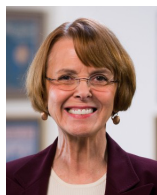


## Family Economic Stability

Federal welfare reform efforts in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act have resulted in a decline in the number of families on the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program by more than one-half in Iowa and the United States, with many of those families now in the workforce. At the same time, many of these families have moved from being on welfare to being among the “working poor,” still struggling to make ends meet. Children continue to be the age group most likely to be poor, and even temporary poverty has been shown to have long-term impacts upon children. Prior to the recession, there were efforts in a number of states, including Iowa, to reduce poverty by at least fifty percent, which in Iowa would mean 50,000 fewer poor children.

*As U.S. Senator, what will you do to address child poverty, including any further changes to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, as it is up for reauthorization?*



**CONLIN:** Because I have experienced poverty, I know the devastating effect it has on children and families. It is inexcusable that, in the United States, we still have difficulty addressing the issue of children in poverty.



**GRASSLEY:** The demographics of the welfare caseload are changing. Children, particularly so-called TANF child-only cases, which are cases where the child is a sole recipient of a welfare check, are increasingly becoming the largest percentage of welfare recipients. There are many reasons why children become child-only welfare cases, but more needs to be done to ensure that they are receiving the appropriate amount of assistance and support.

The 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions bill, which I helped author, provides an option to states to allow children eligible for foster care to establish a permanent placement with a relative. It may be the case that a number of child-only welfare cases could benefit from a permanent placement with a caring adult relative.

I have asked the Government Accountability Office to prepare an analysis on TANF child only cases. During the reauthorization of the TANF programs, I will **(response continued on page 14)**