

July 10, 2015

Dear Senator,

We, the undersigned organizations, which represent faith leaders, charities, civil rights, labor, women's, and other organizations working to reduce poverty, urge Congress to act this year to save critical provisions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC) before they expire. Congress also should close a large gap in the EITC by expanding it for low-income childless adults and non-custodial parents, the lone group of workers that the tax code taxes into (or deeper into) poverty.

The EITC and CTC are among the nation's strongest tools to help working families escape poverty and achieve greater self-sufficiency. Together, they lifted 9.4 million people out of poverty— and made 22 million others less poor – in 2013. They also lift 5 million *children* out of poverty, more than any other program, and they did as much or more to raise employment among single mothers as welfare reform, extensive research shows.

If Congress lets critical provisions of these credits expire at the end of 2017, some *50 million Americans*, including 25 million children, will lose part or all of their tax credits — and more than 16 million people, including almost 8 million children, will fall into or deeper into poverty. These critical components are both pro-work and pro-family: they reduce the marriage penalty that some two-earner families face in the EITC, boost the EITC for families with more than two children to reflect their higher living costs, and expand the CTC's reach among very-low-income working families.

If these key EITC and CTC provisions are allowed to expire:

- *Millions of low-income working parents will lose their entire CTC.* A single mother with two children who works full time at the minimum wage, earning \$14,500, will lose her entire CTC of \$1,725.
- *Married couples and larger families will lose part of their EITC.* A married couple with three children and earnings of \$35,000 will see their EITC shrink by roughly \$1,200.
- More than 2 million workers outside metropolitan areas, with more than 4 million children, will lose all or part of their credits.
- Some 450,000 veteran and armed-forces families would lose all or part of their CTC. A similar number would lose all or part of their EITC.

Moreover, the EITC and CTC help children in working families at virtually every stage of their lives, ground-breaking research indicates. Children whose families receive an income boost from these credits on average do better in school and are likelier to go to college, likelier to work more and earn more as adults, and likelier to be healthier and avoid the early onset of various adult illnesses.

Unfortunately, low-wage childless workers (workers who don't claim dependent children) receive little from the EITC. In 2013, roughly 8 million such workers were taxed into or deeper

into poverty, in part because of an inadequate EITC. Fortunately, both parties are promoting ways to address the problem. President Obama and such key lawmakers as House Ways and Means Chair Paul Ryan propose expanding the EITC for workers not raising children and lowering the eligibility age for this credit from 25 to 21. That would encourage and reward work, boost employment, reduce poverty, and — highly-regarded researchers suggest — therefore likely lower incarceration rates and raise the marriage prospects of young people.

As Congress considers tax proposals this year that would help business and other interests, it should not leave low-wage workers and their families behind. Instead, it should make these critical EITC and CTC provisions permanent, plug the gap in the EITC for childless workers, take responsible steps to improve the tax credits' integrity, and reject harmful proposals that would weaken the credits.

The time to act is now.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

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Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region  
AFL-CIO  
AIDS United  
Alliance for a Just Society  
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Psychological Association  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
Americans for Tax Fairness  
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Bread for the World  
Center for American Progress Action Fund  
Center for Community Change  
Center for Global Policy Solutions  
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Center for Public Justice  
Center for Rural Strategies  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Child Care Aware of America  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Leadership Council

Christian Community Development Association  
Citizens for Tax Justice  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Common Sense Kids Action  
Communications Workers of America  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Organizations in Action  
Concerned Black Men National  
Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED)  
CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing)  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Early Care and Education Consortium  
Ecumenical Poverty Initiative  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Esperanza  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Every Child Matters Education Fund  
Feeding America  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)  
Foster Family-based Treatment Association  
Futures Without Violence  
Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches  
Goodwill Industries International  
Hispanic National Bar Association  
Interfaith Worker Justice  
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
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Loretto Community  
Lutheran Services in America  
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network  
Mainstreet Alliance  
MALDEF  
Medical Mission Sisters  
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NAACP  
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National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.  
National Alliance of Children's Trust & Prevention Funds  
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA)

National Alliance of HUD Tenants  
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National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)  
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Our Developing World

OWL-The Voice of Women 40+  
Partnership for America's Children  
PICO National Network  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Public Advocacy for Kids  
RESULTS  
SEIU  
Share Our Strength  
Single Stop  
Sinsinawa Dominican Leadership  
Sisters of Charity Federation  
Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Institute Justice Team  
Sojourners  
SourceAmerica  
The American Orthopsychiatric Association  
The Arc of the United States  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The National Crittenton Foundation  
The Salvation Army National Headquarters  
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society  
Treatment Communities of America  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the B.V.M. - US Province  
United Auto Workers  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries  
United for a Fair Economy  
United Way Worldwide  
USAction  
Voices for Progress  
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)  
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SEIU  
Share Our Strength  
Single Stop  
Sinsinawa Dominican Leadership  
Sisters of Charity Federation  
Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Institute Justice Team  
Sojourners  
SourceAmerica  
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