



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

# Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

<http://finance.senate.gov>

## MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors  
Fr: Jill Gerber, 202/224-6522  
Re: Temporary assistance rolls decline  
Da: Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2003

Today the Health and Human Services Department announced a continued decline in the number of people receiving aid under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, which has jurisdiction over the program, made the following comment on the decline.

“I’m pleased the welfare rolls continue to decline. However, simply going off welfare doesn’t mean families have achieved significant income and job security. While the 1996 reform act was largely successful, we should improve elements of it.

“The next phase of welfare reform should focus on strengthening current policies so every family receiving assistance has the opportunity to become self-sufficient. Through expanded state flexibility and increased options for education and training, combined with an emphasis on job attainment and experience, I believe these families can successfully work their way out of poverty.

“The next phase of welfare reform should also enhance the support states are currently providing to low-income families, most notably, child care and transportation assistance. The next phase of welfare reform also should recognize the role that healthy families have in improving child well-being. I hope the Finance Committee will reach a bipartisan consensus on a welfare reform bill this fall and then act on that consensus bill. I continue to work toward that end.”