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**NEWS**  
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**Summit County CSEA Continues  
to Make Strides with Child Support**

*Prosecutor Walsh available for interviews as are individuals with CSEA cases*

(Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that efforts to collect back child support by the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) continues to be a top priority in her office, saying "Every Mother's Day we are reminded that there are many parents out there, especially mothers, who are struggling to make ends meet because the other parent is skipping out on their obligation to pay child support."

CSEA once again took out a full-page advertisement in the *Akron Beacon Journal* (attached) on Mother's Day listing the top wanted deadbeat parents. This list becomes the target list for CSEA for the next few months as they try to collect arrears from this group, which includes some "deadbeat mom's," yet not as prevalently.

Walsh continued, "I am pleased to report that Summit CSEA continues to be one of the top CSEA's in the area of criminal non-support enforcement in the State. In fact, we have become a model CSEA in Ohio on non-support because many counties have seen that as a tactic of last resort, it works, and have become more aggressive themselves in this area.

"Additionally, it's a good time to share some of the progress we have made since 2001, when I took office.

- "In 2006, we collected more than \$97 million in child support payments;
- That is \$12 million more in support annually than in 2000;
- In 1999, CSEA filed only 15 felony indictments for criminal non-support; in 2000, 16 were filed. Since 2001, we have filed an average of 332 indictments per year. That's 2,072 indictments total, with 1,735 convictions to date.

- As of April 30, 2007, more than \$10.8 million in support has been collected from criminal non-support cases. While prison isn't our first choice, this tool of last resort appears to work when measuring our ability to collect from these most difficult cases.
- In 2005, Summit County CSEA was awarded the "Most Improved Child Support Program in the Country," by the National CSEA.

Walsh concluded, "With over 54,000 cases of child support, CSEA has a daunting job. I commend them as they strive to treat each case not as a number, but as a family with real problems, real dilemmas as a parent raising a child without financial support from the other parent. We will continue to take these cases seriously and use every tool possible to bring justice to these children."