

June 2, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jason Smith,
Chair, Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chair, Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Chair Smith and Chair Crapo, Leader Jeffries, Leader Schumer, Ranking Member Neal and Ranking Member Wyden:

The undersigned 333 national, state and local organizations write to urge you to oppose the reconciliation package as written because it leaves millions of children and families financially worse off, especially the most vulnerable. The [tax plan proposed by the House Ways and Means Committee](#) provides disproportionate tax cuts to high earners, and pays for them on the backs of low- and middle-income families by limiting healthcare, food assistance, and critical tax credits that help kids stay fed, housed, and healthy. As organizations working to secure the basic needs of children and families, we ask you to put families and kids first and oppose this legislation.

This bill will increase costs for families who can least afford it. While millionaires will get an average tax cut of \$100,000 a year under this plan, families earning under \$200,000 will, over time, [pay more in taxes or get no tax cut at all](#). Meanwhile millions of families will see their grocery bills increase and health care costs rise because of the reconciliation bill's drastic cuts to Medicaid, Affordable Care Act subsidies, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The fact that the wealthiest will get permanent tax cuts while families with the [lowest incomes will have their taxes increase](#) over time *and* lose access to basic needs programs threatens the futures of millions of kids.

These upside-down tax priorities are most clearly apparent in the proposed changes to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Despite an overwhelming body of literature documenting that expanding the CTC is [one of the best ways to help families with rising costs](#), this bill sharply limits who can access the credit *and* how much of it they can claim. Make no mistake: these moves will push more children into poverty. Instead of widening the gap between the haves and have-nots, [Congress should expand](#) the CTC so that it provides regular and meaningful support to families trying to get by.

Locking nearly 20 million of the poorest kids out of full benefits is antithetical to the goals of the CTC. Right now, 17 million—[one in four](#)—kids are excluded from the full \$2,000 CTC because their family income is too low. It has been a primary focus of [House](#) and [Senate](#) Democrats to reinstate eligibility for the full credit to all low- and middle-income families, the same policy that was the driving force behind cutting child poverty in half when the CTC was expanded in 2021. In stark contrast, the House Ways and Means proposal increases the maximum CTC from \$2,000 to \$2,500, but it does nothing to reinstate full eligibility for the [17 million kids](#) who are currently left out of the full credit because their families' earnings are too low. In fact, this plan would result in [2.5 million more low-income kids](#) getting less than the full credit. In other words, instead of fixing the CTC to make the 17 million lowest-income kids fully eligible, this plan will result in nearly 20 million of the lowest-income kids being excluded from the full credit—while higher-income families earning up to \$400,000 get a bigger credit. This change will widen the gap between families who are well-off and those who are struggling to put food on the table.

Raising the credit for millions who already have enough, while excluding the most vulnerable families from the credit, is not pro-work or pro-family. Right now, a parent working full-time earning the federal minimum wage doesn't have income high enough to receive the full CTC, and this proposal does nothing to change that. Low-income families with two or three kids must earn thousands of dollars more than single-kid families to receive the full credit for each child—again, this proposal does nothing to change that. The lowest-income families already receive the least from the CTC; boosting the credit for families who are already receiving the full credit widens inequality and leaves low-income kids further behind.

The CTC proposal does nothing to increase the credit for [650,000 children of working veterans](#). Congress has a critical opportunity to address this upside-down structure for veteran families. Consider the example of a veteran who has three kids aged 2, 5, and 8 and now works as a home health aide making \$25,600. Under current law, she receives a Child Tax Credit worth \$3,775. This proposal does nothing to increase that. Contrast this with a higher-income family with three children making \$200,000. The higher-income family currently receives a CTC worth \$6,000; under this proposal they'd get \$7,500. Expanding access to the full credit would help veterans and all low-paid workers provide for their families.

The CTC proposal strips the credit's eligibility for [4.5 million American children](#) who are currently eligible for the credit, just because their parents are immigrants. [The poverty rate among U.S. citizen children in mixed-status families is 31.5%](#)—more than three times that

of citizen children in households where all members are citizens. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) has already denied the CTC to [1 million kids with ITINs](#) starting in 2018. Under the tax legislation currently being considered by Congress, an additional 4.5 million kids, who have social security numbers, are US citizens or lawful permanent residents, and live with a parent without a social security number, would lose access to the credit, forcing many low-income families into, or deeper into, poverty. Taking away this critical help at such an important time will hurt these kids' economic security and deny them the help they need to thrive—and it will have [lifelong consequences](#).

Instead of expanding the EITC and making it easier to access, this bill puts up hurdles.

One of the most powerful tax policies to lift up working families, the EITC has a long history of bipartisan support and a proven track record of success for families. The credit is currently only available to low- and moderate-income households who earn income from work, so it has served as both a [proven poverty reduction tool and a powerful incentive to work](#), especially for single mothers. Research shows that families mostly use the credit to pay for basic needs [like groceries, rent, clothing, and school supplies](#). In 2023, the EITC kept 4 million people out of poverty. Evidence has shown that the credit also produces significant lifetime benefits, such as better [education outcomes](#), [improved health](#), and [higher lifetime earnings and a more secure retirement](#).

Already, 1 in 5 EITC-eligible workers don't get the credit because it's too hard, complicated, or expensive to file taxes. Congress should take steps to make it easier for families to get the tax credits they've already earned. Instead, the current plan will make families with kids jump through *more* hoops to access their EITC. The new 'pre-certification' proposal for the EITC is essentially to audit every working family with kids that claims the credit—*before they ever receive a refund*—adding more layers of bureaucracy that will prevent working families from getting the credits they are owed.

A pro-family reconciliation bill would put more money in the pockets of middle- and working-class families. The current bill would increase child poverty and raise costs for millions of working families, so we urge you to vote against it. Instead of taking essential support away from the children and families who need it most, Congress should protect access to health insurance, food assistance, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and expand the Child Tax Credit so that it provides the support all children need.

As it stands, working families quite literally cannot afford this bill. We urge you, on their behalf, to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

National (118)

Accountable.US/Accountable.NOW

AFL-CIO

AFT

Alianza Americas
American Friends Service Committee
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Care Income Now
Caring Across Generations
CASA
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)
Center for Migration Studies
Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Defense Fund
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Rights
Church World Service
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs
Color Of Change
Common Sense Media
Community Change Action
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Economic Policy Institute
Economic Security Project Action
Every Mother is a Working Mother Network
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Faith in Action Network
Families USA
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
Family Equality
Family Values @ Work
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research & Action Center
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Futures Without Violence
Global Women's Strike
Hispanic Federation
Human Rights First
Immigration Hub
ImmSchools

Income Movement
Indivisible
Institute for Policy Studies' Poverty Project
Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy
Islamic Relief USA
Japanese American Citizens League
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
Just Solutions
Kaleidoscope Traces Childcare Center
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
LIFT
Make the Road States
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
mBOLDen Change
Mi Familia Vota
MomsRising
NAACP
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association for Family Child Care
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Social Workers
National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities
National Council of Jewish Women
National Diaper Bank Network
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National NeighborWorks Association
National Partnership for New Americans
National Respite Coalition
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center Action Fund
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
P Street
Parents as Teachers National Center
ParentsTogether Action
Patriotic Millionaires
People Power United
People's Action Institute
Prevent Child Abuse America
Progressive Democrats of America
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Public Counsel
Refugee Council USA
Results
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Serving at-risk families everywhere, Inc.
Share Our Strength
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
The Advocates for Human Rights
The Arc of the United States
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
TOOTRiS
UNICEF USA
UnidosUS
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United for a Fair Economy
United Parent Leaders Action Network
United We Dream Network
UpTogether
USBIG, Inc.
Voices for Progress
Women of Color/Global Women's Strike
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
Young Invincibles
Youth Law Center
Youth Villages
20/20 Vision

State (129)

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
Age Well
Alabama Arise
All Home
Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Arizona Center for Economic Progress
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
California Alliance of Caregivers
California Association of Food Banks
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Capstone Community Action
CASH Campaign of Maryland
CCWRO

Central Florida LCLAA Chapter
Children's Advocacy Alliance of Nevada
Children's Alliance
Children's Defense Fund Minnesota
Children's Defense Fund-New York
Children's Institute
Citizen Action of Illinois
Citizen Action of New York
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
POWER-PAC IL
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Common Good Iowa
Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)
Community Voices Heard Power
Comunidades Unidas
Connecticut Voices for Children
Courage California
Disability Rights California
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Economic Security California
Economic Security Illinois
Education Trust-New York
Empower Missouri
End Child Poverty CA powered by GRACE
End Poverty in California (EPIC)
Equality California
Family Forward Oregon
First 5 Association of California
Florida Health Justice Project
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
Golden State Opportunity
Granite State Organizing Project
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!
Help Me Grow Michigan
Hunger Free Vermont
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Just Neighbors
Kansas Action for Children
Latino Policy Forum
Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice
LIFT-NY

Lighthouse Silicon Valley
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Equal Justice
Maine People's Alliance
Make the Road Connecticut
Make the Road Nevada
Make the Road New Jersey
Make the Road New York
Make the Road Pennsylvania
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center (MassBudget)
Massachusetts Head Start Association
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
Meals4Families
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan League for Public Policy
Michigan's Children
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative
Montana Budget & Policy Center
NASW Alaska Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women PA
NC Budget & Tax Center
Nebraska Appleseed
New Hampshire Youth Movement
New Mexico Voices for Children
New York Immigration Coalition
Nicole Rodriguez
North Carolina Justice Center
North Dakota KIDS COUNT
Oasis Legal Services
Oklahoma Policy Institute
OpenSky Policy Institute
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon SEIU 503
Our Children Oregon
Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon
Pennsylvania Policy Center
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)
Policy Matters Ohio
Prepare + Prosper
Promise Arizona
Public Assets Institute
Region 9 Head Start Association

RESULTS Virginia
RESULTS-Massachusetts
Riverside Church at Park and King
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Silver State Equality
South Dakota KIDS COUNT
Southeast Dignity not Detention Coalition
Southern California Immigration Project
Strategies for Children
Texas Kids Can't Wait
The Children's Partnership
United Way of Connecticut
United Way of New York State & 211 New York
United Ways of California
Urban League of Portland
Utahns Against Hunger
Vermont Environmental Justice Network
Vermont Garden Network
VOCAL-NY
VOICES for Alabama's Children
Voices for Utah Children
Voices for Vermont's Children
Washington State Budget and Policy Center
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Women Employed
Women Watch Afrika

Local (86)

ACT Bennington
Ahri Center
Alliance San Diego
Asian Counseling and Referral Service
ASSIST
Association to Benefit Children
Boston Medical Center
Bronx Defenders
Cali Go BIG
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC)
Casa de la Cultura
Catalyst Miami
Cedarbridge Baptist Church
Central City Neighborhood Partners
Chicago Votes Action Fund
Chicago Women in Trades

Children's Council of San Francisco
City of Somerville Massachusetts Office of Housing Stability
Coalition of Communities of Color
Community Action Marin
Community Health Partnership
Community Spring
Diverse Mosaic Community Center
Early Care and Learning Partnership, Inc
Early Learning Center- Steepletown
Eastmont Community Center
El Centro
Fairfield Community Center
Family Action Network Movement
Firelands Workers United / Trabajadores Unidos
First 5 Alameda County
First 5 LA
Food Shelf Coordinator- Alburgh
GBCS | Kitchen Cupboard
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, Cary, NC
Guilford Cares, Inc.
Haven Neighborhood Services
Hill Country Adventure Therapy
Hispanic Services Council, Inc.
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Just Basics, Inc
JVS Boston
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic
Kaumakapili Church
Kimberly Crafton Consulting LLC
Kingdom Community Services
Kitchen Soup Project
Latino Network
Liminality Consulting, LLC
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Lunas Child Care
Montgomery County, Maryland Community Action Board
Monument Impact
Mother's Outreach Network
National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles
Neighborhood Improvement Association
New Moms
North Marin Community Services
NYC Family Policy Project

Orange County United Way
Public Health Council of the Upper Valley
Refugee Women's Alliance
Rosie's Place
Rutland County Parent Child Center
Safe & Sound
San Diego for Every Child
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC)
Sardis Baptist Church
Sheldon Methodist Church Food Shelf
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque IA
South Florida LCLAA
The Family Place
The Food Depot
The Latino Community Association
Thrive Alabama
Together for Kids Coalition
United Way California Capital Region
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
United Way Greater Capital Region
United Way of Massachusetts Bay
United Way Santa Cruz County
Unity Fellowship of Christ Church-NYC
Universidad Popular
UpValley Family Centers of Napa County
Welfare Warriors