

Dear Member of Congress,

The 107 national groups listed below have come together to support the Working Families Tax Relief Act (H.R. 3157), which would help millions of struggling working families and low-income children by expanding the highly effective Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) — **and we urge you to cosponsor this important proposal.** Its impact would be very significant: it would help 46 million households with over 100 million people and nearly 50 million children.

The EITC and CTC together reduce child poverty to a greater degree than any other program. In addition, studies show that they encourage work and have important long-term benefits for children, improving their health and school performance, college attendance, and lifetime earnings.

The bill would close two major holes in the EITC and the CTC, ensuring that the federal tax code doesn't continue to tax millions of low-wage working people into (or deeper into) poverty each year nor exclude millions of low-income children from the full Child Tax Credit.

These two serious gaps in the credits deserve very high priority in a tax extenders or other tax package this year:

- Working people not raising children in their home receive little if anything from the EITC. Largely as a result, more than 5 million low-wage working people aged 19-67 who aren't raising children in their home are actually taxed into — or deeper into — poverty by the federal tax code, the sole group in the country for which this is the case. This includes about 1 million Black working people, 1 million Latino working people, 2.5 million women, and 130,000 veterans or active-duty service members.
- The 2017 law's highly touted \$1,000-per-child increase in the CTC was designed in such a way that it largely bypassed 26 million children in low- and moderate-income working families. And many very poor children are shut out of the CTC altogether because their families are too poor to qualify. The CTC now provides \$2,000 per child to help families that make as much as \$400,000 while doing little or nothing for the nation's poorest children.

The bill would close these gaps and make other improvements in these tax credits:

- **Expanding the EITC for working people not raising children:** The bill would significantly boost the currently small EITC for working people not raising children. It also would expand the eligibility age range for this group of working people, from ages 25-64 to ages 19-67. As a result, about 5 million working people would no longer be taxed into, or deeper into, poverty each year.
- **Increasing the EITC for families with children:** The bill would expand the EITC for families with children by roughly 25 percent. It also includes a much-needed expansion in Puerto Rico's small EITC.
- **Improving the Child Tax Credit so it doesn't leave out millions of low-income children.** The bill would also make the CTC fully refundable so that poor and near-poor children can receive the full credit, just as middle-income families and families well up the income scale do. That would lift nearly 2 million children above the

poverty line and another 8 million children closer to the poverty line (using the Supplemental Poverty Measure).

- **Boosting the CTC for young children:** The bill would create a fully refundable, \$1,000-per-child Young Child Tax Credit for children under age 6.

Taking its EITC and CTC expansions together, the Working Families Tax Relief Act would boost the after-tax incomes of an estimated 46 million households, including 9 million Latino families, 8 million Black families, and 2 million Asian American families.

The bill also would benefit about 3 million veteran or active-duty households and 4 million working households where the filer or their spouse has a disability.

Other strong proposals to improve the EITC or the Child Tax Credit have been introduced — reflecting growing appreciation of the importance of these proposals for millions of families and children — and which you may already have cosponsored or wish to consider supporting. What is unique about the Kildee-Evans proposal, however, is that it is the sole proposal that includes improvements in both the EITC and the CTC. As such, we hope you also will support the Working Families Tax Relief Act by co-sponsoring it as well.

Sincerely,

1. 9to5, National Association of Working Women
2. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
3. American Federation of Teachers
4. American Psychological Association
5. Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
6. Americans for Tax Fairness
7. Arc of the United States
8. Asset Building Strategies
9. Bread for the World
10. Caring Across Generations
11. Center for American Progress
12. Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
13. Center for Public Justice
14. Center for the Study of Social Policy
15. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
16. Child Care Aware of America
17. Child Welfare League of America
18. Children Defense Fund
19. Children's HealthWatch
20. Christian Community Development Association
21. Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
22. Church World Service
23. Coalition on Human Needs
24. Community Change Action
25. Conference of Superiors of Men (Catholic)
26. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

27. Demand Universal Healthcare - DUH
28. Dominican Sisters of Peace
29. Early Care and Education Consortium
30. Economic Security Project Action
31. Equal Rights Advocates
32. Equal Voice Action
33. Faith in Public Life
34. Family Focused Treatment Association
35. Feeding America
36. First Focus Campaign for Children
37. Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
38. Forum for Youth Investment
39. Franciscan Action Network
40. Friends Committee on National Legislation
41. Futures Without Violence
42. Generations United
43. Global Justice Institute
44. Hispanic Federation
45. Indivisible
46. Jewish Council for Public Affairs
47. Just Harvest
48. Justice in Aging
49. Latinos for a Secure Retirement
50. Leadership Conference of Women Religious
51. Main Street Alliance
52. MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
53. MomsRising
54. NAACP
55. National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
56. National Alliance of Children Trust & Prevention Funds
57. National Asian Pacific American Women Forum (NAPAWF)
58. National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
59. National Association for the Education of Young Children
60. National Center on Adoption and Permanency
61. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
62. National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)
63. National Coalition for the Homeless
64. National Consumer Law Center
65. National Council of Jewish Women
66. National Education Association
67. National Employment Law Project (NELP)
68. National Employment Lawyers Association
69. National Human Services Assembly
70. National Indian Child Welfare Association
71. National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
72. National Low Income Housing Coalition
73. National Military Family Association
74. National Organization for Women
75. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)

76. National WIC Association
77. National Women's Law Center (NWLC)
78. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
79. Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
80. Opportunity Fund
81. Oxfam America
82. Parents as Teachers National Center
83. Poligon Education Fund
84. Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign
85. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
86. Prosperity Now
87. Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order
88. RESULTS
89. Sisters of Charity Federation
90. Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
91. Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
92. Sisters of Charity, BVM
93. Sisters of the Holy Cross
94. TASH
95. The Episcopal Church
96. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
97. Treatment Communities of America
98. Ujima Inc: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
99. UnidosUS
100. Union for Reform Judaism
101. Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)
102. United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
103. Voices for Progress
104. Women of Color Network, Inc.
105. Woodstock Institute
106. Young Invincibles
107. YWCA USA