Young mothers who are sufficiently independent economically to live at least for a while in an unmarried state may be expected to go on increasing in numbers, but probably at a slower rate of increase than in recent years. The same can also be said of unmarried fathers. The value placed on the prospect of entering a more satisfying marriage -- or of enjoying the freedom associated with living alone for an indefinite period -- must make the discomforts that inevitably go along with divorce worthwhile for at least one of the divorcing partners and usually for both.

#### CHANGRS IN LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF UNMARRIED ADULTS

As more of the young singles postpone marriage, and as more married persons become separated or divorced, more young adults are living alone. Typically, the unmarried mother maintains a household for herself and her children while the unmarried father occupies a separate house or apartment by himself. Increasing numbers of childless young women likewise live alone, but a substantial majority of the increase in lone living during recent years has been among men and among persons under 35 years of age. Much of the increase would not have occurred if the age-specific first marriage and remarriage rates had not been declining.

Young adults living informally as unmarried couples of opposite sex are still a numerically small group but are increasing at a very rapid rate. Since 1970, the number has more than doubled, rising from 530,000 couples in 1970 to 1,137,000 in 1978; or from 1.1 million adults in 1970 to 2.3 million adults in 1978; the number rose 19 percent between 1977 and 1978. About two-thirds of these couples lived in the house of the man and one-third in the house of the woman. Three-fourths of the couples were under 45 years of age, but one-tenth included a man or woman who is 65 years old or older. Close to 4 percent of all unmarried adults and 8 percent of all divorced men under 35 were partners in an unmarried couple lifestile. About 5 percent of all one-parent households, as defined in census reports, included an unmarried couple, but in fact some of these households actually included the two unmarried parents of the children who were involved. Among unmarried couples under 25 years of age, the men and women were more likely to have had college education than their married counterparts.

The future trend in the proportion of young couples who live together before marriage seems likely not to slow down contrary to the expected trend of many other family-related patterns. In 1978, 2.3 percent of all "couple households" consisted of unmarried couples with or without children present. But some additional proportion of young unmarried adults will adopt this lifestile for at least a period of a few months, and another additional proportion of those now married will do so later on when they become separated or divorced. In Sweden, 15 percent of the couples currently living together are not married to each other. Whether the lifetime proportion of young adults in the U.S. who will ever live in unmarried unions will reach 15 percent is, of course, unknown, but the trend is in that direction, and some private research suggests that it may actually exceed that level. The vast majority of these persons, however, will eventually "marry and settle down."

#### FAMILIES IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER WILL GO ON

Despite the demonstrable delay of marriage, the decline in family size, the upturn in divorce, and the increasing diversity of living arrangements, the overwhelming majority of American people still live in nuclear family households. The delay in marriage should eventually have the favorable side effect of expanding the range of social relations of

maturing adults before they marry, thereby increasing the chances that they will make a more rational choice of a marriage partner or a rational choice never to marry. As young adults delay marriage, they increase the chances, also, that they will delay childbearing and will bring fewer unwanted children into the world.

The advantages of having a large family in an agrarian economy no longer apply to the current American scene. Along with the adoption of a small family size has gone an increase in education and employment outside the home. After women have had experience in the labor force, few of them are likely to forego the advantage for a long period, but an increasing proportion of women may be expected to leave the labor force for a while to oversee their children as they go through their early formative years. Many if not most of the women who choose to work while their children are young could profit from improved quality of child care and from working either part time or on a flexible time schedule so that one parent could be at home while the children are not in school. A reasonable way to provide such care would be to utilize persons trained to teach who find no jobs and to place them with the children in vacated school buildings, with costs shared by parents and the government on the basis of the parents' ability to pay for this service.

Thus, new options have emerged during the last generation or two for women to become well-educated, to obtain employment, to limit their family size, and to end an unsatisfactory marriage in divorce. In this setting, an increase in divorce should not be very surprising. Social pressure has been diminishing for young adults to marry, to have children, and to stay married, but nearly all eventually marry, have at least one or two children, and remarry if they become divorced. During the next decade or two, social pressure may be expected to increase for both a mother and her husband to work but not necessarily on a full-time basis. Relaxation of pressures in these respects would be expected to increase the quality of the marriages that are initiated and of those that remain intact.

#### THE 1980 WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES

The White House Conference on Families, first announced by the Carter Administration in 1976, is now becoming a reality. The Conference was officially launched on July 19-20 with the first meeting of the 40-member National Advisory Committee of the White House Conference on Families, chaired by Jim Guy Tucker. (See Spring Issue of COFO Memo for biographical information.)

At this Advisory Committee meeting, it was decided to hold several, co-equal White House Conferences around the country; to schedule a series of major public hearings for this fall; to conduct two briefings for the White House Conference State Coordinators (as designated by the Governors in each state) in September, 1979; to establish several "issue work groups" to refine and raise issues during the Conference process; and, finally, to establish six themes to guide the Conference. The specific details that relate to these decisions are as follows:

1. The three co-equal White House Conferences are scheduled for June and July, 1980 and will be held in Baltimore, Minneapolis and Los Angeles.

2. The series of public hearings around the country have been scheduled as follows:

Kansas City, Kan.	Sept. 28
Lindsberg, Kan.	Sept. 29
Nashville, Tenn.	Oct. 12-13
Denver, Colo.	Oct. 26-27
Hartford, Conn.	Nov. 16-17
Wash., D.C.	Nov. 30-Dec. 1
Seattle, Wash.	To be announced
Detroit, Mich.	To be announced

At each of the above meetings, it is expected that the first day of hearings will be held within the city where the hearing is scheduled, and that the second day's hearings will occur in another setting. Other hearings may be scheduled by the State Coordinators as part of the state Conference process.

Persons who wish to testify at one of the hearings should proceed as follows: Either contact their State Coordinator (see attached list) or contact the White House Conference Office in Washington: Ms. Fran Eisenstat, (202) 245-6073, Office of the White House Conference on Families, 330 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

3. The two briefings for State Coordinators will be held at two locations: Washington, D.C., Sept. 19; and Kansas City, Kansas, Sept. 27.

4. The issue work groups have not yet been established.

5. The six themes agreed to by the Committee are as follows:

- (a) Family strengths and supports.
- (b) Diversity of Families.
- (c) The Changing Realities and Family Life.
- (d) The Impact of Public and Private Institutional Policies on Families.
- (e) The Impact of Discrimination.
- (f) Families with Special Needs.

Both the first Advisory Committee meeting of July 19-20 and the second meeting of September 7 indicated a deep commitment of the members to successful implementation of the Conference. At both meetings, much discussion centered around the matter (and manner) of including in the Conference a diversity of family forms and life styles. In a series of votes, the Advisory Committee repeatedly refused to define the limits of diversity in order to be inclusive.

The National Coalition for the White House Conference on Families has also dealt extensively with this same issue of diversity in an effort to assure fair participation to diverse family life styles.

In a recent meeting on September 5th, the National Coalition elected a new slate of officers for 1979-80. It remains a very strong presence in Washington to both monitor and impact the planning process for the Conference as it moves forward at a very rapid pace.

Each national organization in the Coalition was asked early in 1979 to submit a list of names, with one name per state, to facilitate activity at the state level around the Conference. In the next few weeks the Coalition will distribute, through its members, the names of those persons in each state who have indicated an interest in working on the Conference at the state level.

Activity around the Conference is going to be very intense in the months ahead. Persons who wish to participate at both the local and state level should begin immediately to become involved in the planning process.

#### THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON FAMILIES

##### State Coordinators List

STATE	STATE COORDINATOR	TELEPHONE NUMBER	Michigan	Ms. Susan Brook State Coordinator/Lansing	(517) 373-7961
Alabama	Mrs. H. Pettus Randall, Jr. State Coordinator/Tuscaloosa	(205) 553-5728	Minnesota	Mr. Robert Stevenson Acting State Coord/Saint Paul	(612) 296-3391
Alaska	Ms. Janice Gates Acting State Coord./Juneau	(907) 465-3030	Mississippi	Mrs. Edna Harbour State Coordinator	(601) 956-8713 ext. 6511
Arizona	Dr. Carol Kamin State Coordinator/Phoenix	(602) 255-3981	Missouri	Ms. Marie Williams State Coordinator/Jefferson City	(314) 752-2445
Arkansas	Mr. Don Crary State Coordinator/Little Rock	(501) 371-9678	Montana	Mr. John Frankino State Coordinator/Helena	(406) 442-5825
California	Mr. Alec Velasquez State Coordinator/Sacramento	(916) 445-0198	Nebraska	Ms. Christine Hanus State Coordinator/Lincoln	(402) 471-3121 ext. 232
Colorado	Ms. Donna Behrendt Deputy Coordinator/Denver	(303) 839-3386	Nevada	Mr. Bob Edmundson Acting State Coord/Carson City	(702) 885-5982
Connecticut	Ms. Laura Lee Simon State Coordinator/Westport	(203) 227-1448	New Hampshire	Ms. Terri Bayer Acting State Coord/Concord	(603) 271-2121
Delaware	Mrs. George Anna Theobald Acting State Coor./Wilmington	(302) 428-0576 (301) 778-2420	New Jersey	Reverend Norman O'Connor State Coordinator/Clifton	(201) 245-6000 (201) 777-8818
District of Columbia	Ms. Audry Rowe State Coordinator	(202) 727-3990	New Mexico	Ms. Alice King State Coordinator/Sante Fe	(505) 827-5300--H (505) 827-2221--O
Florida	Mr. Peter O'Donnell Acting State Coord/Tallahassee	(904) 488-6350	New York	Ms. Ilene Margolin State Coordinator/Albany	(518) 474-8038
Georgia	Mr. Thomas J. Gleaton, Jr. State Coordinator/Atlanta	(404) 658-2548 (404) 252-5430	North Carolina	Dr. Charles Petty State Coordinator/Raleigh	
Hawaii	Ms. Ann Headley State Coordinator/Honolulu	(808) 923-9534	North Dakota	Mr. Milan Christianson State Coordinator/Fargo	(701) 237-7251
Idaho	Mr. Ed Van Deusen State Coordinator/Boise	(208) 384-3340	Ohio	Mr. Roger Williams State Coordinator/Columbus	(614) 466-6124
Illinois	Mr. R. A. (Rod) St. Clair State Coordinator/Alton	(618) 465-8428	Oklahoma	Ms. Cindy Worley Acting State Coord/Oklahoma City	(405) 521-2342
Indiana	Mrs. Linda D. Kolb State Coordinator/Indianapolis	(317) 633-4567	Oregon	Ms. Alice Kay Simpson State Coordinator/Portland	(503) 248-4005
Iowa	Ms. Shean Serson Co-Coord./Des Moines	(515) 281-3986	Pennsylvania	Ms. Helen B. O'Bannon State Coordinator/Harrisburgh	(717) 787-2600/3600
Kansas	Mrs. Helen McDonald State Coord/Des Moines	(515) 281-3986	Puerto Rico	Dr. Jenaro Colasso Territorial Coordinator/Santurce	
Kentucky	Ms. Nancy Hodges State Coordinator/Topeka	(913) 296-4650	Rhode Island	Ms. Maureen E. Massiver State Coordinator/Providence	(401) 277-2214
Louisiana	Ms. Virginia Nestor Acting State Coord/Frankfort	(502) 564-6787	South Carolina	Ms. Barbara Moses State Coordinator/Columbia	(803) 758-8016
Maine	Dr. William Cherry State Coordinator/Baton Rouge	(504) 342-6711	South Dakota	Ms. Arlinda McCumbers State Coordinator/Brookings	(605) 643-4783--H (605) 648-6191--O
Maryland	Mr. Michael Petit State Coordinator/Augusta	(207) 289-2736	Tennessee	Mr. Charles Gentry State Coordinator/Knoxville	(615) 524-7483
Massachusetts	Ms. Sally Michel State Coordinator/Baltimore	(301) 467-1041--O (301) 383-2290--H	Texas	George Willeford, Jr., M.D. State Coordinator/Austin	(512) 472-1073 (512) 454-7741
	Ms. Janice Barrett State Coordinator/Boston	(617) 727-7785	Utah	Dr. Richard Lindsey State Coordinator/Salt Lake City	(801) 531-3539
			Vermont	Mrs. Ellen Purgie State Coordinator/Salt Lake City	(801) 582-3988
			Virginia	Ms. Ruth Abram State Coordinator	(802) 241-2234
			Washington	Jessica Cohen, Ph.D. Coordinator/Va. Conf. on Families	(703) 961-5720--H (703) 552-8373
			West Virginia	Dr. Thomas B. Anderson Deputy Coordinator/Olympia	(206) 753-0432
				Ms. Leila K. Todorovich State Coordinator/Olympia	(206) 753-7002
				Mr. Jack Canfield Acting State Coord/Charleston	(304) 348-2000

<u>STATE</u>	<u>STATE COORDINATOR</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Wisconsin	Mr. Robert Lizon Acting State Coord/Madison	(608) 266-5774
Wyoming	Dr. Everett Lantz State Coordinator/Laramie	(307) 766-2243

AHEA Co-Editor of COFO, Barbara Warden has taken the position of Deputy Director for Process with the White House Conference on Families. Her responsibilities include: helping to coordinate activities at the Hearing sites and Conference sites; providing technical assistance to states and state networks, and working with national organizations in Washington.

tion is expected to remain intact. Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif) has indicated that he will introduce an identical bill in the Senate in the near future.

#### Adolescent Pregnancy Program:

The Conference Committee on Labor-HEW Appropriations passed a supplemental appropriation for FY 79 of \$1 million which would allow a small amount of start-up money for the HEW adolescent pregnancy program. In addition, the Committee agreed to a compromise figure of \$17.5 million for FY 80 that would permit a number of pilot projects to be established around the country.

**NATIONAL FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT: COFO Makes its First Joint Venture in a Programmatic Effort.** LEAA has funded a short-term project in which the four COFO organizations are working jointly. The effort is now focused on testing out the service capacity in communities to respond to the needs of family members experiencing violence and abuse. The testing is to precede a proposed national media campaign on domestic violence.

#### LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY:

**Welfare Reform: HR 4904.**

The House Ways and Means Committee met on September 12. It rejected efforts to amend the Administration's bill. The Committee refused to accept amendments (HR 4460) to provide a block grant option to states to pay for welfare reform which would radically change this country's welfare system. However, a battle on the floor of the House is expected. Similar efforts are expected in the Senate Finance Committee.

**Domestic Violence: HR 2977.**

The House Subcommittee on Select Education met on September 14 and favorably reported out this legislation (See COFO Memo, Spring Issue). Full Committee consideration should take place the week of September 24. A few amendments are likely but the basic focus of the legisla-

#### HR 3434:

Just prior to the August recess, HR 3434 passed the House, but the effort to ensure Title IV-B as an entitlement program, funded at a level of \$266 million failed to pass. Instead, the House adopted a motion to re-commit, which continues to subject Title IV-B to the annual appropriations process. The Senate Finance Committee will hold hearings on HR 3434 on September 24, and the Committee may make its own modifications of the bill. Principally, some Committee members question the Title XX training ceiling; in addition, the Cranston-Moynihan-Riegle amendment to create a new Title IV-E, related to the existing Title IV-B program but capped at 120% of FY 78 expenditures, could be adopted.

#### TIME FOR A PAUSE

COFO has been publishing the MEMO for two years. We know our readers are forming their opinions about the COFO MEMO, and we would hope that all of you would share your opinions with us. Below are questions that we ask you to complete. Please take the time to respond and mail this portion of the newsletter to Patricia Langley, whose address is listed on the cover of the MEMO. In this way, we can better ensure that the content of COFO MEMO reflects the interests of our readership. Thank you.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE FEATURE ARTICLES? ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER?  
IS THE LENGTH SATISFACTORY?

LIST THE ISSUES ABOUT WHICH YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE.



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