

December 7, 2015

Dear Representative,

The improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) that were enacted in 2009 but are scheduled to expire after 2017 are extremely important to millions of working families across the country. The undersigned organizations strongly urge Congress to make them permanent in any tax extenders bill before Congress adjourns.

Media reports indicate that negotiations are underway to extend the business tax breaks that expired earlier this year, and we urge Congress to make the EITC and CTC improvements permanent *now*, as part of any agreement on these extenders. Not doing so would put these improvements at considerable risk in 2017; there are too many uncertainties in 2017 to count on securing permanent extension of these critical provisions then.

The EITC and CTC are two of the strongest tools we have to help working families make ends meet, escape poverty, and become self-sufficient. Roughly 50 million Americans, including 25 million children, will lose some or all of their tax credits if the EITC and CTC improvements expire. More than 16 million people, including 8 million children, will be pushed into, or deeper into, poverty.

Low-income families cannot afford to lose this critical help to support themselves through work. Congress has a critical opportunity now to protect these highly effective provisions. Should Congress wait until close to their expiration, these provisions may, in fact, expire. Alternatively, securing their extension at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour as they are about to die in late 2017 could come at a very high price — costly, regressive tax cuts or other harmful policy changes. Waiting could cause the EITC and CTC improvements to essentially be held hostage for other, deleterious policy changes.

*No other issue* affecting so many struggling working families and their children is before Congress in the rest of this session. We urge you to do everything you can to make these vital provisions permanent this year. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region  
African American Health Alliance  
Afterschool Alliance  
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)  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
Americans for Tax Fairness  
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment

Benedictine Health System  
Bread for the World  
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good  
Center for Community Change Action  
Center for Economic Progress  
Center for Global Policy Solutions  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Public Justice  
Center for Rural Strategies  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Child and Family Policy Center  
Child Care Aware® of America  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Health Watch  
Children's Leadership Council  
Citizens for Tax Justice  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Common Sense Kids Action  
Community Action Partnership  
Concerned Black Men National  
Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED)  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Covenant House International  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Early Care and Education Consortium  
Ecumenical Poverty Initiative  
Epilepsy Foundation  
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  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Generations United  
Global Justice Institute  
Goodwill Industries International  
Interfaith Worker Justice  
Islamic Relief USA  
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, AFL-CIO (LCLAA)  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Lutheran Services in America  
Main Street Alliance

Medical Mission Sisters  
Metropolitan Community Churches  
MomsRising  
NAACP  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.  
National Alliance of Children's Trust & Prevention Funds  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)  
National Association for Hispanic Elderly  
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders  
National Association for State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators  
National Association of Evangelicals  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Center on Adoption and Permanency  
National Child Support Enforcement Association  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)  
National Disability Institute  
National Domestic Violence Hotline  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Foster Parent Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latino Evangelical Coalition  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Military Family Association  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Urban League  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Partnership for America's Children  
People Demanding Action  
PICO National Network  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)  
Progressive Congress  
Public Advocacy for Kids  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
RESULTS  
Share Our Strength

Single Stop  
Sisters of Charity Federation  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership  
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sisters of Mercy, Institute Justice Team  
Sojourners  
The Arc of the United States  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The Office of Social Justice, the Christian Reformed Church in North America  
The Salvation Army National Headquarters  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Way Worldwide  
USAction  
Voices for Progress  
Women's institute for a Secure retirement (WISER)  
Young Invincibles  
ZERO TO THREE