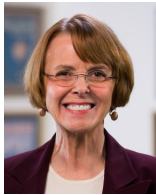


Role of Government in Valuing and Strengthening Families

Parents are their children’s most important teachers and strong communities are needed to support families in this role. Government cannot and should not serve as a substitute for a child’s family and community. At the same time, too many families struggle to provide the nurturing and stable home environment all children need. Through poverty, parental stress, depression, addiction, or mental illness, too many children are vulnerable to a host of poor child outcomes and an ability to themselves become contributing adults and parents as they develop. Increased mobility and family stress also have produced what some have called a “breakdown of the family” in America. The media and negative role models among some celebrities has contributed to risky and negative youth behavior. Government cannot solve these issues, but leaders within government can set a vision and direction for government in strengthening and supporting families and family values.

As U.S. Senator, what leadership role will you take to strengthen families and family life in Iowa?



CONLIN: My own family includes two children James and I took into our home when they were teenagers. One of them had a significant juvenile and drug history. All four of

our children are remarkably contributing and caring adults. As a United States Senator, I would work to end the cycles that cause these bad outcomes. I would take action to improve our economy and employment situation, improve education, provide more opportunity for upward mobility, end policies that place further burdens on the poor or that incentivize bad behaviors.



GRASSLEY: Well-meaning federal programs that seek to assist families in ways that limit the decision making power and responsibilities of families can actually contribute to the

“breakdown of the family.” To some extent, welfare programs being strengthened are an example. I will work to ensure that federal programs seeking to assist families don’t rob them of the dignity of self-sufficiency but empower them to meet their own needs. I will continue to work to allow Iowa’s families to keep more of their hard-earned paycheck by fighting to ease their federal tax burden. Also, controlling spending and reducing our debts and deficits can help lead to a stronger dollar, control interests rates and provide a more promising economic climate for the American family.