

November 15, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

President Trump's proposed FY 2018 budget and the tax bills introduced by House and Senate Leadership are threatening to take crucial tax credits from children in immigrant families. The loss of these credits will drive children and families into poverty. These proposals include provisions taking away the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and its refundable component, the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) from children without Social Security Numbers (SSNs). The House bill also threatens to deny access to the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), a critical support that helps students get the education they need to access economic opportunities.

Restricting the CTC to filers using Social Security Numbers (SSNs) could impact as many as 5 million children living in mixed-status immigrant families, the majority of whom are US citizens, and up to 1 million of whom are young DREAMers. Stripping tax benefits from any children in the family will harm the families as a whole. We, the undersigned advocates for immigrants, anti-hunger advocates, anti-poverty groups, faith leaders, and advocates for diversity urge Members of Congress to oppose any proposals to deny tax credits to hardworking immigrant families and their children.

Eliminating the Child Tax Credit for children in taxpaying immigrant families will increase child poverty. The CTC is an effective antipoverty tool that played an essential role in lifting approximately 2.7 million people out of poverty in 2016, including about 1.5 million children, and mitigates poverty for millions more. The harm caused to children by denying them the CTC now will compound over time, as household income levels are correlated with cognitive development and future work opportunities. Investing in the economic security of children through access to the CTC rewards paying taxes, helps working families, benefits the economy, and invests in future generations. Any change in eligibility for child tax credits will harm only one population: children.

Attacks on tax credits for taxpayers who file with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) hurt taxpayers and local economies. In 2015, ITIN filers paid \$23.6 billion in total federal taxes, including over \$5.5 billion in payroll and Medicare taxes. ITIN filers also contribute to tax revenue by paying sales, gas, and property taxes. CTC dollars help grow local economies and support businesses. Every additional dollar received by low- and moderate-income families has a 1.5 to 2 times multiplier effect, in terms of its impact on the local economy and how much money is spent in communities where these families live. Investing in CTC for immigrant families enables them to invest back in their local economies.

The House tax plan would also deny ITIN filers the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), a refundable credit that makes postsecondary education more affordable. Without the training and skills needed for new career opportunities, hard-working people will struggle to get the skills and credentials to improve their own economic security and help grow the US economy.

We strongly oppose all of the anti-child and anti-immigrant proposals in President Trump's proposed budget and the House and Senate leadership tax plans, including new restrictions on CTC and AOTC eligibility for taxpayers. We urge Congress to do the right thing and stop efforts to fund tax cuts on the backs of children and working families.

Signed,

National Organizations

Adjunct Justice
America's Voice Education Fund
American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
(APALA)
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based
Violence
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health
Organizations (AAPCHO)
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bread for the World
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
for Healthy Families and Communities
Center for American Progress
Center for Community Change
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Popular Democracy
Children's Leadership Council
Church World Service
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Sense Kids Action
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good
Shepherd, US Provinces
Equal Rights Advocates
Every Child Matters
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Faith in Public Life
Family Focused Treatment Association
Farmworker Justice
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Forum for Youth Investment
Franciscan Action Network
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
GreenLatinos
Hip Hop Caucus
Hispanic Federation
Human Impact Partners
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Indivisible
Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy
Interfaith Worker Justice
Islamic Society of North America
Jumpstart
League of United Latin American Citizens
Mi Familia Vota
MomsRising
MomsRising
NAACP

NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NAKASEC
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the
Good Shepherd
National Asian Pacific American Women's
Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association for Bilingual Education
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American
Community Development (CAPACD)
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans
(NCAPA)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Crittenton Foundation
National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Health Law Program
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee
Rights
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
People For the American Way
Polygon Education Fund
Prosperity Now
RESULTS
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SparkAction
Stand for Children
The Children's Partnership
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human
Rights
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United We Dream
Voices for Progress
We Belong Together
Worksafe
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
Young Invincibles
ZERO TO THREE

State Organizations

Alaska

Alaska Children's Trust

Arizona

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

California

Asian Law Alliance

California Immigrant Policy Center

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

Children Now

Children's Defense Fund-CA

Clinica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

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FACES SF

Maternal and Child Health Access

Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)

The Warehouse Worker Resource Center

Colorado

Clayton Early Learning

Connecticut

All Our Kin

Florida

The Lifeboat Project, Inc

Georgia

Latino LinQ

Idaho

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Illinois

Center for Economic Progress

EverThrive Illinois

Heartland Alliance

Illinois Action for Children

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Ounce of Prevention Fund

Iowa

LUNA

Kansas

Indivisible Kansas City

Kansas Action for Children

Kansas Appleseed

Kansas Association of Community Action Programs

Kansas Center for Economic Growth

Kansas Head Start Association

Kansas Interfaith Action

RESULTS Kansas City

Maine

Maine Women's Lobby

Maryland

Ready At Five

RESULTS Baltimore

Massachusetts

Berkshire Immigrant Center

Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

Community Economic Development Center

Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc.

Irish International Immigrant Center

Justice Center of SEMA

Massachusetts Advocates for Children

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee

Advocacy Coalition

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee

Advocacy Coalition

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

First Parish in Brookline

Minnesota

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

Missouri

RESULTS, U.S. Poverty - St. Louis Chapter

Montana

Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence
Rape/Domestic Abuse Program
SASA Crisis Center

Nevada

ACTIONN
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Imagination Station
Mental Health
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
SAFY

New Jersey

Casa Esperanza
New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic
Violence
New Jersey Policy Perspective
Reformed Church of Highland Park

New Mexico

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
United Way of Santa Fe County

New York

Atlas: DIY
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society
Center for Children's Initiatives
Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.
Children's Aid
Children's Defense Fund-New York
Citizen Action of New York
Human Services Council
New York Immigration Coalition
Prevent Child Abuse NY
Schuyler Center for Analysis & Advocacy
SEIU 32BJ
Violence Intervention Program

North Carolina

Latin American Coalition
NC Child
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic
Violence
North Carolina Justice Center

Ohio

American's Voice Ohio
RESULTS Columbus

Oregon

Coalition for Equal Access for Girls

Texas

Center for Public Policy Priorities
South Texas Human Center

Utah

Voices for Utah Children

Washington

Children's Alliance
Northwest Health Law Advocates
OneAmerica
Washington State Association of Head Start
and ECEAP
Washington State Coalition Against
Domestic Violence (WSCADV)

Wisconsin

End Domestic Abuse WI