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December 7, 2015

To: Governor Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
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From: Adrian Brown
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4 pages

December 6, 2015

Dear Governor Nikki Haley,

My name is Adrian Olando Brown. I'm a residence of Blackville, South Carolina of Barnwell County.. I'm a hardworking father who works at Kimberly-Clark Corp. Anytime you use Kleenex you can think of me!!! Smile.. I have two kids: Adria Olivia Brown who is 7 years old, and Desmond Keyshaun Brown is who's 3 years old.

I'm writing this letter crying out for help because of South Carolina's child support system. I feel like it disables good fathers who work hard to take care of their kids. I'm paying out an unbelievable amount of child support for both kids. With the amount I'm paying out, it is very difficult to keep up with my bills and to make ends meet. I believe there are a lot of flaws when it comes to child support laws and I would like very much to discuss these laws and see if change can take place.

Back in July of 2015 I wrote Senator Brad Hutto. I believe He's my first chain of command for my issues. I got some response but not much in the matter of a six months period. I have strong passion behind this because it's affecting my living in a very strong impactful way. I believe I'm a good father, I love my kids and am responsible enough to make sure their taking care of. With or without a system but the fact of being in the child support system, I believe it should be fair to all parties involve and not just the mother of the child or the main parent.

I've included the letter I wrote back in July so you can understand my situation deeper. Hope to hear from you soon and would like to meet with you if possible. I know that my cry unto this situation is the voice of many good hardworking fathers who made some relationship mistakes and are now a part of a system that supposed to designed for real deadbeat dads here in the United States. Thank you for your time..

Adrian Brown
20521 Soloman Blatt Avenue
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July 28, 2015

Senator Hutto/Young,

My name is Adrian Brown. I am a hard working father who resides in Blackville, SC. I'm employed at Kimberly-Clark and I have two children: Adria Brown who is 7 years old and Desmond Brown is who 2 years old is. Adria's mother resides in Hephzibah, Georgia and Desmond's mom resides in Aiken, South Carolina.

The reason I'm writing this letter/proposal is because both of my kids are receiving child support from me through the court system. Of course in two different counties: Richmond and Aiken county. Between the two cases I am paying out a large sum of money which almost disables me to live. I went to court for my daughter Adria in 2008. Based on my hourly salary then which was \$17.80/hr., I was ordered to pay \$520.00 per month. My court case for my son Desmond in 2015 based on my salary \$21.21/hr. I was ordered to pay \$774.90 per month. Together of course, \$1,295/month.

The reasons I think the total amount are unreasonable is: child support takes over half of my net pay. I bring home about \$330 a week after all of my deductions including all of my child support deductions. Paying this amount disables me to pay my bill on time, and it puts me in an intense struggling position to even do the basic necessities in life...At this time just to make ends meet, I have to change my deductions to where I can at least see something on my check but of course that puts me in the red zone with the IRS.. Paying this amount also disables me to buy a home for myself and my kids because I am an active father.

Note: If I miss ONE day at work for sickness or emergencies, it will throw me so far behind that it makes no sense.....

It disables me to do activities with my kids when I have them. It disables me to ever support my family if I decide to get married. Sometimes I don't even have extra to buy food for my kids when they come over for stays, so I have to borrow money for gas and food for them... Personal note: right now I've been fortunate enough for the past two years to stay in a family home where I don't have much rent to pay but I cannot stay in this home forever. When the time comes for me to move, I WILL NOT be able to afford to pay rent for an apartment or house even with a penny watching tight budget...

Senator Hutto/Young, I know so many good hardworking fathers that are affected by this child support system. I am not trying to get out of paying child support because I love my babies and realize that as a father I must do my part. I wouldn't have it any other way. But due to the percentages and calculations that are done in the court system is it fair to the fathers that we struggle to make ends meet?

So I just want to ask some questions:

1. Is it fair for a hardworking father to be in a position to barely keep his bill paid to struggle to live because of child support payments?
2. Shouldn't everybody who's involved including: the child/children, the mother, the father is in an okay position after court orders?
3. With a father that pays so much child support, why can't it be he/she is able to rotate in claiming the kids every year on taxes? Shouldn't it be the father one year, then the mother the following year? That's fair right?
4. I've been living in Barnwell County for 2 ½ years now, Why was my hearing in Aiken County? Is that fair?
5. Desmond's Mother work at the same place I work at which is Kimberly-Clark, she makes more than I do (\$26.17/hr.) and more than Adria's mom. Is it fair that Desmond's gets an extra almost 800 dollars a month and even so more than Adria's mom when Adria's mom makes no way near our salaries. Shouldn't she be the one to get more since she makes way less? (Something is wrong with this system)...
6. Just think: \$1,300 dollars a month for two kids at \$21.21/hr. Is that fair?
7. I bring home about \$330.00 a week after all my deductions. Is that fair?

My proposal:

1. I propose that Aiken County Child Support system is looked into.
2. Better percentage formulas so the person that is being put on child support can live as well as the other parent.
3. Rotation of claiming the child/children with the parent and non-custodial parent.
4. Better standard for court hearings and appearances. (Aiken County was so crowded the day I went that it took me 6 hours for my hearing. The Judge did not pick up a calculator. He basically went with the pre-hearing facilitator's numbers)
5. Hearings should be in the county of the person being taken to court.
6. Bills are calculated in the formulas. Both parties should be allowed to have the basic necessities and not struggle to pay them. Example: No I shouldn't be driving around in a Lamborghini, but should be allowed to have something decent to transport to and fro to work and to transport my children. Same goes for a decent home.

Just wanted to state again that I'm not trying to get out of paying child support. I just want everyone to be ok and to be able to live and enjoy life. One party shouldn't struggle while the other lives beyond comfortable. Thank you for your time and hope to hear from you soon.

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