

January 15, 2014

Dear Senator:

We are writing to strongly urge you to oppose any proposals to pay for the cost of extending Unemployment Insurance (UI) coverage by changing the eligibility requirements for the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The laudable goal of extending UI benefits is to help keep Americans looking for work in this difficult labor market from being driven off the economic cliff. But restricting CTC eligibility would directly negate that goal by driving millions of low-income families and children into poverty.

These counterproductive amendments would require taxpayers to have a Social Security number in order to claim the refundable portion of the CTC. In doing so, they would disqualify more than two million low-wage working families - who pay income and payroll taxes - from claiming this credit. They also would impact over four million U.S. citizen children, the vast majority of whom are Latino.

The CTC is only available to working families, and was designed to enable them to pay for their children's most basic needs – food, clothing, medicine and other daily expenses. More than 60% of families using the refundable portion of this tax credit earn less than \$25,000 per year. Because of the crucial economic support it provides, the CTC has proven to be one of the most effective anti-poverty measures.

Supporters of this drastic change in tax policy point to isolated incidents of fraud in the program. Integrity in any system is important, but punishing children and their tax-paying families is not the answer to weeding out allegations of fraud.

Without the CTC, low-income families will have to pay an average of \$1,800 more per year in taxes. These are families who pay more than \$13 billion in payroll taxes each year and face a daily struggle to make ends meet. More than 16 million children currently live in poverty in this country - an unconscionable number - and CTC eligibility restrictions would push countless more children into that position.

Raising taxes on low-income families is a cynical and counterproductive proposal to pay for the costs of extending UI coverage. America is better than that. We therefore strenuously urge you to oppose CTC restrictions and thank you for your continuing leadership in protecting children and hard-working immigrant families.

Sincerely,

9to5

AFL-CIO

Alliance for a Just Society

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers

American Friends Service Committee
American Immigration Council
American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
America's Voice
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Campaign for America's Future
CASA de Maryland
Center for American Progress Action Fund
Center for Community Change
Center for Economic Progress
Center for Law and Social Policy
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Leadership Council
Church World Service
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Empire Justice Center
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Farmworker Justice
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
Half in Ten
Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project of North Carolina
Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)
Latin American Coalition
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service
Main Street Alliance
Make the Road New York
Massachusetts Peace Action
MomsRising
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Community Tax Coalition
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund
National Immigration Forum
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center

National Korean American Service and Education Consortium, NAKASEC
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
One America
RESULTS: The Power to End Poverty
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Single Stop USA
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Southern Poverty Law Center
Student Action with Farmworkers
The Arc
UFCW International Union
UNITE HERE International Union
United Autoworkers (UAW)
United Students Against Sweatshops
United We Dream
USAction
We Belong Together