

April 23, 2013

Honorable Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator, Ohio  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senator, Illinois  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Brown and Durbin:

Tens of millions of low- to middle-income, working families turn for help to the crucially important Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These proven policy tools target their assistance to households who often work the hardest yet struggle the most to get by. These credits help such families avoid poverty and – instead – pursue a path toward financial stability, not to mention better health and education outcomes.

Thus we, the undersigned, write in support of your Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2013, to preserve and strengthen these critical tax credits for families who represent the very core of our nation's economic strength. That's something the recent American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 did not guarantee, as it extended several key EITC and CTC improvements for only five years – even as it permanently extended generous federal estate tax rates that help only the very wealthiest of households.

Unpredictability heavily stamps the day-to-day lives of working families who struggle to cover the basics, from rent and groceries to utility bills and community college tuition. Your bill takes a significant step toward greater predictability, ensuring that taxpayers need not fear the loss of EITC and CTC provisions that specifically shield more than 13 million working households from each paying an average of \$843 more in taxes. We applaud your proposal for maintaining CTC eligibility for more of the lowest-income families raising children, as well as retaining EITC provisions representing greater help for married couples and for families with three or more kids.

Moreover, your legislation would make several other vital improvements in the EITC. Increasing the amount of the too-small credit for childless workers is long overdue – especially considering current law actually taxes some impoverished, childless adults even further into destitution. Also, allowing childless workers to claim the EITC at 21 years of age (rather than 25) would provide a greater work incentive and better support for struggling, young adults. Finally, several other reforms would simplify EITC claims and help reduce their incidence of errors – many of which are simply the inadvertent product of families facing an unnecessarily complicated tax code.

America's lowest-income, hardworking families already pay a greater proportion of their earnings in federal, state, and local taxes than do many of the wealthiest households. Your legislation would help prevent that imbalance from worsening, and instead set a better policy course toward lifting-up our workers, our families, and our nation.

We thank you for this important effort, pledge our support for it, and encourage your fellow policymakers to join in it.

Sincerely,

**National organizations**

9to5, Milwaukee, WI  
A World Fit for Kids!, Los Angeles, CA  
Adrian Dominicans, Adrian, MI  
Alliance for a Just Society, Seattle, WA  
American Friends Service Committee, Washington, DC  
Americans for Tax Fairness, Washington, DC  
Bread for the World, Washington, DC  
Building Movement Project, New York, NY  
Center for Law and Social Policy, Washington, DC  
Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation, Wichita, KS  
Children's Defense Fund, Washington, DC  
Coalition on Human Needs, Washington, DC  
Community Action Partnership, Washington, DC,  
Corporation for Enterprise Development, Washington, DC  
Doorways to Dreams Fund, Boston, MA  
Elev8, Chicago, IL  
Felician Franciscan Sisters of North America, Beaver Falls, PA  
First Focus Campaign for Children, Washington, DC  
Food Research and Action Center, Washington, DC  
Friends Committee on National Legislation, Washington, DC  
Goodwill Industries International, Rockville, MD  
Half in Ten, Washington, DC  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance, New York, NY  
Human Facets International, Montgomery Village, MD  
Malcolm X Center, Greenville, SC  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Silver Spring, MD  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice, New York, NY  
National Community Tax Coalition  
National Council of Jewish Women, Washington, DC  
National Council of La Raza, Washington, DC  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Washington, DC  
National Women's Conference Committee, Eau Claire, WI  
National Women's Law Center, Washington, DC  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, Washington, DC  
POZ VETS USA, Atlanta, GA  
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians), Arlington Heights, IL  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, Washington, DC  
Responsible Wealth, Boston, MA  
RESULTS, Washington, DC  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL  
Single Stop USA, New York, NY  
Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, Maryland Heights, MO

Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, MA  
United for a Fair Economy, Boston, MA  
United Neighborhood Centers of America, Washington, DC  
Ursuline Sisters, Maple Mount, KY  
VARA Consulting, Potomac, MD  
Voices for America's Children, Washington, DC  
WhyHunger, New York, NY  
Wider Opportunities for Women, Washington, DC  
World Knowledge Bank, Arlington, VA

### **State & local organizations**

#### Alabama

HIPPY Alabama, Montgomery

#### Alaska

Alaska Center for Public Policy, Anchorage

#### Arizona

Foundation for Senior Living, Phoenix  
Primavera, Tucson  
Protecting America's Family Coalition, Phoenix  
Rehoboth Community Development Corporation, Phoenix  
Teens, Training and Taxes, Parks

#### California

9to5 California, Sacramento  
California Center for Rural Policy, Arcata  
Civic Center Barrio Housing Corporation, Santa Ana  
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County, San Bernardino  
Filipino American Service Group, Inc., Los Angeles  
Food for People, Eureka  
Fontana Unified School District, Fontana  
Hamilton Family Center, San Francisco  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
Judith Quintoriano D.D. Tutoring, Pacifica  
Lao Family Community Development, Inc., Oakland  
League of Women Voters of San Diego County, San Diego  
Mission Economic Development Agency, San Francisco  
Sonoma County Task Force for the Homeless, Santa Rosa  
St. Jerome Catholic Church, Los Angeles  
We Care Sober Living Recovery Home, Sonoma  
Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge, and Services, Los Angeles

## Colorado

9to5 Colorado

Denver Asset Building Coalition

Geyb Medical, Greeley

Law Offices of Dominick M. Saia, Louisville

Servicios de la Raza, Denver

## Connecticut

Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, Bridgeport

Collaborative Center for Justice, Hartford

Connecticut Association for Human Services, New Haven

Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs, Hartford

Connecticut Association for Community Action, New Britain

Connecticut Voices for Children, New Haven

FSW, Inc., Bridgeport

Middlesex Coalition for Children, Middletown

Sharon Social Services, West Cornwall

## District of Columbia

United Planning Organization

We Are Family Senior Outreach Network

## Florida

Daystar Life Center, Inc., St. Petersburg

Farmworkers Association of Florida, Inc., Apopka

Florida Prosperity Partnership, St. Augustine

Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Miami

Mid Pinellas Democratic Club, Largo

Pax Christi Manasota Chapter, Bradenton

United Way of Northeast Florida, Jacksonville

## Georgia

9to5 Atlanta, Atlanta

Atlanta Prosperity Campaign/Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta

Georgia Rural Urban Summit, Decatur

Georgians for Prosperity, Atlanta

Women of Virtue, Inc., Covington

## Hawaii

Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development, Honolulu

Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, Honolulu

## Iowa

Emergency Residence Project, Ames

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Des Moines

ISED Ventures, Des Moines

Lutheran Services in Iowa, Greene  
Resurrection Parish, Dubuque  
Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque  
South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, Des Moines

#### Illinois

AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago  
Center for Economic Progress, Chicago  
Chicago Family Health Center, Chicago  
Chicago Rehab Network, Chicago  
Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Chicago  
Community Action Partnership of Lake County, Waukegan  
Healthcare Alternative Systems, Chicago  
Illinois School Psychologists Association, Chicago  
League of Women Voters of Wheaton, Wheaton  
National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois State Policy Advocacy, Chicago  
Ounce of Prevention Fund, Chicago  
Project IRENE, Berwyn  
Saints Peter and Paul Social Justice, Waterloo  
United African Organization, Chicago  
YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Chicago

#### Indiana

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis, Indianapolis  
Indiana Association for Community Economic Development, Indianapolis  
The Journey, Indianapolis

#### Kansas

Pax Christi, Lawrence  
Senior Services of Wichita, Inc., Wichita  
Social Justice Office, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas City

#### Kentucky

Kentucky Youth Advocates, Jeffersontown

#### Louisiana

Louisiana Budget Project, Baton Rouge  
United Way of Southwest Louisiana, Lake Charles

#### Massachusetts

Action for Boston Community Development, Boston  
FamilyAid Boston, Boston  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston  
Samson Trust, North Reading  
Social Justice Group, Harwich  
The Parents and Community Build Group, Inc., Allston

### Maryland

Alleghany County Human Resources Development Commission, Cumberland  
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore, Baltimore  
Community Action Board of Montgomery County, Rockville  
Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, Baltimore  
Maryland CASH Campaign, Baltimore  
Maryland United for Peace and Justice, Bowie  
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Potomac  
PeterCares House, Greenbelt

### Maine

CASH Maine, Wiscasset  
Lamey-Wellehan, Auburn  
Maine Children's Alliance, Augusta  
New England Consortium Regional Poverty Reduction Initiative, South Portland

### Michigan

Area Community Services Employment and Training Council, Grand Rapids  
Community Economic Development Association of Michigan, Lansing  
Justice and Peace Ministry, Rochester Hills  
Michigan Economic Impact Coalition, Lansing  
Michigan League for Public Policy, Lansing  
Neighborhood Legal Services, Detroit  
Pax Christi Michigan, Lansing  
TrueNorth Community Services, Fremont  
Work Services, Inc., Jackson

### Minnesota

Litchfield Public Schools Early Childhood Programs, Litchfield

### Missouri

Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louis, St. Louis  
God's Will in Action, Kansas City  
Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri, St. Louis  
Missouri Progressive Vote, Springfield  
NorthEast Independent Living Services, Hannibal  
Places for People, Inc., St. Louis  
South Central Missouri Community Action Agency, Alton  
Whole Health Outreach, Ellington

### Montana

Knowles Financial Advisors, Great Falls  
Rural Dynamics, Inc., Great Falls

### Nebraska

Center for People in Need, Lincoln

Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team, Omaha

New Hampshire

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, Concord  
Every Child Matters in New Hampshire, Concord  
New Hampshire Family Assistance Advisory Council, Concord

New Jersey

Catholic Charities/Delaware House, Westhampton  
Homeportfolio, LLC, Newark  
National Council of Jewish Women, New Jersey State Public Affairs Network, Elizabeth  
RESULTS of Central New Jersey, Bernardsville  
United Way of Northern New Jersey, Morristown

New Mexico

Prosperity Works, Albuquerque  
RESULTS of Santa Fe, Santa Fe

New York

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, New York  
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc., Jamaica  
Community Food Advocates, New York  
D & R Accounting & Tax Solutions, Inc., Jamestown  
The Financial Clinic, New York  
Fiscal Policy Institute, Latham  
Food Bank For New York City, New York  
Gray Panthers NYC Network, New York  
Great Neck SANE/Peace Action, New York  
Harlem Children's Zone, New York  
Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives, Douglaston  
Nazareth Housing Inc., New York  
Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State, Albany  
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, Bronx  
New York City Labor Chorus, Roosevelt  
People For Positive Action, Plattsburgh  
Violence Intervention Program, New York  
WestCOP, Inc., Elmsford  
YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, Inc., Troy

Nevada

Life, Peace, and Justice Commission of the Diocese of Reno, Reno  
S.A.F.E. House, Las Vegas

North Carolina

Action for Children North Carolina, Raleigh  
Asheville RESULTS Group, Asheville

Community Link, Charlotte  
North Carolina Council of Churches, Raleigh  
North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, Durham  
PMG Associates, LLC, Raleigh  
Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc., Boonville

### Ohio

Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, Cincinnati  
Ohio Disability Action Coalition, Cincinnati  
Policy Matters Ohio, Cleveland  
Progressive Priorities US, Boardman  
Social Justice Institute, Cleveland Heights  
The Potters House Ministries, Sciotoville  
Voices for Peace, Huron  
Wayne County Democratic Party, Wooster  
West Ohio Food Bank, Lima

### Oklahoma

Liggett & Liggett LLC, Oklahoma City  
Youth Services for Stephens County, Duncan

### Oregon

Fostering Hope, Salem  
ROSE Community Development, Portland

### Pennsylvania

Erie Benedictines for Peace, Erie  
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, Jenkintown  
Housing Authority County of Beaver, Beaver  
Just Harvest: A Center for Action Against Hunger, Pittsburgh  
Montgomery County Asset Building Coalition, Norristown  
Montgomery County Community Action Development Commission, Norristown  
Nazareth Housing Services, Pittsburgh  
Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans, Belle Vernon  
Public Citizens for Children and Youth, Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Harrisburg  
Providence Connections, Pittsburgh  
Sisters of St. Joseph, Aliquippa  
Sisters Place, Pittsburgh  
United Church of Christ, Harrisburg  
United Way of Beaver County, Monaca  
United Way of the Capital Region, Enola  
West Chester Food Cupboard, West Chester  
Westmoreland Community Action, Greensburg

### Rhode Island

Capital Good Fund, Providence  
Rhode Island Kids Count, Providence

### South Carolina

Pendleton Place for Children and Families, Greenville  
United Way of Greenville County, Greenville

### Tennessee

Blount County Community Action Agency, Maryville  
Sisters of Mercy, Knoxville  
Women's Social Policy and Research Center, Nashville

### Texas

Beyond Careers, Houston  
East Texas Human Needs Network, Tyler  
Education Equals Making Community Connections, Houston  
Neighborhood Housing Services of Dimmit County, Carrizo Springs  
Pax Christi Austin, Austin

### Utah

Center of Hope Food Pantry, Bountiful  
Salt Lake Community Action Program, Salt Lake City  
Utah Housing Coalition, Salt Lake City

### Vermont

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, Brattleboro  
BROC-Community Action in Southwest Vermont, Fair Haven  
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, Burlington  
Green Mountain United Way, Montpelier  
Hunger Free Vermont, Burlington  
Voices for Vermont's Children, Montpelier

### Virginia

Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Chesapeake  
Heroes and Dreams, Richmond  
Pittsylvania County Community Action, Inc., Danville  
Quin Rivers, Inc., New Kent  
Rappahannock United Way, Fredericksburg  
Social Action Linking Together, Chantilly  
Virginia Community Action Partnership, Richmond  
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Richmond  
Virginia Organizing, Charlottesville

### Washington

Catholic Charities Housing Services, Yakima

Children's Alliance, Seattle  
Community Assistance Program, Blaine  
El Centro de la Raza, Seattle  
Housing Authority of Skagit County, Mount Vernon  
Social Justice Ministry of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pullman  
Sojourner Place, Kirkland  
Statewide Poverty Action Network, Seattle  
Triumph Treatment Services, Yakima

West Virginia

Louis County Family Resource Network, Weston

Wisconsin

9to5 Milwaukee, Milwaukee  
Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, Milwaukee  
Move to Amend of Southeast Wisconsin, Milwaukee  
Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm, Delafield  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Madison