

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 44:10-9 to 44:10-18 "REACH for Oportunity Act"

LAWS OF: 1987 CHAPTER: 282

Bill No: A3809

Sponsor(s): Colburn and others

Date Introduced: February 23, 2987

Committee: Assembly: Health and Human Resources

Senate: Institutions, Health and Welfare

Amended during passage: Yes Assembly Committee Substitute (OCR) enacted. Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: June 11, 1987 Senate: September 14, 1987

Date of Approval: October 8, 1987

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes Attached: Senate floor amendments, adopted 9-10-87 (with statement)

Committee statement: Assembly Yes Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

Governor's Annual Message, excerpt, as referred to in statements-- attached.

See newspaper clipping file in "N.J.-- Public welfare-- 1987" in New Jersey Reference Department

(OVER)

See also-- attached:

Kanige, "Does REACH exceed its grasp?" New Jersey Reporter 17(2): 20+
July, August 1987

New Jersey. Legislature. Office of Legislative Services.
Analysis of Department of Human Services, March, 1987. Trenton, 1987.

Rules and regulations, as mentioned in legislation: NJAC 10:81-14.

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]
 ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 3809

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED JUNE 8, 1987

Sponsored by Assemblymen Colburn and Stuhltrager

AN ACT establishing the REACH program in the Department of Human Services and supplementing P. L. 1959, c. 86 (C. 44:10-1 et seq.).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "REACH
 2 Program Act."

1 2. The Legislature finds and declares: that providing the means
 2 and opportunity for recipients of public assistance to enter the
 3 economic mainstream and to realize economic achievement is both
 4 a morally right and economically sound investment in the future
 5 of our economy, our labor force and our children; that our current
 6 welfare system does not do enough to help its recipients become
 7 economically self-sufficient even though most people who receive
 8 public assistance would rather work or prepare for work than
 9 remain indefinitely trapped in the oppressive cycle of welfare
 10 dependency; that in this time of increasing international economic
 11 competition, the productivity of every worker and potential worker
 12 is an important concern for all Americans; that our citizenry has
 13 always placed great value on work and self-reliance; and that this
 14 State should provide***[** for a reasonable but limited period,**]*** the
 15 relevant education, training, employment and supportive services
 16 necessary to enable public assistance recipients to realize economic
 17 achievement and thereby become self-sufficient.

1 3. As used in this act:

2 "Aid to families with dependent children" means the program
 3 established pursuant to P. L. 1959, c. 86 (C. 44:10-1 et seq.):

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Senate committee amendments adopted August 6, 1987.

**—Senate amendments adopted September 10, 1987.

3A **“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department*
 3B *of Human Services;**

4 “Recipient of aid to families with dependent children” means a
 5 parent or relative with whom a dependent child is living who is
 6 receiving benefits under the program of aid to families with depen-
 7 dent children.

1 4. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the
 2 Commissioners of Labor, Education, **Community Affairs** and
 3 Commerce and Economic Development, and the Chancellor of
 4 Higher Education, shall establish the “Program for Realizing
 5 Economic Achievement,” hereafter referred to as the REACH
 6 program, in the Division of Public Welfare in the Department of
 7 Human Services for the purpose of enabling recipients of aid to
 8 families with dependent children to realize economic achievement
 9 through a range of education, training, employment and supportive
 10 services, while also focusing on the prevention of long-term de-
 11 pendency for young mothers who are recipients of aid to families
 12 with dependent children.

12A ***【**Every recipient of aid to families with dependent children is
 13 required to participate in the REACH program according to rules
 14 and regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services.
 15 The commissioner shall adopt guidelines concerning exemptions
 16 from this requirment for reasons of physical or mental disability
 17 or extenuating family circumstances in accordance with federal
 18 regulations.**】***

1 5. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the
 2 Commissioners of Labor, Education, **Community Affairs** and
 3 Commerce and Economic Development, and the Chancellor of
 3A Higher Education, shall:

4 a. Adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the “Adminis-
 5 trative Procedure Act,” P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.),
 6 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act; except that no rule
 7 or regulation adopted pursuant to this **【section】** **act** shall be
 8 more restrictive than any provision of federal law, regulations or
 9 waiver authority with respect to the employment or training of
 10 recipients of aid to families with dependent children;

11 b. Take such actions as are required to ensure that services
 12 provided under the REACH program are integrated, to the extent
 13 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act, with employment
 14 or training programs provided pursuant to chapter 15B of Title 34
 15 of the Revised Statutes, or with any other federal, State or private
 16 program which provides employment, training or vocational ser-
 17 vices, or a combination thereof;

18 c. Request from the United States Secretary of Health and
 19 Human Services such waivers of federal regulations as are neces-
 20 sary to provide supportive services pursuant to subsection ***[d.]***
 21 **e.** of section 7 of this act to facilitate the training or employment
 22 of recipients of aid to families with dependent children under the
 23 REACH program;

24 d. Develop a schedule for the implementation of the REACH
 25 program Statewide which will ensure that every county is partici-
 26 pating in the program no later than three years after the effective
 27 date of this act;

28 e. ***[Establish guidelines and procedures for reporting on the**
 29 **implementation of the REACH program by each county agency**
 30 **designated to coordinate program services pursuant to subsection**
 31 **b. of section 8 of this act;**

32 f. Provide for an independent evaluation of the REACH pro-
 33 gram by a private entity under contract with the Department of
 34 Human Services, the results of which shall be presented to the
 35 Governor and the Legislature pursuant to subsection b. of section
 36 10 of this act; and

37 **g.]*** **Develop guidelines to ensure that a current recipient of*
 38 *aid to families with dependent children who resides in a county*
 39 *in which the REACH program is operational and who requests to*
 40 *participate in the REACH program before the program is fully*
 41 *implemented in that recipient's county of residence, receives an*
 42 *evaluation pursuant to section 7 of this act within a reasonable*
 43 *period of time; and*

44 **j.]*** Seek such grants of ***[moneys]*** **monies** to fund the REACH
 45 program as are available from agencies of the United States
 46 Government or private foundations.

1 6. a. Every **able-bodied prospective** recipient of aid to families
 2 with dependent children in this State shall register with the
 3 REACH program at the time of enrollment as a recipient and
 4 shall participate in one or more program activities with the goal
 5 of obtaining permanent full-time unsubsidized employment, pre-
 6 ferably in the private sector***[; except that a]***. **An able-bodied*
 7 *current** recipient of aid to families with dependent children **who*
 8 *is receiving assistance** on the effective date of this act shall***[, as**
 9 **a condition of continuing eligibility for aid to families with depen-**
 10 **dent children,]*** register with the REACH program no later than
 11 three years after the effective date of this act, according to a
 12 Statewide implementation schedule for the REACH program estab-
 13 lished by the ***[Commissioner of Human Services]*** **commis-*
 14 *sioner** pursuant to section 5 of this act.

15 b. The ***[Commissioner of Human Services shall establish**
 16 **eligibility and participation requirements under the REACH pro-**
 17 **gram for recipients of aid to families with dependent children.]***
 18 **commissioner shall adopt regulations which specify eligibility*
 19 *and participation requirements under the REACH program for*
 20 *able-bodied recipients of aid to families with dependent children.*
 21 *The regulations shall include exemptions from these requirements*
 22 *for reasons of physical or mental disability or extenuating family*
 23 *circumstances, in accordance with federal regulations.**

24 c. ***[A recipients]*** **An abled-bodied recipient** of aid to families
 25 with dependent children who without good cause, as determined
 26 by the commissioner, fails to comply with the provisions of this
 27 act is subject to a penalty to be determined by the commissioner,
 28 which may include the denial, reduction or termination of aid to
 29 families with dependent children benefits. The commissioner shall
 30 provide for an appropriate right of appeal under those circum-
 31 stances.

1 7. a. ***[Services shall be provided to each]*** **Each** participant
 2 in the REACH program **shall receive educational, training or*
 3 *employment services and supportive services** according to an
 4 individualized service plan which includes a written contract. **The*
 5 *individualized service plan for each participant in the REACH*
 6 *program shall be designed by a designated representative of the*
 7 *commissioner after interviewing the participant and shall be based*
 8 *upon an evaluation of the participant's employment skills and*
 9 *potential, educational background, job experience and interests, and*
 10 *need for supportive services.** The contract shall be signed by the
 11 participant and ***[a REACH program]*** **the designated** repre-
 12 sentative who shall act as a case manager for the participant, and
 13 shall set forth the specific mutual obligations of the participant
 14 and the ***[program and a detailed plan for achieving economic self-**
 15 **sufficiency on the part of the participant]*** **State in the REACH*
 16 *program*.*

17 The service plan and contract shall be reviewed by both the
 18 participant and the ***[program]*** **designated** representative at
 19 least ***[once a year]*** **every six months** and may be revised from
 20 time to time according to the needs of both the participant and the
 21 ***[program]*** **State*.*

22 ***[The individualized service plan for each participant in the**
 23 **REACH program shall be designed by the program representative**
 24 **after interviewing the participant and shall be based upon an**

25 evaluation of the participant's employment skills and potential,
 26 educational background, job experience and interests, and need
 27 for supportive services.】*

28 *b.* The *【program】* *designated* representative acting as a
 29 case manager for the participant shall arrange for necessary edu-
 30 cation or training services, in addition to necessary supportive
 31 services, and shall monitor the participant's progress after place-
 32 ment in a job *and be available to the participant, as needed*.*

33 *【b. The services to be provided under the REACH program
 34 shall include, but not be limited to】* *c. The commissioner shall
 35 be responsible for providing, at a minimum, the following educa-
 36 tion, training and employment services under the REACH pro-
 37 gram**: counseling and vocational assessment; intensive remedial
 38 education, including instruction in English as a second language;
 39 job search assistance; *【community work experience;】* employ-
 40 ment skills training focused on a specific job; on-the-job training
 41 in an employment setting; and job development and placement.

42 *【c. Participants】* *d. A participant** in the REACH program
 43 shall be trained and placed in *【jobs and fields】* *a job and field**
 44 of employment which *【offer】* *offers** reasonable opportunities
 45 for employment security and upward mobility.

46 *【d. The REACH program shall provide supportive services to
 47 a program participant as a last resort when no other】* *e. The
 48 commissioner shall be responsible for ensuring the availability of,
 49 and for providing, the following supportive services under the
 50 REACH program for a program participant when no other appro-
 51 priate** source is available therefor and when these services are
 52 specified in the contract as necessary to enable the participant to
 53 receive program services pursuant to subsection *【b.】* *c.** of
 54 this section. **【*The supportive services shall be provided to the
 55 participant for one year after the commencement of employment
 56 by the participant, when necessary.*】** The supportive services
 57 shall include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

58 (1) *【day】* *child** care services for the participant's
 59 child*【, to be purchased through a voucher issued to the
 60 participant by the program, which may be used to obtain
 61 care】* *which may include care provided** at a child care
 62 center licensed pursuant to P. L. 1983, c. 492 (C. 30:5B-1
 63 et seq.) or a school age child care program, or at a family
 64 day care home approved by the Department of Human Services
 65 pursuant to P. L. 1987, c. 27 (C. 30:5B-16 et seq.)*【, that
 66 accepts the voucher,】* or through alternative arrangements

67 which are developed **by the designated representative and*
 68 *the REACH participant** according to guidelines established
 69 by the ***[Commissioner of Human Services]*** **commissioner**;

70 (2) transportation services, to be provided directly by the
 71 **REACH** program or through an allowance or other means
 72 of subsidy by which the participant may purchase transporta-
 73 tion, which services may be designed and implemented by the
 74 Commissioner of Human Services in consultation with the
 75 Commissioner of Transportation; and

76 (3) health care coverage through a continuation of Medicaid
 77 benefits pursuant to P. L. 1968, c. 413 (C. 30:4D-1 et seq.) in
 78 accordance with the provisions of P. L., c. . . . (C.
 79) (now pending before the Legislature as Assembly
 80 Bill No. 4182 ***[of 1987]*** **or Senate Bill No. 2047 of 1986-*
 81 *1987**).

82 ***Child care services and health care coverage shall be provided*
 83 *to the participant for one year after the commencement of employ-*
 84 *ment by the participant, as necessary. Transportation services may*
 85 *be provided to a participant after the commencement of employ-*
 86 *ment for a limited period of time, but the amount of transportation*
 87 *services assistance shall be reduced, overtime, according to a sched-*
 88 *ule adopted pursuant to regulation which is based on the length of*
 89 *time a participant is employed.***

1 8. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the
 2 REACH program on a county-by-county basis according to a pro-
 3 gram implementation plan specifically designed to meet the needs
 4 of each county.

5 a. The commissioner shall establish a REACH planning com-
 6 mittee in each county to determine the most effective way to plan
 7 and organize services in that county. The planning committee shall,
 8 at a minimum, include the following as voting members: the director
 9 of the county welfare agency; a representative of the board of
 10 chosen freeholders; a representative of the local Private Industry
 11 Council or the service delivery area established pursuant to the
 12 "Job Training Partnership Act," Pub. L. 97-300 (29 U. S. C. § 1501
 13 et al.), or of a successor entity as may be provided by federal law;
 14 and the chairperson of the county Human Services Advisory
 15 Council. The planning committee may also include as voting mem-
 16 bers the following: a representative of the local community college;
 17 a representative of the county vocational school; a representative
 18 of private business or industry in that county; ***[a recipient]***
 19 **two or more recipients** of aid to families with dependent children
 20 residing in that county*, *whose costs of participation in the plan-*

21 *ning committee shall be borne by the REACH program; county*
 22 *residents who represent the nonprofit and religious communities*
 23 *in the county**; and other agencies of the county government*,* as
 24 appropriate. In addition, the planning committee shall include as
 25 nonvoting ***[ex officio]*** members representative of the following
 26 agencies: the Division of Public Welfare in the Department of
 27 Human Services, the Division of Employment Services in the De-
 28 partment of Labor, the Bureau of Adult Education in the Depart-
 29 ment of Education*, *the Division of Housing and Development in*
 30 *the Department of Community Affairs** and the county representa-
 31 tive of the Department of Human Services.

32 b. The committee shall develop a program implementation plan
 33 for the county which shall ensure that training ***[and]*** *,* educa-
 34 tion **and employment** services provided by the REACH program
 35 in that county reflect local needs and resources and that supportive
 36 services provided to program participants utilize existing local
 37 arrangements wherever possible. The plan shall also designate a
 38 county agency to ***[coordinate services provided by]*** *administer*
 39 the REACH program **in the county** and to report to the ***[Com-**
 40 **missioner of Human Services]*** *commissioner* on program imple-
 41 mentation and effectiveness according to criteria and standards
 42 established by the commissioner.

43 **c. Pursuant to the provisions of the program implementation*
 44 *plan, the commissioner may contract with a county government for*
 45 *the provision of some or all of the services under the REACH*
 46 *program ****[to]**** **or** provide them directly.*

47 d. *The commissioner shall reimburse a county for 100% of the*
 48 *reasonable costs associated with administration of the REACH*
 49 *program and program services which are not reimbursed by the*
 50 *federal government.**

1 ***[9.** The Commissioner of Human Services may contract with a
 2 county government for the provision of services under the REACH
 3 program or provide them directly.

1 10. a. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with
 2 the Commissioners of Labor, Education, and Commerce and Eco-
 3 nomic Development, and the Chancellor of Higher Education, shall
 4 report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than two years
 5 after the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, on the
 6 effectiveness of the REACH program in meeting its objectives,
 7 accompanying that report with any recommendations for changes
 8 in the law or regulations governing the REACH program that the
 9 commissioner deems necessary.

10 b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall, no later than
 11 three years after the effective date of this act, present to the
 12 Governor and the Legislature the results of the independent evalua-
 13 tion of the REACH program conducted pursuant to subsection f.
 14 of section 5 of this act.

15 c. **§ 9.** *a. The commissioner shall submit to the Senate Revenue,*
 16 *Finance and Appropriations Committee and the General Assembly*
 17 *Appropriations Committee, or their successor committees, and the*
 18 *Governor, at the earliest possible date, a REACH program imple-*
 19 *mentation report, including, but not limited to, the following infor-*
 20 *mation: a detailed schedule for the implementation of each phase*
 21 *of the REACH program and a description of the services to be*
 22 *provided in each phase, as well as a precise estimate of the number*
 23 *of program participants during each phase of the program and the*
 24 *costs of implementing each phase.*

25 b. The **§ Commissioner of Human Services** *commissioner*
 26 shall provide to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and the
 27 Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee, or their
 28 successor committees, on a quarterly basis a detailed report on
 29 the REACH program containing statistical and financial informa-
 30 tion. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following
 31 information: the number of recipients of aid to families with de-
 32 pendent children who are participating in the program and the
 33 number who have been exempted from the program; the kinds of
 34 services being provided to program participants and the costs of
 35 those services; the number of **§ case managers** *designated*
 36 *representatives of the commissioner* employed by the program
 37 and the costs associated with their employment; other administra-
 38 tive costs incurred by the program; the number of program
 39 participants who have obtained employment and the **§ average**
 40 *average* hourly wage and benefits provided by their employers;
 41 and the average length of time that program participants remain
 42 employed. Each report shall be submitted no later than 60 days
 43 after the end of the quarter.

44 **c. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with*
 45 *the Commissioners of Labor, Education, Community Affairs and*
 46 *Commerce and Economic Development, and the Chancellor of*
 47 *Higher Education, shall report to the Governor and the Legislature*
 48 *no later than two years after the effective date of this act, and*
 49 *annually thereafter, on the effectiveness of the REACH program*
 50 *in meeting its objectives, accompanying that report with any recom-*
 51 *mendations for changes in the law or regulations governing the*
 52 *REACH program that the commissioner deems necessary.**

1 *10. *The commissioner shall provide for an independent evalua-*
2 *tion of the REACH program by a private entity under contract*
3 *with the Department of Human Services and shall, no later than*
4 *three years after the effective date of this act, present to the*
5 *Governor and the Legislature the results of that evaluation.**

1 11. This act shall take effect ***[on October 1, 1987 or]*** immedi-
2 ately, ***[whichever date is later]*** *but shall remain inoperative*
3 *until the enactment into law of Senate Bill No. 2047 or Assembly*
4 *Bill No. 4182 of 1986-1987 or a similar bill; and sections 1 through*
5 *8, inclusive, and section 10 shall remain inoperative until the sub-*
6 *mission by the commissioner to the Senate Revenue, Finance and*
7 *Appropriations Committee and the General Assembly Appropria-*
8 *tions Committee, or their successor committees, of the REACH*
9 *program implementation report required pursuant to subsection a.*
10 *of section 9 of this act*.*

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Designated the "REACH Program Act."

ASSEMBLY, No. 3809

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1987

By Assemblymen COLBURN, STUHLTRAGER, Kelly, Assemblywoman Cooper, Assemblymen Frelinghuysen, Miller, Hendrickson, Collins, Felice, Assemblywoman Farragher, Assemblyman Azolina, Assemblywoman Smith and Assemblyman Catrillo

AN ACT establishing the REACH program in the Department of Human Services and supplementing P. L. 1959, c. 86 (C. 44:10-1 et seq.).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "REACH
2 for Opportunity Act."

1 2. The Legislature finds and declares: that providing the means
2 and opportunity for recipients of public assistance to enter the
3 economic mainstream and to realize economic achievement is both
4 a morally right and economically sound investment in the future
5 of our economy, our labor force and our children; that our current
6 welfare system does not do enough to help its recipients become
7 economically self-sufficient even though most people who receive
8 public assistance would rather work or prepare for work than
9 remain indefinitely trapped in the oppressive cycle of welfare de-
10 pendency; that in this time of increasing international economic
11 competition, the productivity of every worker and potential worker
12 is an important concern for all Americans; that our citizenry has
13 always placed great value on work and self-reliance; and that this
14 State should provide, for a reasonable but limited period, the
15 relevant education, training, employment and supportive services
16 necessary to enable public assistance recipients to realize economic
17 achievement and thereby become self-sufficient.

1 3. As used in this act:

2 "Aid to families with dependent children" means the program
3 established pursuant to P. L. 1959, c. 86 (C. 44:10-1 et seq.);

4 "Recipient of aid to families with dependent children" means a
5 parent or relative with whom a dependent child is living who is
6 receiving benefits under the program of aid to families with depen-
7 dent children.

1 4. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with
2 the Commissioners of Labor, Education, and Commerce and Eco-
3 nomic Development, and the Chancellor of Higher Education, shall
4 establish the "Program for Realizing Economic Achievement,"
5 hereafter referred to as the REACH program, in the Division of
6 Public Welfare in the Department of Human Services for the
7 purpose of enabling recipients of aid to families with dependent
8 children to realize economic achievement through a range of educa-
9 tion, training, employment and supportive services, while also
10 focusing on the prevention of long-term dependency for young
11 mothers who are recipients of aid to families with dependent
12 children.

13 Every recipient of aid to families with dependent children is
14 required to participate in the REACH program according to rules
15 and regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services.

1 5. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the
2 Commissioners of Labor, Education, and Commerce and Economic
3 Development, and the Chancellor of Higher Education, shall:

4 a. Adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the "Admin-
5 istrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.),
6 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act; except that no rule
7 or regulation adopted pursuant to this section shall be more re-
8 strictive than any provision of federal law or regulations with
9 respect to the employment or training of recipients of aid to
10 families with dependent children:

11 b. Take such actions as are required to ensure that services
12 provided under the REACH program are integrated, to the extent
13 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act, with employment
14 or training programs provided pursuant to chapter 15B of Title 34
15 of the Revised Statutes, or with any other federal, State or private
16 program which provides employment, training or vocational ser-
17 vices, or a combination thereof:

18 c. Request from the United States Secretary of Health and
19 Human Services such waivers of federal regulations as are neces-
20 sary to provide supportive services pursuant to subsection c. of
21 section 7 of this act to facilitate the training or employment of

22 recipients of aid to families with dependent children under the
23 REACH program;

24 d. Develop a schedule for the implementation of the REACH
25 program Statewide which will ensure that every county is partici-
26 pating in the program no later than three years after the effective
27 date of this act;

28 e. Provide for an independent evaluation of the REACH pro-
29 gram by a private entity under contract with the Department of
30 Human Services, the results of which shall be presented to the
31 Governor and the Legislature pursuant to subsection b. of section
32 10 of this act; and

33 f. Seek such grants of monies to fund the REACH program as
34 are available from agencies of the United States government or
35 private foundations.

1 6. a. Every recipient of aid to families with dependent children
2 in this State shall register with the REACH program at the time
3 of enrollment as a recipient and shall participate in one or more
4 program activities pursuant to subsections b. or c. of this section
5 with the goal of obtaining permanent full-time unsubsidized em-
6 ployment, preferably in the private sector; except that a recipient
7 of aid to families with dependent children on the effective date
8 of this act shall, as a condition of continuing eligibility for aid to
9 families with dependent children, register with the REACH pro-
10 gram no later than three years after the effective date of this act,
11 according to a Statewide implementation schedule for the REACH
12 program established by the Commissioner of Human Services
13 pursuant to section 5 of this act.

14 b. A recipient of aid to families with dependent children whose
15 youngest child is two years of age or older shall participate in
16 education, training or employment activities, or a combination
17 thereof, under the REACH program pursuant to subsection a. of
18 this section.

19 c. A recipient of aid to families with dependent children whose
20 youngest child is less than two years of age shall participate in
21 counseling and vocational assessment activities and the develop-
22 ment of an individualized plan for achieving economic self-suffic-
23 iency under the REACH program pursuant to subsection a. of this
24 section, and may voluntarily participate in education, training or
25 employment activities, or a combination thereof, under the REACH
26 program.

27 d. A recipient of aid to families with dependent children who
28 without good cause fails to comply with the provisions of this act
29 is subject to a penalty to be determined by the commissioner, which

30 may include the denial, reduction or termination of aid to families
31 with dependent children benefits.

1 7. a. Services shall be provided to each participant in the REACH
2 program according to an individualized service plan which includes
3 a written contract. The contract shall be signed by the participant
4 and a REACH program representative who shall act as a case
5 manager for the participant, and shall set forth the specific mutual
6 obligations of the participant and the program and a detailed plan
7 for achieving economic self-sufficiency on the part of the partici-
8 pant. The service plan and contract shall be reviewed by both the
9 participant and the program representative at least once a year
10 and may be revised from time to time according to the needs of
11 both the participant and the program.

12 b. The services to be provided under the REACH program shall
13 include, but not be limited to: counseling and vocational assess-
14 ment; intensive remedial education, including instruction in
15 English-as-a-second language; job search assistance; community
16 work experience; employment skills training focused on a specific
17 job; on-the-job training in an employment setting; and job develop-
18 ment and placement.

19 c. The REACH program shall provide supportive services to a
20 program participant as a last resort when no other source is
21 available therefor and when these services are specified in the
22 contract as necessary to enable the participant to receive program
23 services pursuant to subsection b. of this section. The supportive
24 services shall include, but not be limited to, one or more of the
25 following:

26 (1) day care services for the participant's child, to be purchased
27 through a voucher issued to the participant by the program, which
28 may be used to obtain care at a State licensed child care center
29 or school age child care program, or at a family day care home
30 approved by the Department of Human Services, that accepts the
31 voucher;

32 (2) transportation services, to be provided directly by the
33 program or through an allowance or other means of subsidy by
34 which the participant may purchase transportation; and

35 (3) health insurance coverage, to be provided by a participant's
36 employer, or through a continuation of Medicaid benefits pursuant
37 to P. L. 1968, c. 413 (C. 30:4D-1 et seq.) for up to one year if
38 the participant becomes ineligible for aid to families with dependent
39 children as a result of earned income.

1 8. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish the
2 REACH program on a county-by-county basis according to a

15 c. The Commissioner of Human Services shall provide to the
16 Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Depart-
17 ment of the Treasury and the Legislative Budget and Finance
18 Officer on a monthly basis a detailed statistical and expenditure
19 report on the REACH program. Each report shall be submitted
20 no later than 60 days after the end of the month.

1 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the "Program for Realizing Economic Achievement" (REACH) in the Division of Public Welfare of the Department of Human Services, in accordance with the Governor's proposal in the 1987 State of the State message, to enable recipients of aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) to become economically self-sufficient through a mandatory program of education, training, employment and supportive services that will prepare them to enter the work force and break the cycle of welfare dependency.

The REACH program will be more extensive than any other state program of its kind in terms of the proportion of the AFDC recipient population that will be required to participate. Mothers with children two years of age and older will be required to finish school or go to work; those with younger children will be required to register with the program and undergo counseling and vocational assessment to develop an individualized plan for attaining self-sufficiency.

The REACH program will be based on a contract embodying mutual obligations on the part of the program and those required to participate. AFDC recipients will be required to work or attend job training or educational classes in order to receive their full benefits, and the REACH program will ensure that participants receive the necessary supportive services, such as day care, transportation and extended health insurance, that will enable them to obtain full-time employment. In short, the REACH program is intended to change the focus of AFDC and its recipients from dependency through welfare to self-sufficiency through employment.

The Governor has included \$12.5 million for the first year of the REACH program in his proposed budget for FY 1988. The Department of Human Services has projected second year costs of between \$20 and \$40 million, with a total estimated cost of implementing the program in all 21 counties over the next three years of between \$50 and \$60 million. The department expects to recoup \$50 million through a 15% reduction in the AFDC caseload as a result of

program implementation, with the possibility of even greater case-load reductions that could produce as much as \$17 to \$35 million in additional savings to the State. Program costs will also be recouped through: additional State taxes paid by AFDC recipients who obtain employment through the program, continued enhancement of the State's child support enforcement system, federal reimbursement for certain services provided to program participants, and grants from the federal government and private foundations.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Designated the "REACH for Opportunity Act."

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 3809

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 1987

The Assembly Health and Human Resources Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3809.

This committee substitute establishes the "Program for Realizing Economic Achievement" (REACH) in the Division of Public Welfare of the Department of Human Services, pursuant to the Governor's proposal in the 1987 State of the State message, to enable recipients of aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) to become economically self-sufficient through a mandatory program of education, training, employment and supportive services.

Under the REACH program, AFDC recipients, unless exempted by the Commissioner of Human Services, will be required to work or attend job training or educational classes in order to receive their full benefits, while the program will ensure that participants receive supportive services, such as day care, transportation and extended health insurance coverage, that will enable them to obtain full-time employment.

The committee substitute provides that an individualized service plan for each participant in the REACH program shall be designed by a program representative after interviewing the participant and shall be based upon an evaluation of the participant's employment skills and potential, educational background, job experience and interests, and need for supportive services.

The committee substitute further provides that a REACH program representative, acting as a case manager for each participant in the program, shall arrange for necessary education or training services, in addition to necessary supportive services, and shall monitor the participant's progress after placement in a job.

The employment and training services provided under the REACH program shall include: counseling and vocational assessment; intensive remedial education, including instruction in English-as-a-second language; job search assistance; community work experience; employment skills training focused on a specific job; on-the-job training in an employment setting; and job development and placement.

The committee substitute stipulates that participants in the REACH program shall be trained and placed in jobs and fields of employment which offer reasonable opportunities for employment security and upward mobility.

In addition, the committee substitute requires the Commissioner of Human Services to:

(1) report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than two years after the effective date of the committee substitute, and annually thereafter, on the effectiveness of the REACH program in meeting its objectives;

(2) contract with a private entity for an independent evaluation of the REACH program and report the results of that evaluation to the Governor and the Legislature no later than three years after the effective date of the committee substitute; and

(3) provide a quarterly detailed statistical and financial report on the REACH program to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and the Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee, or their successor committees.

The committee substitute takes effect on October 1, 1987 or immediately, whichever date is later.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

ASSEMBLY, No. 3809

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: AUGUST 6, 1987

The Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare Committee favorably reports the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3809 with committee amendments.

As amended, the committee substitute establishes the "Program for Realizing Economic Achievement," known as the "REACH" program, in the Division of Public Welfare of the Department of Human Services, pursuant to the Governor's proposal in the 1987 State of the State message, to enable recipients of aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) to become economically self-sufficient through a mandatory program of education, training, employment and supportive services. The substitute directs the Commissioner of Human Services to establish the program in consultation with the Commissioners of Labor, Education, Community Affairs, and Commerce and Economic Development and the Chancellor of Higher Education.

Under the REACH program, an eligible AFDC recipient, unless exempted by the Commissioner of Human Services for reasons of physical or mental disability or extenuating family circumstances, will be required to work or attend job training or educational classes in order to receive the full AFDC benefit. In return, the commissioner will ensure that a participant receives supportive services while in training or attending classes, such as child care, transportation and extended Medicaid coverage, that will enable the participant to obtain full-time employment. The substitute further provides that a participant shall receive these supportive services for one year after the commencement of employment, when necessary.

The committee substitute provides that a designated representative of the commissioner shall prepare an individualized service plan for each participant in the REACH program after interviewing the participant and shall base the plan upon an evaluation of the participant's employment skills and potential, educational background, job experience and interests, and need for supportive services. The committee substitute further provides that a REACH program designated repre-

sentative, acting as a case manager for each participant in the program, shall arrange for necessary education or training services, in addition to necessary supportive services, and shall monitor the participant's progress after placement in a job.

The employment and training services provided under the REACH program shall include: counseling and vocational assessment; intensive remedial education, including instruction in English as a second language; job search assistance; employment skills training focused on a specific job; on-the-job training in an employment setting; and job development and placement. The committee substitute stipulates that participants in the REACH program shall be trained and placed in jobs and fields of employment which offer reasonable opportunities for employment security and upward mobility.

The REACH program will be implemented on a county-by-county basis according to an implementation schedule developed by the commissioner. The commissioner will also establish a REACH planning committee in each county, prior to implementation of the program in that county, with representatives of county government, the county welfare agency, the Private Industry Council, aid to families with dependent children recipients and other local educational, nonprofit, religious and employment interests. The committee will prepare a county plan for implementation of REACH which will ensure that the program reflects local needs and uses local arrangements whenever possible, and will designate the county agency which will administer the REACH program. The substitute provides that the State will reimburse the county for 100% of the reasonable administration and program services costs that are not reimbursed by the federal government.

In addition, the committee substitute requires the Commissioner of Human Services to:

(1) prepare a REACH program implementation report which includes a detailed schedule for the implementation of each phase of the program and a description of the services to be provided in each phase, as well as a precise estimate of the number of program participants during each phase of the program and the costs for implementing each phase;

(2) submit the implementation report to the Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations and General Assembly Appropriations Committees, prior to implementing the program;

(3) provide quarterly detailed statistical and financial report on the REACH program to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and the Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee, or their successor committees;

(4) report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than two years after the effective date of the committee substitute, and annually thereafter, on the effectiveness of the REACH program in meeting its objectives; and

(5) contract with a private entity for an independent evaluation of the REACH program and report the results of that evaluation to the Governor and the Legislature no later than three years after the effective date of the committee substitute.

The committee substitute takes effect immediately, but will remain inoperative until the enactment into law of Senate Bill No. 2047 or Assembly Bill No. 4182, and until the commissioner submits the REACH program implementation report to the Legislature.

The committee adopted various technical and substantive amendments to the Assembly Committee Substitute to make it identical to the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 1951 and 3127. The substantive amendments: provide that the Commissioner of Human Services, specifically, rather than the "REACH program," generally, is responsible for providing the training, education and supportive services in the program; specify that a REACH participant is entitled to receive supportive services, that is, child care, transportation and Medicaid coverage, for one year after the commencement of employment, when necessary; require the Commissioner of Human Services to adopt, by regulation, REACH eligibility and participation requirements; require the Commissioner of Human Services to provide the Legislature's standing reference committees on appropriations a detailed REACH program implementation report before the commissioner implements the program; provide that counties will be reimbursed for 100% of reasonable administrative and program costs; include the Commissioner of Community Affairs, who has jurisdiction over housing programs in the State, in the list of commissioners with whom the Commissioner of Human Services shall consult in implementing the REACH program; and tie the effective date of the substitute to the enactment of the "Medicaid extender" bills so that both programs will be implemented at the same time.

SENATE FLOOR Amendments
Proposed by Senator Costa

ADOPTED

to

SEP 10 1987
ACS for ASSEMBLY Bill No. 3809 SR

Amend:

Page Sec. Line

5 7 54-56 After "section." Omit rest of line 54 Omit line 55
entirely Omit "by the participant, when necessary." on
line 56

6 7 After 81 Insert new paragraph as follows:

"Child care services and health care coverage shall be
provided to the participant for one year after the
commencement of employment by the participant, as
necessary. Transportation services may be provided to a
participant after the commencement of employment for a
limited period of time, but the amount of transportation
services assistance shall be reduced, overtime, according
to a schedule adopted pursuant to regulation which is
based on the length of time a participant is employed."

7

NOTE TO PRINTER: IN ROMAN
Omit "average" Insert "average"
STATEMENT

8 9 39

These amendments change the requirement that the
REACH program would have to provide one year of
transportation services to a REACH participant after the
commencement of employment. Instead, the amendments
provide that transportation services may be provided
after commencement of employment, but the amount of
the services shall be decreased, or phased-out, according
to a schedule adopted by the commissioner which is based
on the length of time the participant is employed.

7

8 46 Omit "to" Insert "or"

974.901
661



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

Contact: CARL GOLDEN 609-292-8956
CHARLENE BROWN 609-292-3703

TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: THURS., OCT. 8, 1987

Governor Kean pointed out that the United States Department of Health and Human Services also approved New Jersey's request to waive certain federal regulations so that key provisions of the REACH program can be implemented.

"This unprecedented five-year approval for our waivers allows New Jersey to enter into welfare reform for the long haul." Kean stated.

Under a unique provision in the waivers, the State will be allowed to retain savings generated by REACH and put them back into welfare reform.

The waivers also give the Department of Human Services the authority to phase in REACH and to operate a welfare reform program tailored to each county's special circumstances and needs.

Additionally, the waivers allow the REACH program to include AFDC recipients whose youngest children are between the ages of two and six.

"It is vital that we begin to provide opportunities early for young mothers, so they are not locked out of the work force for too long and lose the skills necessary for them to become self-sufficient," said Human Services Commissioner Drew Altman.

"The goal of the REACH program is to help prevent these women from becoming long-term recipients of welfare," Altman explained.

Another federal waiver allows the State to provide financial incentives to 600 AFDC recipients to become family day care providers. Under this provision, REACH participants who become day care providers in their home for five children or less will be able to keep a larger portion of their welfare grant despite income earned through providing day care services.

-more-

"The purpose of this measure is two-fold; it helps to provide needed child care services, and it establishes work for welfare recipients," Altman said.

Another critical waiver approved by the federal government allows the State to extend Medicaid coverage from four to 12 months after an AFDC recipient starts work.

"In a series of meetings held with welfare recipients, it was clear to me that loss of Medicaid coverage is a serious disincentive for women on welfare to find jobs," Altman observed. "This waiver allows us to fill this gap."

Bergen County is one of three counties to implement REACH this month. The other two counties are Middlesex and Union. Mercer and Passaic counties are scheduled to participate in the REACH program by February. The remaining counties will be phased-in over a three year period.

Altman praised the counties for their pioneering efforts in launching this program. He noted that without the cooperative efforts of the county administration, the welfare agencies, Human Services Advisory Councils, community groups and such private organizations as the Private Industry Councils, the State would be unable to change the lives of thousands of New Jerseyans on welfare.

"Groups worked together more closely than ever before and put together plans to implement REACH to record time. Their efforts have made this day possible," Altman noted.

#

Each year for the last five, I have stood before you to tell you how much better off the lives of New Jersey's people have become.

This year is no exception. Earlier in this message, I mentioned that New Jerseyans' personal incomes grew again last year. I reminded you that New Jersey has the third highest per capita income in the nation. We are a rich state getting richer.

That is why it is so troubling to remember that we still have 365,000 New Jerseyans on welfare. At a time when we have never been better off, too many of our neighbors suffer in the throes of poverty.

At a time when we have never been better off, too many of our neighbors suffer in the throes of poverty.

The vast majority are not shiftless loafers looking for a free ride. In fact, nine in ten are young mothers and their small children.

Most are proud people who want a chance to work but do not have the schooling or training they need. Many are determined people who stay on wel-

fare because they fear that taking a job will leave them without child care or health-care coverage. Welfare is not a pleasant experience. Few are on welfare because they prefer it to working for a living.

I have spoken to you about creating further opportunity. Nothing is higher on my agenda in 1987 than an ambitious effort to reduce the welfare rolls by giving our recipients a real opportunity to gain economic independence. Our existing system has failed to do this while wasting taxpayers' dollars; we must fix it.

Liberals and conservatives have been arguing for a generation now about why





welfare has failed. The time has come to stop arguing and start acting. As James Russell Lowell once observed, "There is no good in arguing against the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat."

So it must be with our welfare system. We must stop debating whether the welfare recipient or the government is responsible for the failure of our welfare system. The debate keeps mouths busy, but while the talk goes on, welfare dependence persists. We must recognize that recipients and government have an essential part to play in reducing and eventually eliminating dependency. There really is no other choice.

It is time to recast public assistance. We must move from a system that encourages dependence to one that emphasizes work, self-sufficiency and opportunity. It is time to build a system that gives our poor a real chance to better themselves. It is time to save the taxpayer money without sacrificing our commitment to those who will always need our help. At my direction, the Department of Human Services has come up with a bold and reasonable plan to do all this.

Welfare reform is a hot topic these days. You read about it in magazines and newspapers and listen to programs about it on television talk shows. You may have heard about Massachusetts' progressive program or California's welfare reforms.

Our program goes beyond Massachusetts. It goes beyond California. When it is fully underway, New Jersey's program will be the first welfare reform to touch every welfare recipient in a major state.

We call our program REACH—Realizing Economic Achievement—because we want our welfare recipients to reach forward and pull themselves up and share in the prosperity the rest of New Jersey is enjoying. We want to reach the people our society has not been able to reach before.

REACH will do what no other state's

program has done. It will *require* education, job training or work of *all* able-bodied recipients as a condition for obtaining welfare. The state will guarantee the job training, child care, medical coverage and other support necessary for a woman to take a job, enter job training or finish school. REACH will be the first state program to make prevention its major theme by concentrating on young mothers, the group most vulnerable to becoming long-term recipients.

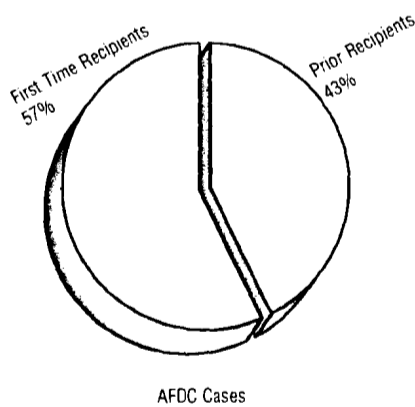
I am confident that REACH can turn welfare around. Although REACH initially will require a significant investment of state money, REACH will pay for itself, even if we reduce the welfare rolls by only 15 percent. I am confident that we can achieve this figure—and move beyond.

REACH will succeed because its guiding principles all aim in one direction: economic independence.

We will require that all able-bodied welfare recipients whose children are two years of age or older participate in programs that redirect their lives toward self-sufficiency. We will also work with these children to lead them to independence.

This is a dramatic break from the existing system, which treats work like an afterthought. You do not have to go any further than our welfare application forms to see the problem. The application is 14 pages long. Do you know where training and working are first mentioned? Page 10.

Two Out of Five AFDC Cases Have Been Prior Recipients



REACH will change this. We need to rebuild public assistance around the principle of mutual obligation. We must take the old, abstract idea of the social contract and transform it into a real contract—a written contract—between our welfare recipients and our state. Able-bodied recipients must have the same obligation we all have—to do everything they can to build a future and support their families by finishing school and working. They have a moral responsibility to do so.

Government must follow through on its half of the bargain, by removing the barriers that prevent welfare recipients from becoming independent. We must provide the day care, Medicaid coverage, transportation, training, schooling and the jobs these people will need to succeed.

Consider the case of a young welfare mother named Eileen. She is 18, and has a mother and sister on welfare.

Eileen dropped out in the middle of her senior year in high school. She had to take care of her child after her husband abandoned her—he can't be found.

Eileen says she does not want the kind of life her mother and sister have. She wants to finish school and become a nurse's aide at a local hospital.

That is what she wants. REACH is what she needs. If she had REACH, she would be able to get the day care that would allow her to go back to school. She would get the training program she would need to become a nurse's aide. She would get the help she would need to reclaim her life and her dignity. Hopefully, she would never again need welfare.

REACH's most intensive efforts will be aimed at our young mothers. They are not the only people who receive welfare but they are the ones most likely to become dependent on it. We know that two of five recipients have been on welfare before, and that more than a third of all young mothers who go on welfare are likely to remain there for a decade or more.

Poverty breeds poverty; a child born into a welfare family has a much greater likelihood of going on welfare



too. If we are to make any permanent progress, we must reach young welfare mothers and get them working.

This means that unlike existing programs, we must require young welfare mothers go to school or to work. With proper child care available, women with infants as young as two years of age should be included in these requirements. Men and women all over America are going to work each morning and leaving their children at a day care center, a friend or neighbor. Women on welfare should be no different.

Last year I announced a \$7 million federally funded pilot project in Camden and Newark to work with young mothers with children as young as six months of age. This is an important first step toward the program we want REACH to be.

The Camden and Newark programs will pay special attention to the fathers of welfare children. These fathers should be no different than fathers of children who do not receive public assistance. The latter group supports its children; the former must too. State support should not supplant parental obligations. We plan in REACH to significantly increase the enforcement of child support through several new means.

We know that any program with any real chance of "solving" the welfare puzzle must identify all the pieces before it can be assembled. The private sector is one of those pieces.

For REACH to succeed, the private sector must hold a prominent position. Make-work makes nothing but future problems. If we want recipients to have a genuine shot at getting off welfare, they must be trained to hold and be able to maintain real, private-sector jobs.

REACH, then, will work closely with the private sector and the Private Industry Councils to develop unsubsidized, career jobs that pay a decent salary. To encourage this, we also hope to offer tax breaks to employers who provide health coverage and employ a recipient for at least a year.

We are also aware of another critical element: our counties. They have a critical role to play in our plans. We will build REACH around a county-based system that requires county governments, local private industry and human service groups to work together closely.

There is an old Yiddish proverb: "From fortune to misfortune is but a step; from misfortune to fortune is a long way." That much is true about our efforts.

We will not begin this program on Monday and declare success on Tuesday. There are no shortcuts. To demonstrate quickly that REACH will work, we are initiating a major pilot project in Atlantic City to move 1,000 to 1,500 welfare recipients into permanent, well-paying jobs. I want to commend Senator Bill Gormley for his leadership in proposing this part of the plan.

We plan to begin extending day care and Medicaid support in July to people who get off welfare and get jobs. By October, we want to begin making participation in REACH mandatory in three to five counties. By June 1988, the full REACH program will extend to all of the welfare recipients in the pilot counties and new applicants in 13 other counties. These counties account for 93 percent of the state's welfare caseload. By the end of the third year, all welfare recipients in New Jersey will be required to participate in REACH.

REACH will succeed because it must. If we do not free poor families from poverty, we will truly become a nation of the haves and the have-nots. We will continue to pour billions of our taxpayers' dollars into a system that has miserably failed us all.

Success will not eliminate welfare. There will still be people who cannot work because they are disabled. There will still be mothers with children too sick to be left. There will be others who need our help. And we will gladly give it, but those who can become self-sufficient must do so.

Reforming welfare is a challenge—a great challenge—but New Jersey does not shirk challenges. We have been challenged by a poor economy and have made it productive. We have been con-



If we do not free poor families from poverty, we will truly become a nation of the haves and the have-nots.

fronted by failing schools that now receive passing grades and by crumbling roads that are now being rebuilt.

Now we are confronted with the challenge of breaking the welfare poverty cycle. I am convinced we know how to do it. New Jersey should lead the way.

There is another extremely important challenge we cannot afford to ignore. It is the challenge of our young.

These are troubled times for our young, especially our teenagers. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents, second only to accidental deaths related to the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Forty percent of our teenagers abuse drugs and alcohol. Another 30,000 get pregnant every year. Add it up and our teenagers are the only population group today with a rising death rate.

Clearly, something is going very wrong for these young people. There is

no way our society should have statistics this stark for so many children.

The antidote is evident. If we get involved in their lives before it is too late, we will avoid many of the tragedies.

Look around the country and you will find excellent programs that do just that. But they are few and far between. And they do not deal well with the multiple problems these teens have or the problems they bring with them from troubled families.

I propose that we invest in the first state program to deal with the troubles of teenagers comprehensively. The best place to put this program is in our schools—the place in our communities where we can reach the largest number of teens.

I have asked our human services department to establish School-Based Youth programs in our schools, at as many as 30 sites. These School-Based Youth Centers will provide a full range of services to support our teenagers. We can be there when they need us.

By providing wise counsel about jobs and school; by arranging for part-time and summer jobs; and by providing health care, drug, alcohol and mental health counseling for teens and their families, we can save a lot of children