

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2009

Paul Ronnigen, State Coordinator
Children's Defense Fund
523 North 4th Street
PO Box 1775
Bismarck, ND 58502-1775

Dear Paul,

We celebrate with you today as you launch the 'Bridge to Benefits' program as part of the Children's Defense Fund. It is a welcome program to North Dakota and we know that this program will be a valuable tool for families.

The Bridge to Benefits program is a way to ensure that families are aware of the many and varied programs available to them. It is our goal to fund programs for families that include child care, housing assistance, medical and nutritional screenings, and energy assistance along with many other programs.

The 'Bridge to Benefits' program helps insure that families know about the programs available to them and can be assisted to apply for the benefits. This works hand in hand with families, connecting them to the services they need. This partnership is a win-win for everyone involved.

We congratulate you on your work and dedication to making stronger and healthier families in our state and country. You will be remembered for leaving a lasting mark on our country as you strengthen our core, the family. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you today as you launch this valuable program.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD
U.S. Senate



BYRON DORGAN
U.S. Senate



EARL POMEROY
Member of Congress

KC:bks