

Don't Blame Single Moms

"All in the family" [October 3] misrepresents my findings on the sons of single mothers while ignoring a wealth of evidence that socioeconomic status is by far the greatest predictor of child welfare, not the number or gender of parents. Still, we persist in seeing single mothers as insufficient parents, and we blame them for society's ills. That many struggle to make ends meet says nothing about their parenting skills and a great deal about our country's economic and social policies. That many more have insufficient healthcare and day care says nothing about women's ability to raise healthy children on their own and volumes about America's priorities for our children's welfare. In fact, a growing body of research shows that educated women raising children without a man in the house, when they have enough income and social support, can and do nurture emotionally healthy, independent, caring children.

PEGGY DREXLER, PH.D.

Author of Raising Boys Without Men
New York