

Children's Advocates Urge Congress to Protect the Child Tax Credit

February 1, 2012

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the undersigned children's advocacy organizations, we ask you to protect the [Child Tax Credit](#) and reject any proposal that would offset the payroll tax package by restricting eligibility for this important credit. The [House-passed proposal](#) would deny working parents who file and pay income taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) the ability to claim the credit. If implemented, this would represent an increase on low to moderate income immigrant families, directly harming up to **5.5 million children**, including up to 4.5 million who are U.S. citizens.

The CTC and in particular, the ACTC, is of immense value to low-income families – who, of families at all income levels, spend the highest percentage of their income directly on their children, according to the Department of Agriculture. While all of the families affected by this proposal have earned income and pay taxes, many earn an average of \$21,000 per year. To restrict access to this benefit would make it more difficult for parents to provide for their children's basic needs.

Furthermore, children of immigrants now comprise one quarter of the nation's child population, and represent 30 percent of all low-income children. With child poverty at its highest rate in 20 years, deliberately restricting immigrant families' access to the CTC threatens to push the child poverty rate even higher. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), the CTC and ACTC prevented nearly 1.3 million children from falling into poverty in 2009.

As organizations committed to improving child well-being in America, we ask for your leadership in protecting the Child Tax Credit for *all* families and reject any measure that would harm our most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,

Action for Children North Carolina

Advocates for Children & Youth, Maryland

Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families

America's Promise Alliance

Black Children's Institute of Tennessee

Center for Public Policy Priorities, Texas

Child and Family Policy Center, Iowa

Children's Action Alliance, Arizona

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire

Children's Alliance, Washington

Children's Defense Fund, Texas

Children's Leadership Council

Children Now, California
Colorado Children's Campaign
Connecticut Association for Human Services
First Focus Campaign for Children
Gateway to Care
Kentucky Youth Advocates
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center, Texas
Latin American Youth Center, DC
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
National Latino Children's Institute
New Mexico Voices for Children
Maine Children's Alliance
Michigan's Children
MomsRising
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Statewide Parent Advocacy Center, New Jersey
Voices for America's Children
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Voices for Utah Children
Voices for Vermont's Children
Voices for Virginia's Children
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families