

April 26, 2012

Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Rep. Levin and Rep. Van Hollen:

We ask you to reject the proposal approved by the House Ways and Means Committee to restrict eligibility for the refundable Child Tax Credit (ACTC). This provision, which will be part of the Ryan Reconciliation bill, requires either the tax filer or spouse to have a Social Security number in order to be eligible for the ACTC. This represents a tax increase on low income working families, harming millions of children, most of whom are U.S. citizens. Child poverty in the U.S. is the highest it has been in over 20 years and this proposal would push it even higher, while the wealthiest among us would remain protected. It is unacceptable to target children - no matter their circumstance or immigration status - to bear the brunt of our budget challenges.

The average adjusted gross Income (AGI) for the families affected by this proposal is \$22,200 per year. Because they are at that income level, these families quickly spend nearly every dollar from the current child care tax credit on childcare, housing, groceries, and other basic necessities, funds that in turn support the local economies of the communities where they live. As a result, eliminating the refundable Child Tax Credit for these families will further depress the prospects of all who live and work in these already-struggling communities.

It was just two months ago that Congress refused to include this harmful provision in the payroll tax package. We ask you to once again oppose any limitations to eligibility for the refundable Child Tax Credit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
Asian American Justice Center, a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice (AAJC)
CAUSA, Oregon's Immigrant Rights Organization
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Disciples Justice Action Network
Disciples Women, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
The Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Family and Children's Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
First Focus Campaign for Children

Franciscan Action Network
Greater Coalition for Immigration Justice
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM, MN)
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC), Chicago
Korean Resource Center (KRC), Los Angeles
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR)
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Migrant Support Services of Wayne County
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Community Tax Coalition
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Immigration Forum
National Immigration Law Center
New York Immigration Coalition
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos (PCUN)
Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Silicon Valley Alliance for Immigration Reform (SVAIR)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
United Farm Workers Foundation
Wayne Action for Racial Equality

Cc:

Rep. Charles Rangel
Rep. Pete Stark
Rep. Jim McDermott
Rep. John Lewis
Rep. Richard Neal
Rep. Xavier Becerra
Rep. Lloyd Doggett
Rep. Mike Thompson
Rep. John Larson
Rep. Earl Blumenauer
Rep. Ron Kind
Rep. Bill Pascrell
Rep. Shelley Berkley
Rep. Joseph Crowley

Rep. Allyson Schwartz
Rep. Marcy Kaptur
Rep. Betty McCollum
Rep. John Yarmuth
Rep. Michael Honda
Rep. Tim Ryan
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Rep. Gwen Moore
Rep. Kathy Castor
Rep. Heath Shuler
Rep. Paul Tonko
Rep. Karen Bass