

January 16, 2024

Dear Senator/Representative:

As faith leaders representing a broad array of religious beliefs and traditions, spanning different ideologies and perspectives, we come together around the moral imperative to end child poverty. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) has a proven, transformative impact on the lives of children and working families. **The bipartisan tax deal, pairing some business tax breaks with a CTC expansion, would make a meaningful difference for millions of low-income children. We urge you to pass this tax package this month to be effective for tax year 2023 to help struggling families now.**

While the tax deal does not include all the CTC improvements many of us have called for, including full refundability and reestablishing the monthly credit, the tax agreement marks an important and necessary improvement. The expansions are targeted to those most in need, helping 80 percent of the 19 million children in low-income families who do not receive the full credit because their families do not earn enough money to qualify for the maximum credit. The proposed expansions would lift as many as 400,000 children out of poverty and make three million children less poor. No other legislation this Congress will have this sort of impact on child poverty.

As people of faith, we share a common call to work for an end to hunger and poverty. In the Christian tradition, Jesus calls the faithful to prioritize the needs of the “*least of these*” and to be moved by compassion and love to meet the needs of one’s neighbor. In Proverbs 31:9, we are reminded of our responsibility to “*Speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy.*” The Torah commands the Jewish people to not only to set up a just society, but to ensure that those who are most marginalized are safeguarded, enfranchised, and lifted up. In fact, the Torah goes so far as to say, “*Cursed be the one who subverts the rights of the stranger, the orphan, and the widow.*” (Deuteronomy 27:19) In the Surah Baqarah, verse 215, Allah says, “*They ask you as to what they should spend. Say ‘Whatever good you spend should be for parents, kinsmen, orphans, the needy and the wayfarer; and whatever good you do, Allah is all-aware of it.’*”

At a time when budgets are squeezed for too many families, we urge you to support and pass the bipartisan tax deal, expanding the Child Tax Credit to make a real difference in the lives of so many in our communities and for Americans of all faiths and religions.

Sincerely,

Bridgette Adler, President, Superior Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Jose Aguto, Executive Director, Catholic Climate Covenant

Mrs. Judy Andidora, President, Cumberland -Perry Council of Catholic Women

Rev. Dr. David Beckmann, Dean's Advisor, Virginia Theological Seminary, and Coordinator, Circle of Protection

Loretta Bernardo, National Council of Catholic Women

Rebecca Linder Blachly, Director of Government Relations, The Episcopal Church

Grace M Blaszak, Council of Catholic Women

Carol Blythe, Past President, Alliance of Baptists

Sister Joanne Bierl MMM, Medical Missionaries of Mary

Elizabeth Bonicioli, St. Francis of Assisi Council of Catholic Women

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop, Romanian Catholic Diocese of St. George in Canton, OH

Rev. Galen Carey, Vice President of Government Relations, National Association of Evangelicals

John Carr, Founder, Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Georgetown University

Rev. Eugene Cho, President & CEO, Bread for the World

Marianne Comfort, Justice Coordinator, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Pamela T Connaughton, M. Ed., National Council of Catholic Women

Fr. John M. Converset, Provincial Emeritus, Comboni Missionaries

Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune, Senior Associate General Secretary & Director of Advocacy, National Council of Churches USA

Brother Tobias Dammert, Director of Development- Benedictine Mission House - Christ the King Priory

Dr. Thomas De Vries, President/CEO, Citygate Network

Sister Joan DiProsperre, School Sisters of Notre Dame

Michele Dunne OFS, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network

Rev. Lisa Dunson, President, Alliance of Baptists

Dr. Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Director, Social Action Commission, AME Church

Teresa Droessler, President, Minneapolis Deaneries Council of Catholic Women

Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Sister Margie Fort, Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace (CSJP), CSJP Leadership Team

Andrew Gibson, Director of Partnerships, Faith for Justice

Meredith Jacobs, CEO, Jewish Women International

Reverend Jimmie R. Hawkins, Director of Advocacy, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Michelle Higgins, Senior Pastor, St. John's United Church of Christ

John Hill, Interim General Secretary, The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society

Shelly Holt, President, Winona-Rochester Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Sister Helen Jane Jaeb, Provincial Leadership School Sisters of Notre Dame

Sheila Katz, CEO, National Council of Jewish Women

Debra M. Keller, National Council of Catholic Women Spirituality Commission Chair

Silas Kulkarni, Director of Strategy & Advocacy, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Loretta Lazar, Vice-President, Saint Joseph the Worker Council of Catholic Women

Mary Teresa Laengle, Sisters of Charity Council Member

Sr. Brigid Lawlor, RGS, Liaison, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Supt. Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

Rita Faith Maher, President, Saginaw Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Sister Eileen McCann, CSJ, Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet

Dr. Donald R. McCrabb, Executive Director, United States Catholic Mission Association

Ann Marie Melanson, President, Fall River Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Bridget Moix, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Joan F. Neal, Deputy Executive Director & Chief Equity Officer, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Rev. Michael Neuroth, Director, United Church of Christ Washington DC Office

Mary J. Novak, Executive Director, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Sharon A. O'Brien, Ph.D., Executive Director, Catholics for Family Peace

Sister Regina Palacios, SSND, School Sisters of Notre Dame

Bishop Richard Pates, Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Des Moines

Josh Protas, Vice President of Public Policy, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Sister Montiel Rosenthal, SC, Councilor, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

Rev. Gabriel Salguero, President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Sister Debra M Sciano, SSND, Provincial Leader, Central Pacific Province, School Sisters of Notre Dame

Reverend Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Faith Leader, Washington, DC

Shirley Sorenson, National Council of Catholic Women

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., Bishop of Lexington

Fr. Louis Studer, OMI, President, Oblate School of Theology

Mary Stewart, UN representative/ National Council of Catholic Women

Reverend Lori Tapia, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President, Sojourners and Sojo Action

Rebecca VanPool, National Council of Catholic Women

Rev. Jim Wallis, Center on Faith and Justice, Georgetown University

Bishop Edward Joseph Weisenburger, Bishop of the Diocese of Tucson Arizona

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Convener, National African American Clergy Network

Reverend Elijah R. Zehyoue, Ph.D., Co-Director, Alliance of Baptists

Johnny Zokovitch, Executive Director, Pax Christi USA