FILED
FEB 2 3 1989
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

STACIE SUE VAIL and **JASON MATHEW BREES**, Minors, by Their Next Friend **ANN VAIL**,

Petitioners-Appellees,

vs.

LEO BREES,

Respondent-Appellant.

466

8-645
88-586

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Marion County (No. 22700 79-70), J.W. Jordan, Judge.

Respondent challenges the amount the trial court ordered him to pay as support for his two minor children. **AFFIRMED.**

James Q. Blomgren, Oskaloosa, for the respondent-appellant.

Martha L. Mertz, of Mick, Wilson & Mertz, Knoxville, for the petitioners-appellees.

Considered by Oxberger, C.J., and Donielson and Sackett, JJ.

SACKETT, J.

We must decide whether it was equitable for the trial court to order respondent-appellant Leo Brees to pay child support of $300 per month and medical insurance for his two minor children. We must also determine whether the trial court was correct in holding him responsible for a $1,600 medical bill for one of the children. On our de novo review we agree with the trial court's decision. See Iowa R. App. P. 4.

Two children were born to the parties. One was born in 1971; the second was born in 1976. Ann Vail is their mother. They are in her custody. Ann is a registered nurse and earns about $20,000 annually. Leo is employed by the Veteran's Administration and earns about $18,000 annually.

The trial court determined Leo should pay support of $300 per month until the older child reaches eighteen years or graduates from high school and then $200 per month until the younger child reaches eighteen years or graduates from high school. Additionally, he was ordered to pay $80 per month for medical insurance and a medical bill of $1,600.

Leo claims the amount awarded is excessive. He contends because he is sixty-two years old he has reached his earning potential and their mother should assume a greater responsibility for their care. Both parties have an obligation to support their children, not necessarily

equally but in accordance with their ability to pay. In re Marriage of Anderson, 400 N.W.2d 84, 86 (Iowa App. 1986); In re Marriage of Byall, 353 N.W.2d 103, 107-08 (Iowa App. 1984); In re Marriage of Heinemann, 309 N.W.2d 151, 153 (Iowa App. 1981).

The awards made by the trial court are equitable and will not be disturbed on appeal.

AFFIRMED.