

The logo consists of the word "results" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, colored red. It is contained within a white speech bubble shape with rounded corners and a small tail pointing towards the bottom-left.

RESULTS Print Media: U.S. Poverty

March 11, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Date	State	Article	Outlet	Media Type
<u>Go to Alaska media</u>				
4/16/21	AK	Make voting easy	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
5/18/21	AK	Ending child poverty	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner	Letter to the editor
9/17/21	AK	Cutting poverty	Daily Sitka Sentinel	Letter to the editor
10/26/21	AK	Protect Expanded Child Tax Credit	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
10/28/21	AK	Keep the Child tax Credit	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
12/1/21	AK	Pass the Build Back Better Act	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner	Letter to the editor
12/20/21	AK	Extend the child tax credit	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Arizona media</u>				
4/3/21	AZ	Outsider can relate to housing topics and issues in Flagstaff	Arizona Daily Sun	Letter to the editor
10/17/21	AZ	Build Back Better needs Sinema support	Arizona Daily Sun	Letter to the editor
10/24/21	AZ	Keep vouchers, credits coming	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
11/8/21	AZ	Build Back Better bill needs Sinema's help	News-Herald	Letter to the editor

11/23/21	AZ	Pass Build Back Better bill	Kingman Daily Miner	Letter to the editor
11/23/21	AZ	Build Back Better offers opportunity	News-Herald	Letter to the editor
11/24/21	AZ	Congress should pass Build Better Act	Anthem Independent	Letter to the editor
11/24/21	AZ	Back the Build Back Better bill	Kingman Daily Miner	Letter to the editor
12/2/21	AZ	Back the Build Back Better bill	News-Herald	Letter to the editor
12/3/21	AZ	Congress must pass Build back Better Act	Daily Independent	Letter to the editor
12/9/21	AZ	I Want Build Back Better For Christmas	Arizona Daily Independent	Arizona Daily Star
12/22/21	AZ	Cartoon wisdom	Arizona Daily Star	Arizona Daily Star

[Go to Arkansas media](#)

6/3/21	AR	Take decisive action	Arkansas Democrat Gazette	Letter to the editor
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[Go to California media](#)

4/4/21	CA	Reduce child poverty, housing instability	San Diego Union Tribune	Letter to the editor
4/18/21	CA	Crucial time to honor Chinese American hero	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
4/18/21	CA	Crucial time to honor Chinese American hero	Mercury News	Letter to the editor

5/2/21	CA	Congress must go bold on economic recovery	Los Angeles Daily News	Letter to the editor
6/25/21	CA	Cutting child poverty in half	Enterprise Record	Letter to the editor
6/26/21	CA	Make earned-income, child credits permanent	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor
7/15/21	CA	Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
7/15/21	CA	Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
7/18/21	CA	Larger housing voucher benefits whole nation	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
7/20/21	CA	New Child Tax Credit should be permanent	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
7/20/21	CA	New Child Tax Credit should be permanent	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
7/25/21	CA	Tax credits for families should be permanent	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor
10/5/21	CA	Poverty actually decreased during the pandemic	Union	Letter to the editor
11/25/21	CA	Senate should approve Build Back Better quickly	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor
12/8/21	CA	Senate must act quickly on Biden spending bill	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
12/8/21	CA	Senate must act quickly on Biden spending bill	Mercury News	Letter to the editor

[Go to Colorado media](#)

5/20/21	CO	We can cut child poverty in half – permanently	Longmont Times-Call	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	CO	Speak up for American families	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
7/15/21	CO	Speak up for families	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
8/1/21	CO	Full funding for housing vouchers sorely needed	Daily Sentinel	Letter to the editor
9/2/21	CO	Anderson’s great idea	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
9/17/21	CO	Urge Congress to support more housing vouchers	Daily Sentinel	Letter to the editor
10/21/21	CO	We can be the source of caring and compassion	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor

Go to Connecticut media

7/1/21	CT	Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment	Torrington Register Citizen	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment	Danbury News Times	Letter to the editor

7/1/21	CT	Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment	Norwalk Hour	Letter to the editor
8/3/21	CT	Ask representatives to address housing	Voices/Town Times	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Delaware media</u>				
12/10/21	FL	Delaware must address housing security	News Journal	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Florida media</u>				
3/30/21	FL	Reducing poverty	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
4/21/21	FL	Tax credits	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	FL	Child tax credit should be permanent	Port Charlotte Sun	Letter to the editor
5/21/21	FL	Reducing child poverty	Northwest Florida Daily News	Letter to the editor
5/22/21	FL	Child tax credit should be permanent	Venice Gondolier	Letter to the editor
5/29/21	FL	Child tax credit should be permanent	Port Charlotte Sun	Letter to the editor
5/29/21	FL	Child tax credit should be permanent	Venice Gondolier	Letter to the editor
6/9/21	FL	Affordable housing residents must live in safety	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
6/30/21	FL	Fight poverty	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor

7/4/21	FL	Extend rental assistance	Fort Meyers News Press	Letter to the editor
7/4/21	FL	Extend rental assistance	Naples Daily News	Letter to the editor
7/26/21	FL	Expand rental assistance, end homelessness	Fort Meyers News Press	Letter to the editor
7/26/21	FL	Expand rental assistance, end homelessness	Naples Daily News	Letter to the editor
9/24/21	FL	Millions lifted above poverty	Fort Meyers News Press	Letter to the editor
9/24/21	FL	Millions lifted above poverty	Naples Daily News	Letter to the editor
12/11/21	FL	Senators should support Build Back Better plan	Port Charlotte Sun	Letter to the editor
12/11/21	FL	Senators should support Build Back Better plan	Venice Gondolier	Letter to the editor
12/17/21	FL	Build Back Better helping those in poverty	Port Charlotte Sun	Letter to the editor
12/17/21	FL	Build Back Better helping those in poverty	Venice Gondolier	Letter to the editor
12/22/21	FL	A better cause	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor

[Go to Idaho media](#)

5/20/21	ID	Cut child poverty	Idaho Statesman	Letter to the editor
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[Go to Illinois media](#)

5/13/21	IL	Congress should expand rental assistance	Rockford Register Star	Letter to the editor
5/25/21	IL	Additional assistance	Chicago Sun Times	Letter to the editor
11/10/21	IL	'Build Back Better ' plan deserves support	Chicago Sun Times	Letter to the editor
11/14/21	IL	Build Back Better lays foundation for an economy where no one gets left behind	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
11/20/21	IL	Build Back Better deserves to pass	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
12/20/21	IL	Act now on BBB	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor

[Go to Indiana media](#)

4/5/21	IN	One-year relief needs to be extended	Herald Times	Letter to the editor
4/30/21	IN	Health assistance through housing	Terre Haute Tribune Star	Letter to the editor
5/6/21	IN	Rescue act helps breaks cycles of injustice, poverty	Johnson County Daily Journal	Letter to the editor
5/10/21	IN	COVID vaccines aren't the only way to keep Hoosiers healthy	Herald Times	Letter to the editor
7/28/21	IN	Calling on Congress to fund housing vouchers	Herald Times	Letter to the editor
10/1/21	IN	Build Back Better plan has help for Hoosiers	Journal Gazette	Letter to the editor

[Go to Iowa media](#)

5/7/21	IA	Congress must go bold on economic recovery	Cedar Rapids Gazette	Letter to the editor
7/5/21	IA	The revamped child tax credit is a game-changer, so let's work to keep it	Des Moines Register	Op-ed
11/4/21	IA	Pass a recovery bill that reduces poverty now	Des Moines Register	Letter to the editor
11/15/21	IA	A historic plan	Quad City Times	Letter to the editor

Go to Kansas media

9/27/21	KS	No title	Junction City Union	Letter to the editor
9/28/21	KS	Poverty-reducing measures of 2021 need to become permanent	Great Bend Tribune	Letter to the editor
10/2/21	KS	Child Tax Credit should be extended by U.S. Senate	Topeka Capital Journal	Letter to the editor

Go to Kentucky media

8/13/21	KY	Expand the Housing Choice Voucher program	State Journal	Letter to the editor
11/24/21	KY	Senate must act	Lexington Herald Leader	Letter to the editor

Go to Maryland/Washington, DC media

3/12/21	MD	COVID relief helps bridge gap between nation's haves and have-nots	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
3/12/21	DC	If children are our future, let's help their parents now	Washington Post	Letter to the editor

5/21/21	MD	Cutting child poverty in half is within our grasp	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
6/4/21	MD	Helping jobless puts them on the path to employment	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
11/23/21	MD	U.S. should extend federal child tax credit	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor

Go to Massachusetts media

3/24/21	MA	Make benefits for children permanent	Boston Globe	Letter to the editor
4/5/21	MA	Affordable housing action is good, but more is needed	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
7/14/21	MA	New anti-poverty measures are momentous — we should continue them	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
10/6/21	MA	What should take priority in budget reconciliation talks	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
12/9/21	MA	Build Back Better Act a historic investment in the American people	Telegram & Gazette	Letter to the editor

Go to Michigan media

11/12/21	MI	Biden's initiative deserves Michigan's support	Detroit Free Press	Letter to the editor
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Go to Minnesota media

4/10/21	MN	Like Duluth did, Congress can spur equity	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
7/8/21	MN	Expand homeownership to counter racism	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor

8/16/21	MN	Congress needs to take permanent action for low-income families	St. Cloud Times	Letter to the editor
8/19/21	MN	Zip code shouldn't determine internet speed	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
12/3/21	MN	Senate must pass Build Back Better bill	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor

Go to Mississippi media

5/26/21	MS	Support American Workers And Kids: Expand Child Tax Credit Permanently	Mississippi Free Press	Op-ed
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Go to Missouri media

5/8/21	MO	Biden's plan will help overlooked Americans	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
5/22/21	MO	We can cut child poverty in half – permanently	St. Louis American	Letter to the editor
5/27/21	MO	Story highlights struggles for low-income renters	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/27/21	MO	Story highlights struggles for low-income renters	Missouri Consumer News	Letter to the editor
5/30/21	MO	Housing is security	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
8/25/21	MO	Let's house them	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
10/10/21	MO	Help poor kids	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
10/11/21	MO	Congress should address issues of poverty for children in recovery bill	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor

12/14/21	MO	Rent, food relief needed now	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
12/31/21	MO	Missouri senators could help families by supporting 'Build Back Better' bill	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor

Go to Montana Media

3/19/21	MT	More needs to be done	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
4/20/21	MT	Child tax credits another bipartisan solution	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
5/24/21	MT	Child tax credits	Daily Inter Lake	Letter to the editor
5/24/21	MT	Seek full funding for housing choice voucher program	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
7/7/21	MT	Opportunity to question candidates	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
8/10/21	MT	Proper taxes invest in the future	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
12/26/21	MT	Raise voice to end child poverty	Billings Gazette	Letter to the editor

Go to Nebraska media

5/29/21	NE	Expand rental assistance program	Lincoln Journal Star	Letter to the editor
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Go to Nevada media

5/3/21	NV	Bidens's plans can be a big help	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
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5/7/21	NV	Recovery plan can do even more	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
6/8/21	NV	Show children how we can lead	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
8/5/21	NV	Critical mass for housing crisis	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
10/26/21	NV	Child tax credit fights poverty	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
11/21/21	NV	Nation must fix housing shortage	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
11/28/21	NV	Senate has no time to waste	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor

[Go to New Hampshire media](#)

9/28/21	NH	Time to raise our neighbors out of poverty	Keene Sentinel	Letter to the editor
9/30/21	NH	Anti-poverty measures should be permanent	New Hampshire Union Leader	Letter to the editor
10/4/21	NH	Cut child poverty in half	Concord Monitor	Letter to the editor
10/29/21	NH	Housing Choice Voucher program needs to be expanded	Seacoastonline	Letter to the editor

[Go to New Jersey media](#)

7/13/21	NJ	A way to cushion the blow of lifting the eviction ban	Star-Ledger	Op-ed
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[Go to New Mexico media](#)

5/19/21	NM	American Rescue Plan is good for nation's children	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor
6/20/21	NM	Make CTC and EITC permanent	Las Cruces Sun News	Letter to the editor
7/18/21	NM	Make tax credits permanent	Las Cruces Sun News	Letter to the editor
9/11/21	NM	Help our renters	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor
12/15/21	NM	Build Back Better Act saves child tax credit	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor

[Go to New York media](#)

3/11/21	NY	Accolades for Biden's Relief Plan	New York Times	Letter to the editor
6/14/21	NY	Permanently expand credits in the effort to fight poverty	Buffalo News	Letter to the editor

[Go to North Carolina media](#)

4/1/21	NC	Cawthorn Needs to Address Poverty	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
4/6/21	NC	U.S. needs to help with global TB, education, poverty	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	NC	Tax credits	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
6/7/21	NC	Rent relief	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
Summer 2021	NC	U.S. can lead global effort to provide vaccines	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor

8/1/21	NC	Schools need to teach all the facts of US history	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
9/21/21	NC	Does Rep. Budd care about working families?	Sanford Herald	Letter to the editor
9/27/21	NC	Tax credits	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
10/24/21	NC	Package needs to include programs of assistance to North Carolinians	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
11/5/21	NC	CTC revisions need to be permanent	Daily Record	Letter to the editor
11/11/21	NC	Child care a barrier to federal aid	Wake Weekly	Letter to the editor
11/20/21	NC	Reader urges Senate to follow House in passing Build Back Better Act	Sanford Herald	Letter to the editor
11/24/21	NC	Don't blame Build Back Better for budget bloat	Wake Weekly	Letter to the editor
11/26/21	NC	Spend money on people	Sanford Herald	Letter to the editor
12/5/21	NC	Build families	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor

Go to North Dakota media

4/24/21	ND	North Dakota's federal delegates should work to reduce child poverty, housing instability	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
5/26/21	ND	North Dakota's federal delegates should vote to protect vulnerable children	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
7/17/21	ND	CTC, EITC changes must be made permanent	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor

9/18/21	ND	Housing assistance a critical need	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
10/27/21	ND	Recovery bill must focus on poverty	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
11/29/21	ND	Keep Grand Forks housing in mind for newcomers	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
12/23/21	ND	Extend child tax credit to keep kids healthy	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor

Go to Ohio media

3/14/21	OH	COVID-19 relief provisions can greatly reduce child poverty in US	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
3/17/21	OH	More must be done to fight poverty in America	Elyria Chronicle-Telegram	Letter to the editor
3/23/21	OH	New Child Tax Credit needs to be permanent to help those in need	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/24/21	OH	Cut child poverty by making all Child Tax Credit changes permanent	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/24/21	OH	Assistance should be extended to all eligible renters in economic recovery	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/6/21	OH	Congress needs to act so people in poverty can have housing stability	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/19/21	OH	Proper funding needed to keep renters from becoming homeless	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/23/21	OH	Tax breaks need to be permanent	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
7/26/21	OH	Housing Choice Voucher program necessary and should be expanded	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor

10/25/21	OH	Expanded Child Tax Credit makes sense	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
12/7/21	OH	Urge Sen. Portman to support Build Back Better	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
12/9/21	OH	Dave Joyce's heartening decision to work with AOC on expungement bill	Cleveland Plain Dealer	Letter to the editor
12/16/21	OH	Child tax credit is vital to helping children in poverty	Elyria Chronicle-Telegram	Letter to the editor

Go to Oklahoma media

5/23/21	OK	Make sure rental assistance, affordable housing priority during population growth	Tulsa World	Letter to the editor
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Go to Oregon media

4/4/21	OR	Keeping us informed and reminding us our voices matter	Argus Observer	Letter to the editor
4/15/21	OR	Yes, It's Time To Really Help The Homeless	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
5/19/21	OR	Child care support	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor
7/8/21	OR	Tell Congress To Help Renters	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
8/3/21	OR	Ask representatives to address housing	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor
9/16/21	OR	Cai Emmons Reminds Us To Take Action	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
12/15/21	OR	Thank you Congress	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor

[Go to Pennsylvania media](#)

4/2/21	PA	Bold action can reduce poverty	Reporter	Letter to the editor
5/23/21	PA	We can cut child poverty in half	Courier Times	Letter to the editor
11/1/21	PA	Make affordable housing a priority	Sentinel	Letter to the editor

[Go to South Carolina media](#)

9/13/21	SC	Why pandemic-era tax credits shouldn't end	Greenville News	Letter to the editor
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[Go to Tennessee media](#)

5/7/21	TN	Congress should expand rental assistance	Knoxville News Sentinel	Letter to the editor
10/17/21	TN	Congress should help renters hit by pandemic	Knoxville News Sentinel	Letter to the editor
12/3/21	TN	Build Back Better Act addresses poverty in Tennessee	Knoxville News Sentinel	Letter to the editor

[Go to Texas media](#)

5/24/21	TX	Our representatives should expand rental assistance	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
8/6/21	TX	Eviction Ban	Houston Chronicle	Letter to the editor
9/9/21	TX	Housing and food security	Houston Chronicle	Letter to the editor

Go to Utah media

3/30/21	UT	Urge your representatives to push for equity like Biden's rescue plan	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
5/27/21	UT	Working should not lead to poverty	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
6/5/21	UT	Together, we can make a difference for children	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
7/18/21	UT	American families are finally catching a break with Child Tax Credit payments	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor
9/3/21	UT	Support the social safety net in the budget plan	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
10/28/21	UT	The reconciliation bill holds promise of enormous return on a modest investment	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor
11/25/21	UT	Will Sen. Romney have the courage to stand up for Utah's children and Utah families?	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor

Go to Virginia media

5/19/21	VA	Keep support to end child poverty forever	Richmond Times-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	VA	Cut child poverty, make tax credits permanent	Richmond Times-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/19/21	VA	Extended federal aid can cut child poverty	Daily Progress	Letter to the editor

Go to Washington media

3/11/21	WA	Stay the course and hope for a better future	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor
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3/15/21	WA	A good start to solving poverty in America	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
3/18/21	WA	We pay our share, maybe ultra wealthy should as well	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
3/19/21	WA	Make assistance permanent	Columbian	Letter to the editor
3/24/21	WA	Road to equity	Daily News	Letter to the editor
3/26/21	WA	Permanent tax credits needed to help working families	Olympian	Letter to the editor
3/26/21	WA	Legislation is a chance to help children, families	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
4/1/21	WA	Important to strengthen the Affordable Care Act	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
4/3/21	WA	Hope and equity	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
4/7/21	WA	COVID relief bill has the potential to reduce child poverty	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
4/21/21	WA	Care packages	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
4/22/21	WA	Speak up to change tax policy	Columbian	Letter to the editor
4/29/21	WA	Congress has chance to fix homelessness	Daily News	Letter to the editor
5/7/21	WA	Evictions: 'Expand rental assistance'	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
5/12/21	WA	Rotary Club, Congress doing good work to support the hungry in our community	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor

5/15/21	WA	Renters should be part of economic recovery plans	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	WA	Extend rental assistance to help families	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
5/21/21	WA	If Congress acts, we can cut child poverty dramatically	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor
5/27/21	WA	Congress must expand access to rental assistance	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
6/6/21	WA	Strickland's actions address poverty	Olympian	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	WA	Reducing poverty should be an American goal	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
6/14/21	WA	Insufficient funding for housing vouchers	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
6/16/21	WA	Urge Congress to support legislation to address housing crisis	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
6/23/21	WA	Child tax credit payment should become permanent	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
7/7/21	WA	Affordable Housing	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
7/12/21	WA	Paths to make housing more affordable do exist	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
7/16/21	WA	Yes, vote wisely - that's how things get done	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor
7/25/21	WA	Thank Congress for passing Child Tax Credit legislation	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
8/3/21	WA	Expand successful programs to address homelessness	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor

9/8/21	WA	Thanks for efforts being made on affordable housing	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
9/17/21	WA	Extend the programs that have proven to reduce poverty	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
10/1/21	WA	Policies can help working families	Columbian	Letter to the editor
10/18/21	WA	Party wars putting America in danger	Daily News	Letter to the editor
10/20/21	WA	Support affordable housing work by Congress	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
10/21/21	WA	Kilmer Calls for Robust Affordable Housing Investments	Derek Kilmer website	Press release
10/29/21	WA	Child Tax Credit: 'Should be made permanent'	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
11/3/21	WA	Increase rental assistance	Olympian	Letter to the editor
11/5/21	WA	Support equity nationwide	Union Bulletin	Letter to the editor
11/9/21	WA	Child tax credit is reducing child poverty	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
11/11/21	WA	Federal support for families will help	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
11/13/21	WA	Good news from Congress!	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
12/1/21	WA	Build Back Better bill supports families out of poverty	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
12/2/21	WA	Support Build Back Better bill	Columbian	Letter to the editor

12/9/21	WA	Federal legislation is a start in addressing country's needs	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
12/12/21	WA	Pass legislation to boost child care	Walla Walla Union-Bulletin	Letter to the editor
12/29/21	WA	Families Act can be path forward for Child Tax Credit	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor

[Go to West Virginia media](#)

6/8/21	WV	Make Tax Credits Permanent	Register-Herald	Letter to the editor
7/4/21	WV	Housing crisis needs a federal solution	Dominion Post	Op-ed
7/11/21	WV	Unstable housing is a health care issue	Dominion Post	Letter to the editor
9/19/21	WV	American families are finally catching a break	Dominion Post	Letter to the editor
9/16/21	WV	RESULTS WV / Seeking an End to Poverty	WVU Health Science	News article
10/2/21	WV	To beat the opioid crisis, lift people out of poverty	Dominion Post	Op-ed
10/9/21	WV	W.Va. needs the Build Back Better proposal	Dominion Post	Letter to the editor
10/24/21	WV	What does Sen. Manchin want his legacy to be?	Dominion Post	Letter to the editor
10/24/21	WV	Sen. Manchin should support Build Back Better Act	Exponent Telegram	Letter to the editor
10/30/21	WV	Child Tax Credit should be made permanent	Register-Herald	Letter to the editor

10/30/21	WV	Manchin should reconsider his position on child tax credit	Herald-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
10/30/21	WV	Manchin should fully support the Build Back Better Act	Charleston Gazette-Mail	Letter to the editor
11/8/21	WV	Child Tax Credit should be extended	Register-Herald	Letter to the editor
11/26/21	WV	Where's Manchin's support for BBB?	Charleston Gazette-Mail	Op-ed
12/14/21	WV	Child Tax Credit proves anti-poverty policy can be both ambitious and effective	Think Kids WV	Blog feature

[Go to Wisconsin media](#)

6/8/21	WI	Congress needs to expand rental assistance	Cap Times	Letter to the editor
6/24/21	WI	Expanded tax credits must be made permanent	Cap Times	Letter to the editor
12/15/21	WI	Senate must extend expanded child tax credit as soon as possible	Janesville Gazette	Letter to the editor
12/16/21	WI	Build Back Better Act	Kenosha News	Letter to the editor

[Go to Wyoming media](#)

10/22/21	WY	Tell Congress to support bills to boost affordable housing	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor
11/10/21	WY	A few cents a day can make an enormous impact	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Op-ed

[Go to National media](#)

8/8/21	US	The Expanded Child Tax Credit Is Changing Lives. Congress Should Make It Permanent.	Inside Sources	Op-ed (RESULTS volunteer featured in piece)
9/15/21	US	What the expanded Child Tax Credit means to me	Other Words	Op-ed
9/16/21	US	Thanks to the Child Tax Credit, My Son Won't Suffer the Tremendous Trauma I Did	Common Dreams	Op-ed
9/17/21	US	What the Expanded Child Tax Credit Means to Me	CounterPunch	Op-ed
9/18/21	US	What the Expanded Child Tax Credit Means to Me	Smirking Chimp	Op-ed
9/20/21	US	What the Expanded Child Tax Credit Means to Me	City Watch	Op-ed
10/26/21	US	Joe Manchin can get West Virginia even closer to heaven	Washington Post	Letter to the editor
11/15/21	US	Tired Argument on Child Tax Credit Is Simply Wrong	MomsRising Together	Blog post
12/9/21	US	Federal legislation is a start in addressing country's needs	Yahoo News	Letter to the editor
December 2021	US	SNAP support	AARP Bulletin	Letter to the editor
December 2021	US	Volunteer with Results	3 rd Act Magazine	Letter to the editor

Make voting easy

April 16, 2021

The idea of limiting access to voting and restricting the time allowed to vote is anti-democratic. Any argument against access to and time limits to voting needs to come to an end. In fact, the significant population increase in the U.S. requires that technological advances in communication be embraced to enhance participation including language translations and unlimited access for those who have disabilities.

The original process was to simply meet at an official polling place and drop in an unlabeled marker into a container that represented one or the other party or desired representative. It required that one had to be present to vote on one specific day and location. This was a very limiting process and was restricted to property-owning men. Our voting rights now include women and minorities. What remains is to allow reasonable time and modern access methods to submit one's ballot.

Be sure to request that your representatives support a more open and democratic election process. And then, please vote.

— **John M. Kennish**

Anchorage

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2021/04/16/letter-make-voting-easy/>



Ending child poverty

May 18, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half - permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Susan Vogt**

Anchorage

https://www.newsminer.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/ending-child-poverty/article_f60bf27c-b84d-11eb-b39e-5ff7ff237f58.html

Cutting Poverty

September 17, 2021

Dear Editor: The new Child Tax Credit monthly payments started in July and they already have a profound impact. Researchers at Columbia University estimate that the monthly child poverty dropped by 25 percent after the payments started, lifting three million children above the poverty line. This is an amazing accomplishment that will only improve as more people get signed up.

But these CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers, will expire after this year. We do not want this to happen. We can make these provisions permanent now, funded with fairer taxes on the rich and corporations.

If you are not getting the CTC payments, please go to www.GetCTC.org and sign up. Next, contact your members of Congress today telling them to make the new EITC and CTC changes permanent, including full refundability of the CTC for all low-income families, in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Sitka RESULTS:**

Michele Friedman, Mim McConnell,

Kim Kirkness, Dr. Valerie Edwards,

Toby Campbell, Norm Campbell,

Donna Donohoe, Mary Soltis

<https://sitkasentinel.com/7/2012-05-10-22-08-58/letters-to-the-editor/19232-september-17-2021-letters-to-the-editor>

Protect Expanded Child Tax Credit

April 16, 2021

As a psychologist who recently moved to Anchorage from the Lower 48, I am humbled to see how Alaskans care for each other. From my work with children and families, I know the bonds we form with each other provide the foundation of good mental health. We can all cope with so much adversity when we know someone else cares about us unconditionally and will help us meet our basic needs.

This is why I am hoping Alaskans will support the expanded Child Tax Credit, which in one month reduced insecurity and hunger for more than 3 million children, including thousands of children in Alaska. Unfortunately, Congress is considering family work requirements for this program, which will punish kids whose caregivers are not able to work. Now is the time for us to tell the most vulnerable children in our communities that we care about you, and our support for you is unconditional.

As Congress prepares a final economic recovery bill, I hope my new representatives – Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Dan Sullivan and Rep. Don Young – will protect the expanded Child Tax Credit and, in doing so, uphold our shared values.

— **Kevin Tarlow**

Anchorage

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2021/10/27/letter-protect-expanded-child-tax-credit/>

Keep the Child Tax Credit

October 28, 2021

With Build Back better now a smaller package, who and what will be cut out? The Extended Child tax Credit, or CTC, and therefore our children, should not be among the victims. Set to expire in December, this tax credit has already been effective in lifting millions of children out of poverty. Removing the work requirement meant that many more families are eligible to receive the full credit, including those who are most in need.

Studies – such as the one from the “Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Oct. 2021 – indicate that the monthly payment has resulted in lowering poverty and food instability and, while it is too soon to fully determine, it has not demonstrably negatively affected employment. Perhaps the dependable, monthly payment “may provide credit-constrained parents with resources to address barriers to employment, such as by allowing them to secure child care or get auto repairs, which could increase labor force participation and employment.”

The U.S. already has higher levels of child poverty than other wealthy countries since it invests less in families (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, July 2021). I recognize that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Dan Sullivan, and Rep. Don Young, as Republicans, have chosen to be silent during negotiation on this bill, but I sincerely hope they will take opportunities to speak to up on behalf of a permanent CTC and Alaska’s children.

— **Patricia Kennish**

Anchorage

No link available



Pass the Build Back Better Act

December 1, 2021

I am thrilled that the House has finally passed the Build Back Better Act. This bill is an historic investment in the American people.

Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty. But Congress is cutting it close; the CTC monthly payments are currently scheduled to end in December.

The bill now goes to the Senate. With so much on the line and the clock-ticking, the Senate must pass this bill as soon as possible. Americans have waited far too long for Congress to get this done.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote YES when it comes to a vote.

— **Susan Vogt**

Anchorage

https://www.newsminer.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/pass-the-build-back-better-act/article_250584d2-523e-11ec-a1fd-777115907fbb.html

Extend the child tax credit

December 20, 2021

Dec. 15 marked the last day that monthly Child Tax Credit payments were sent out to the families of 155,000 Alaska kids. These monthly checks have been critical for Alaska families — 91% of Alaskan families reporting using these credit payments to pay for their basic needs, like food, shelter, clothing, and utilities. Before the Child Tax Credit was improved in 2021, 53,000 of those Alaska kids were ineligible for the full credit due low or no family earnings!

Thankfully, the House passed the Build Back Better Act in November to extend the new Child Tax Credit payments that have lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty across the country this year. Unfortunately, though, the legislation is stalled in the Senate. If the Senate does not pass BBB this year, millions of U.S. children — including thousands of Alaskans — risk of falling into or deeper into poverty in 2022. Senators cannot let that happen.

There is too much on the line for Congress to fail. And the clock is ticking. I call on our U.S. senators to stand with Alaska families and work with Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act now.

— **Sara Buckingham** (misspelled in newspaper)

Eagle River

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2021/12/20/letter-extend-the-child-tax-credit/>



Outsider can relate to housing topics and issues in Flagstaff

April 4, 2021

Great experience with the friendly people in Flagstaff, after hitting a plastic garbage can on Interstate 40. While waiting for the car to be repaired, we met helpful folks at the repair shop, the hotel, the bus and in the downtown shops. I also found a copy of the Daily Sun at our hotel and was glad to see important issues like affordable housing being discussed. ('We need some hard conversations on affordable housing' by Rick Lopez and Tad Moore, Arizona Daily Sun, March 26, 2021).

Affordable housing is a national issue that definitely needs local input. There are currently bills in Congress to increase affordable housing, increase funding for the Section 8 housing voucher program, which currently only serves 25% of those who qualify, and a refundable renters' tax credit that would put an end to low-income renters paying 50% and more of their income for housing. The recent pandemic relief bill did have funds for renters and landlords, along with an eviction moratorium. This is a good start, but the housing crisis in America demands more than temporary fixes. So ask your members of Congress and local leaders to take action. Together we can solve America's housing challenge for all.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish, Washington

https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-outsider-can-relate-to-housing-topics-and-issues-in-flagstaff/article_801a4a02-9523-5f91-a3aa-48d50bfc35eb.html



Build Back Better needs Sinema support

October 17, 2021

In response to your article this morning on the Build Back Better plan, I strongly urge Sen. Sinema to push for a bill that makes strong investments in affordable housing.

Arizona is one of the most expensive places to live in the United States. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition (<https://reports.nlihc.org/oor/arizona>), a person must earn \$20.42 per hour to afford a one-bedroom apartment in Flagstaff. That's more than \$8/hr higher than our state's minimum wage. As a fellow Flagstaff renter, \$15 an hour is not enough to live and escape poverty.

The House's Build Back Better proposal invests \$90 billion to help Americans better afford rent, most of it going to the Housing Choice Voucher program. With only 1 in 4 eligible renters currently able to get a voucher, this is a significant step forward. These investments will stably house families, reduce homelessness and start to correct decades of racial discrimination in housing.

And by making corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share in taxes, we can make these investments and more without adding one dime to the national debt.

Sen. Sinema has the power to make this happen. Her constituents will benefit enormously from the housing provisions in the Build Back Better plan. Senator, it's time to get this done.

— Amy Auble

Mountainaire

https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-build-back-better-needs-sinema-support/article_045ce872-99c8-5992-82f0-6d79cf662f79.html

Keep vouchers, credits coming

October 24, 2021

Arizona is struggling to regain economic footing amidst the pandemic. Fortunately, we have effective tools to help — Congress can extend the 2021 earned income tax credit and child tax credit changes and expand the housing choice voucher program in the Build Back Better plan. These changes will help Arizonans afford rent, child care and other basic needs while stimulating the local economy.

The new child tax credit is already lifting millions of children out of poverty, and vouchers keep families housed, healthy, and safe. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema has concerns over the cost of Build Back Better, but we already have a solution overwhelmingly supported by the American people — make the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share in taxes.

I urge Sen. Sinema to ensure that the 2021 earned income tax credit and child tax credit provisions are extended and housing choice vouchers are expanded in the Build Back Better bill.

— Inge Halliday

East side

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-oct-24/article_ffb8b9b6-329d-11ec-a2cb-93e7ba62f400.html

Build Back Better bill needs Sinema's help

November 8, 2021

Editor: Arizonans are tired of the desires of billionaires — who have increased their wealth during the pandemic — taking priority over the needs of everyday citizens. People are struggling to afford child care, make rent, and pay their bills. On top of that, our economy is struggling. The drawn-out negotiations around the Build Back Better plan with Sen. Sinema and Sen. Manchin have only prolonged the financial hardships Arizonans are feeling. Even after the creation of the new trimmed-down version of the plan, Sinema has still not committed to voting yes on the BBB. When she can lift kids out of poverty now, help make housing more affordable now, and lower health costs for seniors now, what's the hold up? We elect our politicians to solve problems, not create more of them. It's time for Sen. Sinmea to pass the Build Back Better plan now.

— **Rayna Castillo**

Tempe

https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/rayna-castillo-build-back-better-bill-needs-sinema-s-help/article_8cb80454-4124-11ec-9946-9b6d4dde9e30.html

The Miner

Pass Build Back Better bill

November 20, 2021

Arizona is in the midst of a housing crisis.

Everyday Arizonans are struggling to pay rent, and issues surrounding housing are further exacerbated for Arizonans facing poverty.

Congress is currently at a critical juncture in a more-than trillion-dollar bill that will offer invaluable support for Arizonans facing housing insecurity.

The Build Back Better bill will extend the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, It also provides much-needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent, and it includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccines for people around the world.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind. It must be passed.

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our senators to vote YES.

— **Nathan Young**

Phoenix

<https://kdminer.com/news/2021/nov/20/letter-pass-build-back-better-bill/>

Build Back Better offers opportunity

November 23, 2021

Arizona is in the midst of a housing crisis.

Everyday Arizonans are struggling to pay rent, and issues surrounding housing are further exacerbated for Arizonans facing poverty.

Congress is currently at a critical juncture in a trillion-dollar bill that will offer invaluable support for Arizonans facing housing insecurity.

The upcoming Build Back Better bill will extend the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, and provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent.

It also includes funding to manufacture more covid-19 vaccine for people around the world.

And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind. It must be passed.

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our members of Congress to vote YES.

— **Nathan Young**

Phoenix



Congress should pass Build Better Act

November 24, 2021

I am thrilled that the House has finally passed the Build Back Better Act. This bill is an historic investment in the American people.

Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live.

It also extends the new Child Tax Credit payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty. But Congress is cutting it close; the CTC monthly payments are currently scheduled to end in December.

The bill now goes to the Senate. With so much on the line and the clock ticking, the Senate must pass this bill as soon as possible. Americans have waited far too long for Congress to get this done.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote.

— Yvonne Marley

Peoria

<https://www.yourvalley.net/anthem-independent/stories/marley-congress-should-pass-build-better-act,273459?fr=operanews>

The Miner

Back the Build Back Better bill

November 24, 2021

I agree with Nathan Young's call for action with the Build Back Better bill (Nov. 20 letter). Child tax credits are social support that can mean the difference between a child living in poverty or not. As someone whose family faced our fair share of financial trials during my childhood, child tax credits could mean the difference between being able to buy supplies for back-to-school shopping, buying groceries, or even just paying the bills on time.

Now that the House has passed the Build Back Better bill, the Senate must work quickly to get it passed since the CTC monthly payments are scheduled to end in December. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, who has been at the forefront of negotiations, should utilize her pillar of bipartisanship to encourage her congressional colleagues to help pass the bill that she has largely determined the size and make up of. She has done a great job in bringing some infrastructure funding to Arizona, and her constituents are counting on her to do the same with the BBB.

— **Rayna Castillo**

Tempe

<https://kdminer.com/news/2021/nov/24/letter-back-build-back-better-bill/>

Back the Build Back Better bill

December 2, 2021

Editor: I agree with Nathan Young's call for action with the Build Back Better bill. Child tax credits are social support that can mean the difference between a child living in poverty or not.

As someone whose family faced our fair share of financial trials during my childhood, child tax credits could mean the difference between being able to buy supplies for back-to-school shopping, buying groceries, or even just paying the bills on time.

Now that the House has passed the Build Back Better bill, the Senate must work quickly to get it passed since the CTC monthly payments are scheduled to end in December.

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, who has been at the forefront of negotiations, should utilize her pillar of bipartisanship to encourage her congressional colleagues to help pass the bill that she has largely determined the size and make up of.

She has done a great job in bringing some infrastructure funding to Arizona, and her constituents are counting on her to do the same with the BBB.

— **Rayna Castillo**

Tempe

https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/rayna-castillo-back-the-build-back-better-bill/article_017245c4-5404-11ec-a67b-b3885e8b1bf6.html



Congress must pass the Build Back Better Act

December 3, 2021

I agree with the content and urgency of Yvonne Marley's recent letter ("Marley: Congress should pass Build Better Act," YourValley.net, Nov. 24, 2021).

Our senators do not have time to waste when it comes to getting the Build Back Better bill passed.

Not only does the BBB include important domestic provisions like the expansion of the Child Tax Credit that is expected to reduce child poverty by 45% in Arizona, but it also includes vital global measures.

With the emergence of the omicron variant of COVID-19, these are more important than ever.

Specifically, Build Back Better includes critical funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccines for people around the world.

As of Dec. 1, only 6% of people in low-income countries have received their first dose, compared to about 55% of the world population. There will be no end to this pandemic in sight unless we strengthen and support COVID-19 measures with an emphasis on equitable vaccine distribution.

With the CTC set to expire this month and with more COVID-19 variants inevitably on the horizon, the senate must work quickly to get the Build Back Better bill passed.

I urge Sen. Sinema to vote yes on the Build Back Better bill and to encourage her congressional colleagues to do the same.

— **Rayna Castillo**

Tempe

<https://www.yourvalley.net/stories/castillo-congress-must-pass-the-build-back-better-act,274809>



I Want Build Back Better For Christmas

December 9, 2021

Dear Editor,

All I want for Christmas is for the senate to pass the Build Back Better bill. I know I am not alone when I say that the lack of political will to address solvable societal problems is disheartening. But now there is a piece of legislation that can actually begin to address these issues, including poverty, homelessness, and climate change. We just need our senators to pass it.

It may seem like a no-brainer for our Congress members to pass legislation that will keep children out of poverty and prevent others from being taxed into it, but Senator Sinema and Senator Manchin are two wildcards who have yet to confirm their support. The hold-up appears to be economic, but 17 Nobel-winning economists have already determined that this bill will ease longer-term inflationary pressures and boost the economy.

Let's hope our members of Congress make Santa's nice list and vote YES on the Build Back Better bill before the end of the year.

— **Rayna Castillo**

Tempe, Arizona

<https://arizonadailyindependent.com/2021/12/09/i-want-build-back-better-for-christmas/>



Cartoon wisdom

December 22, 2021

Dear Editor,

Love the Fitz cartoons that often get to the heart of current matters, yet at the same time are universal enough to remain relevant. My favorite is the one with the Peace on Earth banner going up and the "You can't be serious" response to it. (Vintage Fitz Cartoon: 2015) What if we got serious, could we continue ending child poverty with the Child Tax Credit that has cut it by over 3 million already? How about the idea that peace begins when hunger ends? Build Back Better addresses this, along with the housing and climate crises, and we can call our senators (202-224-3121) to ask them to pass it as part of the new peace and equity on this earth plan. Or will these efforts just become future cartoons of missed opportunities?

— **Willie Dickerson**

Northwest side

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-cartoon-wisdom/article_8400d8d0-636c-11ec-a7ec-8f13a6aec5ac.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Take decisive action

June 3, 2021

We have a historic opportunity in American history to permanently reduce child poverty by half.

The covid-19 pandemic was the last straw that broke the backs of thousands of Arkansans who lived paycheck to paycheck with financial insecurity and vulnerability to economic downturns. Last summer, the city of Little Rock, in collaboration with various agencies, launched a program that provided hundreds of thousands of meals to vulnerable communities across central Arkansas. However, this initiative is an ominous sign for future recessions, which will likely cause Arkansans to hope for unreliable regional aid.

The recent proposal by the Biden administration, discussed in the article by Frank E. Lockwood, resolves this issue by making permanent the Earned Income Tax Credit, and extending the increase in the Child Tax Credit to 2025, which could benefit 661,000 Arkansan children of low-income families and 183,000 Arkansan workers who were previously taxed into poverty.

I call on Sen. John Boozman, Sen. Tom Cotton and Rep. French Hill to address the needs of Arkansans, present and future, by supporting the Biden administration proposal. We cannot wait for another crisis to take decisive action in securing the health and well-being of our citizens.

— **Chandrasimha Penthala**

Little Rock

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2021/jun/03/letters/>

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Reduce child poverty, housing instability

April 4, 2021

I am relieved that Congress passed and President Biden signed a new COVID-19 relief bill that will provide assistance to renters, increase the earned income tax credit (EITC) for low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45 percent by expanding the child tax credit.

It's now time to build on these successes by fixing inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty. First, protect families by making the new EITC and child allowance provisions permanent. Next, making housing choice vouchers universal to all who qualify; currently, only one in four eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Columbia University researchers estimate these two changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

In San Diego County, 40 percent of children under 12 live in poverty. Our children deserve better, and this needs to change. I urge our members of Congress to take action to permanently reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation.

— **Courtney Cohen**

San Diego

No online link

EAST BAY TIMES

Crucial time to honor Chinese American hero

April 18, 2021

Thanks for the good news of Chinese American Harry Lew finally receiving a medal for his World War II service ("[Chinese-American veteran honored for WWII service](#)," Page B1, April 11).

This good news helps dispel negative notions about Asian Americans at a time when violent acts against them are rising. The Bay Area News Group's responsible journalism makes a difference by publishing this. The pandemic's disproportionate negative effects were all too often experienced by America's people of color.

Congress and the president are proposing housing, tax credit and other initiatives that can help eliminate these difficult problems exacerbated by the pandemic. We can take action by asking our representatives to pass these and other initiatives of equity.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/04/16/letters-349/>

The Mercury News

Crucial time to honor Chinese American hero

April 18, 2021

Thanks for the good news of Chinese American Harry Lew finally receiving a medal for his World War II service ("[Chinese-American veteran honored for WWII service](#)," Page B1, April 11).

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— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/04/16/letters-349/>

Los Angeles Daily News

Congress must go bold on economic recovery

May 2, 2021

In response to President Biden's new economic recovery proposal, I'm pleased he's included resources to increase the supply of affordable housing.

However, without expanded rental assistance, low-income renters won't be able to afford such housing.

Currently, only one in four eligible renters gets federal rental assistance due to inadequate funding. Congress should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. This will keep them stably housed, prevent evictions, and prevent homelessness. We must also make permanent recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These changes, which expire next year will benefit millions of low-wage workers and cut child poverty.

We can create an economy where workers are protected, families are stably housed and children are allowed to thrive. In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge our members of Congress to expand rental assistance to all who qualify and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

— **Gulshan Oomerjee**

Simi Valley

<https://www.dailynews.com/2021/05/02/torrance-unified-is-failing-its-basic-job-of-having-in-classroom-instruction-letters/>

ENTERPRISE-RECORD

Cutting child poverty in half

June 25, 2021

American families are finally catching a break.

Starting July 15, most families can receive the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent, and bills, to middle-class families that need help with childcare and college savings. Go to www.childtaxcredit.gov to make sure you're getting it. And spread the word.

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year – and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Cara Warren**

Magalia

<https://www.chicoer.com/2021/06/25/letter-cutting-child-poverty-in-half/>

Marin Independent Journal

Make earned-income, child credits permanent

June 26, 2021

American families are finally catching a break. Starting July 15, most families can receive the new child tax credit as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-300 each month will help families succeed; from working families struggling to pay for food, rent and bills, to middle-class families in need of help with childcare and college savings. Go to childtaxcredit.gov to make sure you're getting it. And spread the word.

This new tax credit is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the improvements to the credit, along with much-needed changes to the earned income tax credit for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our representatives in Congress to make the 2021 child tax credit and earned-income credit changes permanent in recovery legislation this year. We should pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Warren M. Gold**

Mill Valley

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/06/25/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-june-26-2021/>

The Mercury News

Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy

July 15, 2021

Ezra Klein's piece on the worries about our democracy ("Rest of the world is worried about American democracy," Page A6, July 2) makes sad sense.

Fortunately, there are some bipartisan initiatives in Congress right now that would make a difference: like expanding the Housing Voucher Program to reach all who qualify for this program, instead of the 25% it currently covers. No wonder we have a housing crisis.

Globally, the COVID pandemic put 1.6 billion students out of school. A bipartisan letter calling on President Biden to make a pledge of \$1 billion over the next five years to the Global Partnership for Education would make a major difference, putting 175 million children in school for the first time.

Since democracy depends on "we the people," let's call our representatives and ask them to support these and other initiatives that make a difference in our country and the world.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, WA

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/07/14/letters-461/>

EAST BAY TIMES

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Fortunately, there are some bipartisan initiatives in Congress right now that would make a difference: like expanding the Housing Voucher Program to reach all who qualify for this program, instead of the 25% it currently covers. No wonder we have a housing crisis.

Globally, the COVID pandemic put 1.6 billion students out of school. A bipartisan letter calling on President Biden to make a pledge of \$1 billion over the next five years to the Global Partnership for Education would make a major difference, putting 175 million children in school for the first time.

Since democracy depends on "we the people," let's call our representatives and ask them to support these and other initiatives that make a difference in our country and the world.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, WA

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/07/14/letters-461/>

EAST BAY TIMES

Larger housing voucher benefits whole nation

July 18, 2021

Willie Dickerson's letter "Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy" (Letters to the editor, Page A6, July 15) mentions a bipartisan congressional initiative to expand the Housing Voucher Program so it can help the remaining 75% of renters eligible for the woefully underfunded voucher program. Whether you're a liberal caring for workers whose wages aren't enough to pay outrageously high rents or a conservative who reveres local businesses, helping people get off the streets, into stable housing and able to pay for other life's necessities is a no-brainer.

It's a national disgrace that in America you can be working one and even two full-time jobs and still not earn enough to pay for housing. That means workers have less money to support local businesses by paying for adequate groceries, health and dental care, transportation, child care, etc. I hope people follow Dickerson's advice and call their local representatives to ask them to support increased housing vouchers. I have.

— **Jim Driggers**

Concord

No online link

EAST BAY TIMES

New Child Tax Credit should be permanent

July 20, 2021

The new Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments started on July 15th. Most families will now get an extra \$250-\$300 from the IRS each month to help with rent, food, childcare and medical costs. If you did not receive a payment, go to www.childtaxcredit.gov to see if you qualify.

This new CTC is a game-changer, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year according to estimates by the White House. President Joe Biden said, "This can be life-changing for so many families."

But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after a year. We cannot lift millions of American workers and children out of poverty only to force them back into poverty a year later. Congress must make these provisions permanent.

— **Patricia Payne**

Castro Valley

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/07/19/letters-466/>

The Mercury News

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July 20, 2021

The new Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments started on July 15th. Most families will now get an extra \$250-\$300 from the IRS each month to help with rent, food, childcare and medical costs. If you did not receive a payment, go to www.childtaxcredit.gov to see if you qualify.

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— **Patricia Payne**

Castro Valley

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/07/19/letters-466/>

Marin Independent Journal

Tax credits for families should be permanent

July 25, 2021

The monthly payments for the new federal child tax credit have started. Most families will now get an extra \$250-300 from the IRS each month to help with rent, food, childcare and medical costs. If you did not receive a payment, go to childtaxcredit.gov to see if you qualify.

This new credit is a game-changer, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half during the next year. But the credit improvements, along with much-needed changes to the earned income-tax credit for low-wage workers, will expire after a year. We cannot lift millions of American workers and children out of poverty only to force them back into poverty a year later. Congress must make these provisions permanent.

In California, it is estimated that it would take at least \$75,000 for an individual to live comfortably. Most low-wage workers with families do not make close to that so that the child tax credit is especially urgent and the need will not disappear in a year or two.

We cannot let workers and families down. I urge our Bay Area members of Congress to make the 2021 tax-credit changes permanent. It should be funded by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Gail Dolson**

Corte Madera

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/07/24/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-july-25-2021/>

THE UNION

Poverty actually decreased during the pandemic

October 5, 2021

Despite a pandemic that caused mass unemployment, new 2020 data from the Census' Supplemental Poverty Measure shows that poverty actually decreased by 2.6% last year, the largest drop since the measure was created.

How did this happen? Anti-poverty programs such as Social Security, the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, housing assistance, stimulus payments, unemployment and more. These programs lifted millions above the federal poverty line during the worst economic conditions in nearly a century. This is what success looks like.

While this is encouraging news, too many Americans still must fight day and day out just to afford rent, childcare, and food. They shouldn't have to. Making the recent changes to Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit permanent and expanding housing choice vouchers would be a huge boost for them that would benefit all of us.

I urge our representatives and senators to demand these provisions be included in recovery legislation this fall.

— **Lisa Schliff**

Grass Valley

<https://www.theunion.com/opinion/letters/lisa-schliff-poverty-actually-decreased-during-the-pandemic/>

Marin Independent Journal

Senate should approve Build Back Better quickly

November 25, 2021

I am thrilled that the U.S. House of Representatives has finally passed the Build Back Better Act. This bill is a historic investment in the American people.

The proposal will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new child tax credit payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty. But Congress is cutting it close. The tax credit monthly payments are currently scheduled to end in December and won't continue unless this is fully approved.

The bill now goes to the Senate. With so much on the line and the clock ticking, the Senate must pass this bill as soon as possible. Americans have waited far too long for Congress to get this done.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote.

— **Warren M. Gold**

Mill Valley

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/11/24/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-nov-25-2021/>

EAST BAY TIMES

Senate must act quickly on Biden spending bill

December 8, 2021

I am thrilled that the House has finally passed the Build Back Better Act ("House passes Biden's \$2T bill," Page A1, Nov. 20). This bill would be a historic investment in the American people.

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The bill now goes to the Senate. With so much on the line and the clock ticking, the Senate must pass this bill as soon as possible. Americans have waited far too long for Congress to get this done.

I strongly urge Sens. Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote.

— **Pat Payne**

Castro Valley

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/12/07/letters-627/>

The Mercury News

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December 8, 2021

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— **Pat Payne**

Castro Valley

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/12/07/letters-627/>

TIMES-CALL

We can cut child poverty in half – permanently

May 20, 2021

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— Carla Behrens

Longmont

<https://www.timescall.com/2021/05/20/letter-child-poverty-israel-palestinians/>



Speak up for American families

May 20, 2021

Great news to hear a majority of Americans support the President's American Families Plan (RE: "Democrats become the progressive family values party," The Anderson Files, May 13.) Yet, why do questions remain about the possibility of its passage? If members of Congress hear from their constituents about the importance of this legislation, the roadblocks to passage would be removed. Political will is created when our calls and letters keep pouring in and our follow-up continues asking the question "What is holding up passage of the American Families Plan?" Democracy works when we use our voices to call on our representatives (202-224-3121) to take action! If they don't, the ballot box is our next option.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters/letters-5-20-21/>



Speak up for families

July 15, 2021

Exciting news for families working hard to give their kids the basics and better futures. (Re: "The Child Tax Credit: income for your family," July 8.) Thank you, Senator Bennet for your tenacious work on making this Child Tax Credit happen, benefiting 96 out of every 100 Colorado families and families across America. Of course this is temporary, but Senator Bennet and others are working to make it permanent. We can help by thanking Senator Bennet and telling him stories of how this changes things for the better in your family, and asking Senator Gardner to join in this effort, along with your representative. Any member of Congress can be reached at 202-224-3121. Speaking up now can help millions of families continue to have better lives.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters/letters-7-15-21/>

THE DAILY SENTINEL

Full funding for housing vouchers sorely needed

August 1, 2021

I live in Grand Junction's downtown neighborhood. Along my street, a car has been parked and draped by a colorful blanket. A wagon and bicycle are alongside the car. I have previously seen this car parked a half-block away, in the shade. It is now in our blazing summer sun.

The blanket seems to act as curtains, and yesterday the occupant lounged in the back seat of the car with both rear doors open. It was 95 degrees outside.

I hope it is everybody's nature to wonder if he has enough water, food, and resources. During a brief conversation about my parkway mowing schedule, he said that his car engine had seized. I am witness to and reporter of this situation, but am I solely responsible for its remedy? We need our community here.

Our local Colorado Coalition for the Homeless estimates there are about 2,000 unhoused residents in Mesa County. These are people who were born and raised in Mesa County, not a transient population. The pandemic has made this situation worse, and the end to the CDC moratorium on rental evictions threatens housing security even more. The gentleman on my street appears to be solo, but nationwide, 35% of the homeless are families with children.

As a public health nurse, I know Housing Choice Vouchers are an effective means for reducing homelessness by providing a subsidy so that a low-income family pays no more than 30% of their income on housing (usually rental housing). Presently it is funded for only 25% of those who qualify for this program.

There is an opportunity in Congress to provide full funding for Housing Choice Vouchers in the Infrastructure Recovery Bill. Sen. Michael Bennet supports this, and I hope Sen. John Hickenlooper will too. What about you?

— **Marjorie Allen**

Grand Junction

https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/letters/printed-letters-aug-1-2021/article_38bf02a0-f181-11eb-88f3-235b8df30bc6.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwAR0KsWwUmCHIF42U80JDePU90KNNOWM-2vAyCmmefDRImizK4XVUKKETI3s



Anderson's great idea

September 2, 2021

What a great idea: a \$3.5 trillion "investment in the American people!" (see: Anderson Files, Aug. 19) How do we make sure this passes Congress? Speak up to your members of Congress, senators and representative (202-224-3121), reminding them that this is an investment in you and that your vote is contingent on it. Of course thanking President Biden for this initiative (202-456-1111) will be a helpful reminder that this is definitely the right course. Our voices matter, use yours!

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-9-2-21/>

THE DAILY SENTINEL

Urge Congress to support more housing vouchers

September 17, 2021

A thousand years ago, I might have lived in a culture where I brought my concerns to a round table, a Kiva circle or a campfire under the stars. In modern day, I appreciate this forum of a letter to the editor, where I share my disquiet. It is our human nature to work, play, celebrate and problem-solve in community.

A week ago, my son reported news of another suicide in his circle of friends. Yes, another. My son works as a sound tech in the music industry, an industry that has been hard hit by the pandemic. Club work is diminished, festivals are canceled, private celebrations are minimized. The young man who died was a musician, forging his way as an artist in this world. I know little of the circumstances/resources in this young man's life. I do know that he had moved in his last days, to a town 500 miles away. Perhaps he hoped for a resource there. He moved away from his friends, his support system, his life. In that vacuum he chose to end his life.

I can't help but wonder about the stress on his psyche from the cost of living. Twenty months into this pandemic is plenty of time to burn through a young person's resources. Is it enough time to shift careers? How long does it take to realize that the former life may not come back, and a shift is needed? How far does a minimum wage job carry you when shifting careers?

Congress is presently fashioning a pandemic recovery package. Now is our time to direct the people we elected on what we in the community are needing. Housing is a basic need. The moratorium on evictions has ended. There is an opportunity in the infrastructure bill to fully fund housing vouchers, so that a low-income family pays no more than 30% of their income on housing. Presently this program is funded for 25% of those who qualify. A family averages one year as a recipient in this program, before they are launched into self-sufficiency.

Thank you Sen. Bennett for your support. Are you on board Sen. Hickenlooper? Rep. Boebert, can you support your constituents until the housing industry catches

up with building affordable housing? Please consider directing your representatives to support fully funded housing vouchers in the reconciliation bill. It can save lives.

— **Marjorie Allen**

Grand Junction

https://www.gjsentinel.com/printed-letters-sept-17-2021/article_ec94ac22-173c-11ec-a1fe-5318ca3aead1.html



We can be the source of caring and compassion

October 21, 2021

Such a great idea to increase compassion and caring in the community and around the country. ("More compassion and caring, please," by R. Lawrence, Boulder Weekly, October 14, 2021) Respectfully listening to each other is the key. Looking at the big picture, many across the country are suffering: hunger, homelessness, the ravages of poverty and our sad history of racism. But the recent relief bill from Congress brought an increase to the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits, creating ladders out of poverty.

In the two months since it passed, 3.5 million children left poverty. The Build Back Better legislation could make those tax credits permanent, provide paths to home security to cut homelessness, create better child care programs and more. Globally, there is a compassionate effort to ensure all people have access to the COVID vaccines.

We can do our part to put forward this compassionate work by calling on the President (202-456-1111) to lead the way out of global COVID and calling on our members of Congress (202-224-3121) to pass the Build Back Better legislation. This can be the compassionate and caring beginning of a better country and world.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish, WA

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters/letters-10-21-21/>



Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment

July 1, 2021

Hearst Connecticut Media recently reported that Congressman Jim Himes, our representative in the Fourth District, was selected to chair the new Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth. A good decision by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and well deserved.

Congressman Himes has considerable experience in housing issues, which those of us in RESULTS — a worldwide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending poverty — have come to respect.

Affordable housing is of critical importance now that the pandemic is easing. And yet, for decades only one family out of every four that qualified for Housing Vouchers could get them. How could that happen? We don't give SNAP benefits to one out of four hungry families. We don't offer Medicare to one out of four seniors. Housing shouldn't be a lottery. Stable housing means children have better health, education, and long-term outcomes.

As Congress looks to pass recovery legislation, they must expand rental assistance for low-income renters as part of that package. By including guaranteed, multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers in recovery legislation, Congress can shrink the racial wealth divide and help relieve the inequity and injustice of the housing crisis in the United States.

Please call or e-mail Congressman Himes and Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy urging them to sign the Merkly-Torres "Dear Colleague" housing letter (if they haven't already) asking for guaranteed, multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers in recovery legislation this year, and then to vote for it.

— **William Baker**

Stamford

William Baker of Stamford is a volunteer advocate for RESULTS, a worldwide organization dedicated to ending poverty.

<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/Letter-Himes-a-good-choice-for-new-disparity-16288261.php>



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THE REGISTER CITIZEN

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NEW HAVEN REGISTER

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Ask representatives to address housing

August 3, 2021

Increasing homelessness is a major problem locally and across the country (“Corvallis Council backs massive annexation, homeless cleanups” by Jim Day, July 19).

Two initiatives in Congress can provide relief. The first is increasing funding for the Housing Voucher Program so it can reach all who qualify, instead of just the one in four it currently serves. The second is legislation that would increase the amount of affordable housing available. We can help by asking our representatives to support and pass these and other initiatives that address America’s housing crisis.

Our calls and letters increase the political will that creates action to end the tragedy of homelessness.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

https://www.primepublishers.com/mailbag-ask-representatives-to-address-housing/article_7a97b546-75b2-5aa6-bebd-902996a4bfad.html



Delaware must address housing security

December 10, 2021

It's the holiday season and I have been spending more time with family and friends, eating delicious food and staying warm by the fireplace. I am grateful for the time with my friends and family, but I can't help but think about those who don't have the same financial and housing security that I do.

Across Delaware, there is a shortage of affordable rental homes available. The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates there is a shortage of nearly 20,000 rental homes that are affordable and available for extremely low income renters in Delaware. That is 20,000 families that are struggling for housing. Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing, leaving little money left over for necessities such as healthy food and healthcare.

The Build Back Better economic recovery plan drafted in congress is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans, including those in Delaware, who struggle to find affordable housing and pay their bills.

The bill extends the new child tax credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, and provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent. And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind.

Housing security would be the greatest gift of all for low-income families this holiday season. When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge Sen. Tom Carper and Sen. Chris Coons to vote yes.

— **Emily Kauffman**

Newark

<https://www.delawareonline.com/story/opinion/2021/12/10/letter-delaware-must-address-housing-security/6451977001/>

Miami Herald

Reducing poverty

March 30, 2021

The latest COVID relief bill will help renters, increase the earned income tax credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45 percent by expanding the child tax credit. Congress must build on these successes by fixing inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty.

Make housing-choice vouchers universal to all who qualify. Only one in four eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Protect workers and families by making the new EITC and child allowance provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate that these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

I urge Congress to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in legislation this year.

— **Betsy Suero Skipp**

Miami

No online link available

Miami Herald

Tax credits

April 21, 2021

Studies have shown that students from low-income families have a harder time concentrating at school, which leads to poor grades and difficulty getting into college. This creates a devastating domino effect.

Because political decisions impact our future, the Biden Administration has the power to chance the course of life for many children living in poverty, as outlined in the Herald's April 13 online article "Lifting kids out of poverty could be Biden's legacy, but cost raises doubts." Making the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit permanent not only will affect children immediately, it will also have a huge influence on their future.

I urge Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart and his colleagues to take this legislation as an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and invest on what gives the best return, the future of our children.

— **Innah Lahica**

Hialeah

No online link available



Child tax credit should be permanent

May 20, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half - permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— Colonel Meyer

North Port

https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-child-tax-credit-should-be-permanent/article_4ebcc97e-b744-11eb-9141-bbbbf0d72767.html

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If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Linda Gazzola**

Navarre

<https://www.nwfdailynews.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/21/congress-must-follow-through-bidens-proposal-reduce-child-poverty/5184511001/>

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— **Colonel Meyer**

North Port

https://www.yoursun.com/venice/letters-to-the-editor/article_67b22e46-b754-11eb-a8c3-1fdf87330dc8.html



Child tax credit should be permanent

May 29, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half - permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

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North Port

https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/letters-to-the-editor/article_8cd089e8-b754-11eb-8153-2f05533b3439.html

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https://www.yoursun.com/venice/letters-to-the-editor/article_8cd089e8-b754-11eb-8153-2f05533b3439.html

Miami Herald

Affordable housing residents must live in safety

June 9, 2021

As we slowly begin emerging from one pandemic, we now find ourselves in another one: gun violence. From Hialeah to Homestead, Opa-locka to Kendall, it appears that mass shootings know no boundaries. According to the Herald's June 8 article, "Gun violence again strikes: 3 killed, 3 wounded near Homestead base," at least 11 people have been killed and 44 others injured by gunfire in the past 11 days in Miami-Dade County.

With summer break approaching for kids (and some adults), and more people stepping outdoors as the COVID-19 subsides, some of our local housing complexes are on lock down.

Kids should not fear playing outside. They should be free from gun violence at home and in their neighborhoods. Safe housing is a human right.

Affordable housing is not limited to expanding vouchers or halting evictions. At a minimum, housing must be free of health hazards like water leaks, poor ventilation, mold, pest infestation and gun violence.

Shootings, like the June 7 domestic murder-suicide at a Miami-Dade Homeless Trust townhouse, are tragic and preventable. Beyond basic security, as stated by the chair of the Trust, educational support, outreach, and mental health counseling are also needed. I urge our representatives in Congress to act and hold landlords accountable. Landlords must be able to ensure their tenants are safe, be it from domestic or gang violence, especially those who receive federal dollars. We must make sure that these residences are free from violence.

— **Karyne Bury**

Miami

No online link available

Miami Herald

Fight poverty

June 30, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an eye-opener, although inequalities such as housing and healthcare have been embedded in our society for years.

We now have opportunities to address those issues and create a better future, while making America more competitive. Investing in good, safe and affordable housing (universal rental assistance, vouchers, and multi-year funding) providing access to good-quality education and reducing childhood poverty by making the child tax credit and the earned-income tax credit permanent are just a few steps in the right direction.

Congress should step up to these challenges and work toward a more just and equitable society.

— **Yanick Perodin**

Miami

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UfhOgT3zutl1Y_zlVPUPbhX_wfvMYITy/view

News-Press.

Extend rental assistance

July 4, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Yet federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Alexis Maestre-Saborit**

Fort Myers

<https://www.news-press.com/story/opinion/2021/07/04/letters-editor-sunday-july-4-2021/7814154002/>

Naples Daily News

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<https://www.naplesnews.com/story/opinion/2021/07/04/letters-editor-sunday-july-4-2021/7814154002/>

News-Press.

Expand rental assistance, end homelessness

July 26, 2021

With the CDC's national eviction moratorium expiring at the end of July, Congress needs to act now to avoid a wave of evictions in the coming months.

The Housing Choice Voucher program is our nation's largest and most effective housing program. But only one in four renters can get a voucher because of inadequate funding. If we expand vouchers to all eligible renters and guarantee funding for the program each year, we could virtually end homelessness, reduce racial inequality, and save lives. And we can pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

America has been in a housing crisis for years; the pandemic only made it more conspicuous. Along with investing in building new housing, I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters through multi-year guaranteed funding for Housing Choice Vouchers.

— **Alexis Maestre-Saborit**

Fort Myers

<https://www.news-press.com/story/opinion/2021/07/26/letters-editor-monday-july-26-2021/8085909002/>

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News-Press.

Millions lifted above poverty

September 24, 2021

Despite a pandemic that caused mass unemployment, new 2020 data from the Census' Supplemental Poverty Measure shows that poverty actually decreased by 2.6 percent last year, the largest drop since the SPM was created. How did this happen? Anti-poverty programs. Program such as Social Security, the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, housing assistance, stimulus payments, unemployment and more lifted millions above the federal poverty line during the worst economic conditions in nearly a century. This is what success looks like.

While this is encouraging news, too many Americans still must fight day and day out just to afford rent, child care, and food. They shouldn't have to. Making the recent changes to EITC and CTC permanent and expanding Housing Choice vouchers would be a huge boost for them that would benefit all of us.

I urge our representatives and senators to demand these provisions be included in recovery legislation this fall.

— **Alexis Maestre-Saborit**

Fort Myers

<https://www.news-press.com/story/opinion/2021/09/24/letters-editor-friday-september-24-2021/5825626001/>

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Senators should support Build Back Better plan

December 11, 2021

I am thrilled that the House has finally passed the Build Back Better Act. This bill is an historic investment in the American people.

Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty. But Congress is cutting it close; the CTC monthly payments are currently scheduled to end in December.

The bill now goes to the Senate. With so much on the line and the clock ticking, the Senate must pass this bill as soon as possible. Americans have waited far too long for Congress to get this done.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote.

— **Patricia DeLuca**

Nokomis

https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-senators-should-support-build-back-better-plan/article_3db84ef2-57ab-11ec-a9a7-83cf77d18a5c.html

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Build Back Better helping those in poverty

December 17, 2021

I am thrilled the House passed the Build Back Better Act (BBB) in November. Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty and helped millions of families pay the rent, put food on the table, find child care, and more.

On Dec. 15, the next monthly CTC payment goes out to American families. If the Senate does not pass BBB this month, it will be the last, forcing millions of children back into poverty in January. There is too much on the line for Congress to fail. And the clock is ticking. The Senate must pass BBB now.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote.

— **Colonel Meyer**

North Port

https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-build-back-better-helping-those-in-poverty/article_98b1562e-5ceb-11ec-b733-c3438c03a7a6.html

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I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote.

— **Colonel Meyer**

North Port

https://www.yoursun.com/venice/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-build-back-better-helping-those-in-poverty/article_98b1562e-5ceb-11ec-b733-c3438c03a7a6.html

Miami Herald

A better cause

December 22, 2021

I applaud Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott for introducing the HUD Health and Safety Accountability Act on Dec. 20. This is a step in the right direction. However, to cure an illness, one should address the root cause,

The childcare tax credit allowance, which ended Dec. 15, and the affordable housing provisions in the Build Back Better plan, together, could get 23 percent of Americans out of poverty, according to a study by the Columbia Center on Poverty and Social Policy.

Our senators have an opportunity to act now and benefit many Floridians, especially children, by reducing the consequences of poor housing: mental illness and poor education.

— **Yanick Perodin**

Miami

No online link

Miami Herald

Prioritize housing

December 24, 2021

Access to housing is critical for the well-being of families, ye millions struggle to keep a roof over their heads and meet basic needs.

Some landlords, including those benefitting from federal dollars, allow tenants to live in deplorable conditions that have gone unchecked for years.

Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott's proposal, the HUD Health and Safety Accountability Act, is a step forward, yet very little, very late.

With rising cases of the COVID-19 omicron variant, we are leaving millions of Floridians to try to find for safe and secure housing during this holiday season.

Be denying the provisions in the Build Back Better plan – \$25 billion to increase the supply of affordable housing, vouchers expanded to an additional 40,500 Floridians, and \$65 billion to repair and renovate public housing – our senators are allowing Floridians to slip deeper into poverty.

What are Rubio and Scott's priorities when it comes to addressing the affordable-housing crisis?

— **Karyne Bury**

Miami

No online link

Idaho Statesman

Cut child poverty

May 20, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

The Biden administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the earned income tax credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full child tax credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased child tax credit amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the child tax credit changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new child tax credit will cut child poverty by 45%! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new child tax credit and earned income tax credit provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Janet McClenahan**

Boise

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article251556798.html>

Rockford Register Star

Congress should expand rental assistance

May 13, 2021

In response to President Biden's new economic recovery proposal, I'm pleased he's included resources to increase the supply of affordable housing.

However, without expanded rental assistance, low-income renters won't be able to afford such housing.

Currently, only one in four eligible renters gets federal rental assistance due to inadequate funding.

Congress should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. This will keep them stably housed, prevent evictions and prevent homelessness.

We must also make permanent recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These changes, which expire next year, will benefit 17 million low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45%.

We can create an economy where workers are protected, families are stably housed and children are allowed to thrive.

In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge our members of Congress to expand rental assistance to all who qualify and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

— **Kevin Donnelly**

Rockford

<https://www.rrstar.com/story/opinion/2021/05/13/letter-congress-should-expand-rental-assistance/4891641001/>

CHICAGO SUN*TIMES

Additional assistance

May 25, 2021

As Chicagoans face the possibility of evictions in August, I'm relieved to hear of the additional rental assistance announced by Mayor Lori Lightfoot ["City to offer \$80 million in assistance to renters," May 24]. This relief from the city and President Joe Biden's proposal to build affordable housing in the United States are both a help for renters in danger of losing homes. Yet even these actions won't meet the need that was already an American housing crisis before COVID-19 started.

Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allows low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Yet inadequate funding for federal rental assistance means help only gets to only one in four eligible renters.

The pandemic has made clear that there are far too many Americans just one crisis away from eviction. I urge Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth as well as Illinois Representatives Bobby Rush, Robin Kelly, Mike Quigley, Rodney Davis and Jan Schakowsky to expand assistance to all eligible renters.

Cynthia Changyit Levin, St Louis, Missouri

— Cynthia Changyit Levin

St. Louis, Missouri

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/5/25/22453191/clean-energy-jobs-illinois-legislature-nuclear-energy-letters>

CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

Build Back Better lays foundation for an economy where no one gets left behind

This plan is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

November 10, 2021

The most crucial element of the infrastructure of our country is its people.

The White House and congressional leaders have reached a deal on the “Build Back Better” economic recovery plan. This plan is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

This plan extends the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won’t be pushed back down next year, and provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent. It also includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccine for people around the world. And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind because it strengthens the most essential element of the infrastructure of this great country — its people. It necessary that it be passed so we can “Build Back Better.”

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our members of Congress to vote YES.

— **Julia Ryan**

Oak Park

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/11/10/22772562/build-back-better-economy-joe-biden-congress-veterans-guns-letters>

Build Back Better ' plan deserves support

November 14, 2021

The White House and congressional leaders have reached a deal on the "Build Back Better" economic recovery plan. This plan is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

This plan extends the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year and provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent. It also includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccine for people around the world. And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind. It must be passed.

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our members of Congress to vote yes.

— **Nicholas Feda**

Cary

<https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20211114/build-back-better--plan-deserves-support>

Build Back Better deserves to pass

November 20, 2021

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This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind because it strengthens the most essential element of the infrastructure of this great country, it's people. It necessary that it be passed to Build Back Better.

When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge our members of Congress to vote yes.

— **Julia Ryan**

Oak Park

<https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20211120/build-back-better-deserves-to-pass>

Act now on BBB

December 20, 2021

I am thrilled the House passed the Build Back Better Act in November. Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new Child Tax Credit payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty and helped millions of families pay the rent, put food on the table, find child care and more.

On Dec. 15, a monthly CTC payment went out to American families. If the Senate does not pass BBB this month, it will be the last, forcing millions of children back into poverty in January. There is too much on the line for Congress to fail. And the clock is ticking. The Senate must pass BBB now.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote.

— Ira Gerard

South Elgin

<https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20211220/act-now-on-bbb>

The Herald-Times

One-year relief needs to be extended

April 5, 2021

To the editor:

For many years, our country has had a much higher rate of child poverty than other high-income countries. This puts our very future at risk.

Many parents work at wages that cannot support a family, and our safety net is not as generous or comprehensive as those of other countries. Moreover, if parents start earning slightly more, the assistance we do provide in terms of housing, nutrition and health care dwindles or disappears, often leaving their families even worse off.

This is why it's so heartening that one provision of the American Rescue Plan Act expanded and improved tax breaks for poor families. These changes in the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit will immediately cut child poverty in half, and they will not go away as people start earning more. If these changes are maintained, millions of children will not have to grow up in poverty.

Unfortunately, these improvements were part of a pandemic relief bill and were mandated for only one year. Letting them expire at the end of that time would double child poverty overnight, throwing these millions of kids back into poverty. Congress needs to act to make these changes permanent.

— **Stephen Arnold**

Bloomington

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/04/05/letter-one-year-relief-needs-to-be-extended/116213324/>

Health assistance through housing

April 30, 2021

In Indiana, we've fully vaccinated more 1.65 million people to protect them from COVID-19. However, we fail to truly commit to ensuring that low-income individuals and families have safe and affordable homes to return to after receiving their vaccine.

Housing is the most basic form of protection against COVID-19. Unfortunately, we face a shortage of 126,952 affordable rental housing units for extremely low-income households in Indiana. I field calls from friends, family members and colleagues asking where people can go to find affordable housing. Every time, I'm struck by the fact that these types of phone calls are so common.

Building more affordable housing is one part of addressing this crisis. We also need to make sure housing is affordable for families. Expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to all eligible renters (only one in four can currently get a voucher) will be monumental for many extremely low-income renters. With housing choice vouchers, low-income Hoosiers will no longer have to spend half their income on rent. Children will live without fear that an eviction will force them to transfer to a school across town. People won't have to decide between paying for rent or paying for medications. Affordable housing will change the way people navigate their lives.

I'm calling on Indiana's U.S. Sens. Young and Braun to ensure that economic recovery legislation expands federal housing assistance to all low-income renters.

— **Kazmyn Ramos**

Bloomington

https://www.tribstar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/readers-forum-april-30-2021-health-assistance-through-housing/article_d15337be-a926-11eb-985f-b7afb4561a0d.html

Rescue act helps breaks cycles of injustice, poverty

May 6, 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act is aimed at breaking the cycle of injustice and poverty.

This package is primed not only to rescue the country from the devastating effects of COVID 19, but rebuild the economy more equitably. The forces of racism and oppression drive poverty and injustice.

The expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) are two examples of how good legislation can result in a generational leap in our fight against poverty.

It is estimated that these expansions (included in the ARPA) can lift almost 50% of children out of poverty. That is an astounding accomplishment and a "revolution in child aid" (as stated in the New York Times).

Growing up impoverished not only causes constant mental stress, but in the long run causes physical illness, and a greater chance of living in poverty as an adult. The tax credits, along with stability in housing (expanding Housing Choice Vouchers), can help break the cycle of poverty, which leads to economic opportunity, better employment, better education and better health. It is economically sound policy to have individuals fully participate as productive members of society.

It is our duty as a country, as a society, to do everything we can to not waste this human potential; to not let children's' future be stunted because of lack of opportunity caused by poverty. I urge our Senators Young and Braun, and my Representative Hollingsworth to make these tax credits permanent in any recovery legislation. We need lasting change.

— **Diane Lindley**

Needham

http://www.dailyjournal.net/2021/05/06/letter_rescue_act_helps_breaks_cycles_of_injustice_poverty/

The Herald-Times

COVID vaccines aren't the only way to keep Hoosiers healthy

May 10, 2021

To the editor:

In Indiana, we've fully vaccinated 1.65 million people to protect them from COVID-19. However, we fail to truly commit to ensuring that low-income individuals and families have safe and affordable homes to return to after receiving their vaccine.

Housing is the most basic form of protection against COVID-19. Unfortunately, we face a shortage of 126,952 affordable rental housing units for extremely low-income households in Indiana. I field calls from friends, family members and colleagues asking where people can go to find affordable housing. Every time, I'm struck by the fact that these types of phone calls are so common.

Building more affordable housing is one part of addressing this crisis. We also need to make sure housing is affordable for families. Expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to all eligible renters (only 1 in 4 can currently get a voucher) will be monumental for many extremely low-income renters. With housing choice vouchers, low-income Hoosiers will no longer have to spend half their income on rent.

I'm calling on Sen. Todd Young and Sen. Mike Braun to ensure that economic recovery legislation expands federal housing assistance to all low-income renters.

— **Kazmyn Ramos**

Indianapolis

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/10/letter-covid-vaccines-arent-the-only-way-to-keep-hoosiers-healthy/116217168/>

The Herald-Times

Calling on Congress to fund housing vouchers

July 28, 2021

The crisis in affordable housing for low-income people keeps getting worse. Currently, 24 million families pay more than half their incomes just for rent. Lack of access to affordable housing leads to homelessness, overcrowding, and increases in domestic violence, as well as poor social and educational outcomes for children who get moved from school to school when parents can't afford their rent.

Housing Choice Vouchers are a solution. With HCVs, the amount families pay for housing and utilities is capped at about a third of income. HCVs are our nation's largest and most effective housing program and a great benefit to the 5.3 million people who receive them, leaving them extra money for food, transportation, and other necessities. But because of inadequate funding, there are long wait lists, and 15.8 million people who would qualify are shut out of the program.

If we expand vouchers to all eligible renters and guarantee funding for the program each year, we can virtually end homelessness, reduce racial inequality, and save lives. It's past time for Congress to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters through multi-year guaranteed funding for Housing Choice Vouchers.

— **Stephen Arnold**

Bloomington

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/opinion/2021/07/28/housing-choice-vouchers-path-stability-many-letter-writer-says/8052791002/>

The Journal Gazette

Build Back Better plan has help for Hoosiers

October 1, 2021

I have heard from conservative members of Congress that the Build Back Better plan is something they believe is not what Hoosiers want; they believe that it opens the door for higher spending.

I respectfully disagree. As a Hoosier constituent, I'm urging Congress to vote on the initiatives below. The cost will be spread out over 10 years and will be paid for by making the wealthiest and large corporations pay their share.

Low-income constituents are suffering, and I urge Indiana politicians to hear from them. When I hear all the good that will come from this recovery package, I think about the 15,000 Hoosier families that will thrive from receiving housing through expansion of the Housing Choice Voucher as a form of rental assistance, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

I also think about the expansion of the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit, which happened in March of this year. From June to July, 1.3 million children didn't go hungry for the first time. Voting to extend these provisions, experts say, will cut child poverty in half. Unfortunately, it expires at the end of the year unless we vote yes on the Build Back Better agenda.

I am urging Rep. Jim Banks, and Sens. Todd Young and Mike Braun to vote yes on the Build Back Better agenda.

— **Sarah Leone**

Fort Wayne

<https://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/letters/20211001/letters>

The Gazette

Congress must go bold on economic recovery

May. 7, 2021

In response to President Joe Biden's new economic recovery proposal, I'm pleased he's included resources to increase the supply of affordable housing. However, without expanded rental assistance, low-income renters won't be able to afford such housing. Currently, only one in four eligible renters gets federal rental assistance due to inadequate funding. Congress should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. This will keep them stably housed, prevent evictions, and prevent homelessness.

We must also make permanent recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These changes, which expire next year, will benefit 17 million low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45 percent.

We can create an economy where workers are protected, families are stably housed, and children are allowed to thrive. In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge our members of Congress to expand rental assistance to all who qualify and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

— **Marcelina Cenicerros**

Iowa City

<https://www.thegazette.com/opinion/congress-must-go-bold-on-economic-recovery/>

Des Moines Register

The revamped child tax credit is a game-changer, so let's work to keep it

July 5, 2021

Lifting children out of poverty means better grades, healthier lives, and higher income as adults, which makes this a true game-changer.

Iowa families are getting a huge break.

Starting July 15, the IRS will send monthly payments to nearly all families in Iowa and across the country. What's the source of this summer surprise? The new Child Tax Credit.

The American Rescue Plan passed in March included expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), two of our most potent weapons in the fight against poverty. In 2019, combined they lifted 7.5 million people — more than half of them children — above the federal poverty line.

Despite this success, there were significant gaps in who got these credits. For example, the lowest-income families were excluded from the CTC altogether, and low-income families who did qualify receive only \$1,400 of the \$2,000 credit, while wealthy families got the full amount. For the EITC, 5.8 million low-wage workers not raising children were taxed into poverty each year because Congress set their EITC too low, and workers just into coming into the workforce (those under 25) got nothing.

The American Rescue Plan fixed all this. It tripled the EITC for workers without children and expanded eligibility to workers 19 and older. As a result, 17 million low-wage retail workers, janitors, truck drivers, childcare workers, and others will benefit, including 181,000 workers in Iowa.

The news on the CTC is even better. The Rescue Plan eliminated the coverage gaps by making the CTC fully refundable to all low-income families, even if you have no

income. Furthermore, it increased the credit amount to \$3,000 for each child 6 to 17 years old and \$3,600 for each child under 6.

The new CTC will benefit 65.6 million children, including 669,000 children in Iowa. And Columbia University researchers estimate that, if all eligible households claim the CTC, child poverty will drop by an astounding 45% over the next year. Iowa alone would see a 39.9% drop. Considering what the research shows about the positive effects of lifting children out of poverty — better grades, healthier lives, and higher income as adults — this is a true game-changer.

The CTC also now has a monthly payment option. Starting July 15, most families will get an extra \$250 to 300 per child each month through December. So, if you need help with things like health care, rent, food, or child care, instead of waiting until tax time next year, you'll have it when you need it. Most households will get the payments automatically, but many will need to sign up. To see if you qualify, go to www.childtaxcredit.gov today. You can also opt out of the monthly payments.

But there is a catch. These changes only last one year. After that, the holes in the EITC and CTC that the Rescue Plan filled will reopen and millions of workers, families, and children will fall through, back into poverty.

But Congress can easily prevent this by making the new EITC and CTC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year. And pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share. It's a no-brainer — we're cutting child poverty in half! Why every member of Congress is not rushing to get this done right now is mystifying. Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst took pride in the tax cuts they passed in 2017, which primarily benefitted the rich and powerful. They should now support tax changes that will benefit Iowa's workers and children.

— Jos G. Linn, Guest columnist

Jos G. Linn is the manager of grassroots impact at RESULTS, a grassroots advocacy organization working to end poverty. From 2005 to 2016, he lived in West Des Moines and advocated with Iowa congressional offices to enact policies that reduce poverty in the United States. He now lives in Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: jlinn@results.org.

Des Moines Register

Pass a recovery bill that reduces poverty now

November 4, 2021

Congress is working on an economic recovery bill that makes life better for all Americans. Included in the current proposal are two critical changes - making the 2021 changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit permanent and expanding the Housing Choice Voucher program. These changes will help tens of millions of Americans afford food, rent, childcare, and other basic needs.

In Iowa alone expanding Housing Choice Vouchers will help 6000 households – two-thirds with children under 18 – find stable, safe housing and avoid becoming homeless. Of those helped, 42% will be people of color.

It is time to get this done. Senators Grassley and Ernst must pass a recovery bill now that makes the 2021 EITC and CTC provisions permanent and guarantees multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers. And they shouldn't fret about the cost because there is an easy solution available that is overwhelmingly popular with the American people - make billionaires and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

— **Peggy Fitch**

Des Moines

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/11/04/letters-iowa-nice-has-turned-ugly/6184793001/>



A historic plan

November 15, 2021

The White House and congressional leaders have reached a deal on the Build Back Better economic recovery plan. This plan is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

This plan extends the new child tax credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, and provides much-needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent. It also includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccine for people around the world. And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind. I invite you to join me in urging Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Sen. Chuck Grassley and Sen. Joni Ernst to support the Build Back Better bill by voting "yes."

— Sister Jan Cebula

Clinton

https://qctimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-historic-plan/article_b865124c-dac5-5edd-859b-aca1d44e8d2f.html

THE JUNCTION CITY UNION

Letter to the Editor

September 27, 2021

Poverty, which is not a lack of motivation, but a lack of money, plagues the United States, especially in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Right now, 27 million children in low-income families can get the full Child Tax Credit as a monthly payment. Additionally, 5 million low-wage workers are no longer being taxed into poverty because their Earned Income Tax Credit is too low.

However, these expanded credits are only in place for 2021, and if they are not extended, will have devastating effects as millions of workers and children will fall below the poverty line next year.

The EITC and CTC together lifted 7.5 million people above the poverty line in 2019. This year, the EITC changes will boost incomes for 17 million low-wage workers not raising children while the CTC expansion, including its new monthly payment option, can reduce child poverty by 45 percent. We must not abandon these workers and children after one year.

It's imperative that the Senate Finance/House Ways and Means Committee make the EITC and CTC expansions permanent, including full refundability of the CTC. Senators Roger Marshall and Jerry Moran, what are you doing to support low-income workers and families?

— **Rachel Grollmes**

Topeka

https://www.junctioncityunion.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-to-the-editor/article_d162961c-4e47-5b59-9daf-a5a6e7161739.html

Poverty-reducing measures of 2021 need to become permanent

September 28, 2021

Poverty, which is not a lack of motivation, but a lack of money, plagues the United States, especially in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Right now, 27 million children in low-income families can get the full Child Tax Credit as a monthly payment. Additionally, 5 million low-wage workers are no longer being taxed into poverty because their Earned Income Tax Credit is too low.

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— **Rachel Grollmes**

Topeka

<https://www.gbtribune.com/opinion/poverty-reducing-measures-2021-need-become-permanent/>

THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Child Tax Credit should be extended by U.S. Senate

October 2, 2021

Poverty, which is not a lack of motivation, but a lack of money, plagues the United States, especially in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Right now, 27 million children in low-income families can get the full Child Tax Credit as a monthly payment. Additionally, 5 million low-wage workers are no longer being taxed into poverty because their Earned Income Tax Credit is too low.

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It's imperative that the Senate Finance/House Ways and Means Committee make the EITC and CTC expansions permanent, including full refundability of the CTC. Senators Roger Marshall and Jerry Moran, what are you doing to support low-income workers and families?

— **Rachel Grollmes**

Topeka

<https://www.cjonline.com/story/opinion/2021/10/02/readers-wants-kansas-republicans-get-science-u-s-senate-act/5943743001/>



Expand the Housing Choice Voucher program

August 13, 2021

Dear editor,

With the CDC's national eviction moratorium having expired at the end of July, Congress needs to act now to avoid a wave of evictions in the coming months.

The Housing Choice Voucher program is our nation's largest and most effective housing program. But only one in four renters can get a voucher because of inadequate funding. If we expand vouchers to all eligible renters and guarantee funding for the program each year, we could virtually end homelessness, reduce racial inequality and save lives. And we can pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

America has been in a housing crisis for years; the pandemic only made it more conspicuous. Along with investing in building new housing, I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters through multi-year guaranteed funding for Housing Choice Vouchers.

— **Veronica Taylor**

Lexington

https://www.state-journal.com/opinion/letter-expand-the-housing-choice-voucher-program/article_4bdc7b3c-fc2c-11eb-8b6f-039e9d2b1db8.html

Senate must act

November 24, 2021

I am thrilled that the House has finally passed the Build Back Better Act. This bill is an historic investment in the American people.

Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new child tax credit (CTC) payments, which have already lifted more than three million children out of poverty. But Congress is cutting it close; the CTC monthly payments are currently scheduled to end in December.

The bill now goes to the Senate. With so much on the line and the clock ticking, the Senate must pass this bill as soon as possible. Americans have waited far too long for Congress to get this done.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote. Gina Petty, Lexington

— **Gina Petty**

Lexington

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article256021697.html>

THE BALTIMORE SUN

COVID relief helps bridge gap between nation's haves and have-nots

March 12, 2021

Back in December, a box of food shelf donations I dropped off for a struggling neighbor was stolen. Now, I am relieved that Congress has passed a new COVID relief bill that will provide relief to renters, increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45% by expanding the child tax credit. Maybe folks will no longer be so desperate and can concentrate on raising healthy families and engaging in productive activities (["Stimulus check updates: Biden to sign COVID-19 relief bill Thursday ahead of primetime speech,"](#) March 11).

Thank you, Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen. Thank you, Rep. Kweisi Mfume. It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by fixing vast inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty.

First, make housing choice vouchers universal to all who qualify. Currently, only one in four eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Next, protect workers and families by making the new EITC and child tax credit provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge Senators Van Hollen and Cardin, and Congressman Mfume to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation this year.

— **Jan Kleinman**

Baltimore

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-equity-congress-covid-letter-20210312-ae4yhbdexfabtjvxkjyfyfj4q-story.html>

The Washington Post

If children are our future, let's help their parents now

March 12, 2021

Regarding the March 8 Politics & the Nation article "[\\$1.9 trillion relief bill reflects shifts in political landscape](#)":

Republicans' claim that the proposed fully refundable child tax credit of \$250 or \$300 per month to low-income families will disincentivize parents from seeking work shows they are completely out of touch with what expenses parents face when they bring up a child. The day-care expense alone will exceed this amount. In addition to necessities such as clothing, food, access to health care, etc., parents must contend with the new expense of digital access to e-learning. So, they have no other choice than to take on additional work to cover these expenses.

According to a Pew Research Center [report](#), some 22 percent of the U.S. population is children, but those younger than 18 represent 31 percent of all Americans living in poverty. Black and Hispanic children are particularly overrepresented. If we believe that the children are our future, we have a moral obligation to ensure that they are properly nourished at home to have a strong start in life. It is important that the expanded child tax credit is made permanent so that after a year these children do not fall back into poverty.

— **Yamuna Dasarathy**

Washington

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/letters-to-the-editor/if-children-are-our-future-lets-help-their-parents-now/2021/03/12/dd00eaf6-827b-11eb-be22-32d331d87530_story.html

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Cutting child poverty in half is within our grasp

May 21, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half, permanently. The Biden administration just proposed extending support for workers and families, enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families ([“Child tax credit: Most US parents will get monthly checks of \\$250 or \\$300 per child, starting in July,”](#) May 17).

President Joe Biden also proposes extending the increased child tax credit amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025. These steps are important, but Congress must make all the changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new child tax credit will cut child poverty by 45%. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Maureen Wheeler**

Silver Spring

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-poverty-letter-20210521-x773jl56lrdkdax4ibumkbralu-story.html>

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Helping jobless puts them on the path to employment

June 4, 2021

Gov. Larry Hogan has announced an end to the weekly extra \$300 for unemployed Marylanders and three other changes affecting self-employed workers, gig workers and unemployed folks ("Gov. Hogan says Maryland will end extra \$300 weekly payments, other federal unemployment programs," June 1). Workers affected by these changes will feel the pinch. But let us think: While these struggling workers are hustling for their next jobs, do we want their children to suffer? Do we want their families to lose their homes?

The governor's announcement amplifies the need for federal support. In its American Rescue Plan, Congress recently expanded the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit for a limited time. Those expansions will help workers and their families considerably, for now. U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes and U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, please make those changes permanent!

President Joe Biden's budget for the coming fiscal year asks for an increase in the number of Housing Choice Vouchers. That increase will help a few low-income families get access to affordable housing, but the request is not enough. Right now, only one of every four eligible families can get a voucher under that program. The president's request needs to be much larger to address our nation's housing need.

Messrs. Sarbanes, Cardin and Van Hollen, please persuade your colleagues that our community needs more Housing Choice Vouchers! Then, families with food and a stable roof over their heads can concentrate on finding work again.

— **Jan Kleinman**

Baltimore

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-unemployment-assistance-letter-20210604-tprx2u6yyveprgm67utcnozohm-story.html>

THE BALTIMORE SUN

U.S. should extend federal child tax credit

November 23, 2021

President Joe Biden signed the infrastructure bill, a substantial investment in our country, into law on Nov. 15. Now, The Baltimore Sun informs us, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Build Back Better bill, an investment in Americans ("Democrats' sweeping social, climate bill passes divided House," Nov. 19).

Included in the Build Back Better bill is a one-year extension of the enhanced child tax credit, or CTC. The CTC has reduced hunger and insecurity for more than 3 million children including thousands in Maryland. Research shows lifting kids out of poverty means they will likely have higher grades, healthier bodies and minds and earn more as adults. Good for our society!

As a teacher, I am keenly aware that adverse childhood experiences can inhibit my students' learning. On the positive side, though, experts say we can cope with adversity if we know others care about us and help us meet our basic needs. The child tax credit does just that — it shows that we have the backs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

As the Senate takes up the bill, let's tell our youngest Americans that we care about them and help them learn and lead us into the future. Make the enhanced credit permanent or at least extend it beyond 2022. We citizens can call our supportive U.S. Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin and demand they push for this critical bill.

— Jan Kleinman

Baltimore

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-tax-credit-letter-20211123-f3xfof6spnhibovbjpw7ndg2u4-story.html>

The Boston Globe

Make benefits for children permanent

March 24, 2021

Thank you to Yvonne Abraham for her column "[Virus, food lines endure](#)" (Metro, March 21).

Our neighbors do indeed "need the America we ought to be," and that is why the [American Rescue Plan](#) is so very important. The changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit will decrease child poverty by almost half. Let me repeat that: reduce child poverty by half! How can we even contemplate doing this for one year only? There is simply no good reason for not making these changes permanent. We can and must invest in our children's futures. We need Congress to take up the pending actions to make these changes permanent and to do so now.

— **Leslye Heilig**

Great Barrington

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/03/24/opinion/make-benefits-children-permanent/>

The Berkshire Eagle

Affordable housing action is good, but more is needed

April 5, 2021

To the editor: I was pleased to read in Heather Bellow's recent article that the Baker administration "designated [Great Barrington] a Housing Choices community for supporting the creation of new abodes of all types." ("[Shovels in the ground': Baker gives Great Barrington housing recognition; money to follow](#)," Eagle, April 3.)

This will certainly help with the expansion of affordable housing, which is greatly needed. But there are more things that must be done.

Today, only one of four eligible renters can get federal housing assistance. If we make the Housing Choice Voucher program universal, or enact a refundable renters' credit, we can ensure all low-income renters will get housing assistance. We must increase the supply of affordable housing as well as promote homeownership, especially for communities of color.

I ask Rep. Richard Neal and Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey to voice support for prioritizing long-term solutions to our housing crisis by making housing assistance universal for eligible low-income renters coupled with measures that increase the supply of housing via the National Housing Trust Fund.

— Leslye Heilig

Great Barrington

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-affordable-housing-action-is-good-but-more-is-needed/article_3e0c0cae-964a-11eb-b508-53e6c0afec94.html

The Berkshire Eagle

New anti-poverty measures are momentous — we should continue them

July 14, 2021

To the editor: What a momentous week this is.

The very first monthly checks for the Child Tax Credit go out on July 15. This action alone should cut child poverty in half. Let me repeat that: in half. And the expansion of the so-called “childless adult” EITC is expected to boost the incomes of 17 million low-wage working adults. The American Rescue Plan has laid a strong foundation by making these improvements to our tax code on a one-year basis, providing a critical income boost to workers and families.

But what happens at the end of the year? Are we really going to push millions of folks back into poverty by failing to make these changes permanent?

Three-quarters of those eligible to receive housing choice vouchers cannot access them as funding is capped. By expanding rental assistance to all who qualify, universal housing vouchers will reduce poverty even further for millions.

I call on all of our legislators to support both initiatives and decrease poverty now.

— **Leslye Heilig**

Great Barrington

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-new-anti-poverty-measures-are-momentous-we-should-continue-them/article_35f565b2-e4c2-11eb-ab8d-ebea4c6879dc.html

The Berkshire Eagle

What should take priority in budget reconciliation talks

October 6, 2021

To the editor: As controversies over budget reconciliation mount, what takes priority?

Per Jeff Stein in The Washington Post on Oct. 2: “The choices are stark: Should tackling rising rates of homelessness be dropped in favor of confronting climate change? Should Democrats prioritize seniors over the poor? Is it more important to reduce the cost of childcare or the cost of a school lunch?”

Advocating with Results.org, here are some priorities:

Providing at least \$90 billion in rental assistance, with the highest possible funding for housing choice vouchers (targeting the lowest-income households).

Making the 2021 provisions to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) permanent, especially making CTC full refundability permanent to ensure the CTC can dramatically reduce poverty for children in the lowest-income families.

Providing at least \$2 billion to scale-up global COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity.

This is not to say that expanding Medicaid, adding child care and early education aren’t equally critical goals. But, at a minimum, the above priorities broadly address the root causes of poverty. And it is essential that we address the pandemic globally and scale up global vaccine access now.

Rep. Richard Neal, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey — will you support these?

— **Leslye Heilig**

Great Barrington

The writer is the Massachusetts Group co-leader of Results.org.

https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-what-should-take-priority-in-budget-reconciliation-talks/article_0eec5618-2529-11ec-abc4-c7b4f4d44962.html

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Build Back Better Act a historic investment in the American people

December 9, 2021

The House has finally passed the Build Back Better Act, and now it is time to ensure the Senate is on board. This bill is a historic investment in the American people.

It was great reading about the support of U.S. Sen. Edward J. Markey in the article "Markey says affordable housing money in Build Back Better could be great for Worcester" written on November 24, 2021, but I want everyone to know this bill is so much more than its housing affordability initiatives.

Build Back Better extends the new Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning workers and children lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year. This pandemic has been difficult for everyone, but it disproportionately affected low-income families and individuals. Extending the new Earned Income Tax Credit and Child tax Credit will give low-income workers and families the opportunity to provide for themselves long-term.

This bill also invests resources to ramp up COVID-19 vaccination production so the U.S. can take the lead on vaccinating the rest of the world. And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes. Viruses mutate over time, so we need to take control and stop the spread while we are still ahead of it.

I strongly thank our senators, U.S. Sen. Edward J. Markey and U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, for their continuous support of the Build Back Better Act.

— **Kimberly DiManno**

Clinton

<https://www.telegram.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/12/09/letter-build-back-better-act-historic-investment-american-people/6420614001/>

Detroit Free Press

Biden's initiative deserves Michigan's support

November 12, 2021

The White House and congressional leaders have reached a deal on the “Build Back Better” economic recovery plan. This is a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

This plan extends the new Child Tax Credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year, and provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent.

It also includes funding to manufacture more COVID-19 vaccine for people around the world, which is in the interest of our own country so we can get past this global health crisis.

The plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

This plan is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no one gets left behind.

It must be passed. When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge all Michigan members of Congress to vote YES.

— **Sylvia Lewis**

Rochester

https://freep-mi.newsmemory.com/?token=df750234afa6de6aacaee1d3b1e0ff26&cnum=b95e11b1-eae9-e411-aadc-90b11c341ce0&fod=1111111STD-0&selDate=20211115&licenseType=paid_subscriber&



Like Duluth did, Congress can spur equity

Increases to the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits have the potential to cut child poverty in half

April 10, 2021

Exciting news to have a bicultural preschool program return in Duluth, once again giving kids a great start and bridging cultures to create understanding. When it comes to changing the underlying norm of systemic racism in our country to one of equity, this is a great example of a way to begin ("Duluth preschool hopes to break down cultural barriers," April 4).

The last COVID-19 relief bill also provided a step forward with temporary increases to the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits. These have the potential to cut child poverty in half!

As a former preschool teacher, I have seen the problems caused by hunger and the lack of housing that come with poverty. Sadly, poverty also disproportionately affects people of color, pinning them in a desperate mode of survival.

Like with this program, we can encourage equity by asking our members of Congress to make these tax credits permanent and to pass new housing equity measures like fully funding the Housing Choice Voucher program. It currently only reaches 25% of those who qualify.

So make a call or write a letter and use your voice to guide Congress to stay on the road to equity.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington



Expand homeownership to counter racism

July 8, 2021

The most important part we can play is to speak to our members of Congress and ask them to work to truly make America a land of opportunity and equity.

Written By: Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington | 1:00 pm, Jul. 8, 2021

The president is working to end systemic racism in America (National View: “Words aren’t enough to achieve racial justice,” June 24), and we can do our part by getting our members of Congress on his side to pass the American Family Plan and include homeownership for first-time buyers, even with a low or no down payment.

California law professor Mehrsa Baradaran’s Homestead Act for the 21st Century is another possibility, as is a refundable renters’ tax credit, as previously proposed by Sen. Cory Booker and then-Sen. Kamala Harris.

The most important part we can play is to speak to our members of Congress and ask them to work to truly make America a land of opportunity and equity.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/7098261-Readers-View-Expand-homeownership-to-counter-racism>



Congress needs to take permanent action for low-income families

August 16, 2021

Recent accounts of business openings and closings (St. Cloud Times, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2021, and earlier) illustrate the opportunities that are being taken and the adjustments that are crucial for a recovering economy. We hope steps are taken to beat the contagious Delta strain, including for some a willingness to be vaccinated.

Now that the Senate has passed an infrastructure bill, the House can consider corresponding action. And for a more socially focused bill, it can consider what things are appropriate now that won't be taken care of in time by other methods.

The Coalition on Human Needs has reported that 35.8% of adults living in households not current on rent or mortgage say that eviction or foreclosure in the next two months is somewhat or very likely. Without a moratorium, evictions are likely to increase sharply at some point, and the need for Congress to address long-term shelter affordability becomes more urgent. According to the the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Minnesotans need earnings of \$21.90 per hour to meet standards for a two-bedroom apartment. Housing choice vouchers are suggested as a method to meet this need for rental assistance. Similarly, the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Children's Tax Credit have helped lower-income folks among groups with a greater tendency to spend their resources and thus provided needed stimulation for the economic recovery. And these credits are due to expire. They need to be made permanent.

We can communicate these needs to our local members of Congress: Tom Emmer, Dean Phillips, Pete Stauber and Michelle Fischbach. We need to ask them to urge leaders and conferees to fast-track these important elements of our recovery.

— **Paul Hoffinger**

Hillman

<https://www.sctimes.com/story/opinion/2021/08/16/congress-needs-take-permanent-action-low-income-families-letter/8152094002/>



Zip code shouldn't determine internet speed

Zip codes still determine far too many things: hunger, affordable housing, health care, and the list goes on.

August 19, 2021

It was truly powerful to read in U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar's column in the News Tribune how senators worked together to create bipartisan results that help all Americans (Senator's View: "How Democrats, Republicans worked together to expand high-speed internet," Aug. 13).

The infrastructure package passed by the Senate contains access to high-speed internet regardless of zip code. That was long overdue. Zip codes still determine far too many things: hunger, affordable housing, health care, and the list goes on. Now is the time to address these inequities!

Congratulate your senators (202-224-3121) and ask them to continue this work until every American has health care and housing and until hunger is abolished. Our voices matter and make a difference. Use yours!

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish, Washington

https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/7156578-Readers-View-Zip-code-shouldnt-determine-internet-speed#.YR8mKHP_HpQ.link



Senate must pass Build Back Better bill

December 3, 2021

It is time to call on our senators (202-224-3121) to pass Build Back Better for a brighter future for all Americans.

The true local story of the importance of the recent infrastructure bill was told in the Nov. 23 column, "After a long road, be thankful for infrastructure funding."

The same stories exist across the country of the need to pass the Build Back Better bill in the Senate. The House can be praised for already passing it. Imagine the millions of families which will benefit from extending the child tax credit that lifted 3.5 million children out of poverty, the expansion of child care so parents can afford to work, and the lowering of drug and health care costs.

It is time to call on our senators (202-224-3121) to pass Build Back Better for a brighter future for all Americans.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/7304995-Readers-View-Senate-must-pass-Build-Back-Better-bill#.Yause1q7mfQ.link>



Support American Workers And Kids: Expand Child Tax Credit Permanently

May 26, 2021

In 2010, I was a young worker who had just graduated with a bachelor's degree. I knew my degree in broadcast journalism was not the career path destined for me. I worked full-time at an hourly wage job as a cashier at Cracker Barrel and applied for graduate school to fulfill my dreams. I had no children, but I was working and living paycheck to paycheck.

When it was time to file my taxes, I was hit with a wrecking ball—a tax bill large enough that I had to arrange a payment plan. I thought I had done everything right, so why was I having to pay *more* money? Money I did not have.

More than 5 million low-wage workers who are not raising children at home—including young adults left out of the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, altogether—are taxed into or deeper into poverty each year. Graduate school not only became a way to propel me further into my career, but it also saved me money in taxes thanks to the education credit. But no one should have to enroll in school to receive a tax break.

More than a decade later, we still have the same issue. Young workers like me are working as hard as anyone; yet, we can't seem to get ahead.

Thankfully, President Biden and Congress have finally paid attention. As part of the [American Rescue Plan passed in March](#), they increased the EITC for these workers. As a result, 17 million low-wage workers will benefit, including 176,000 here in Mississippi. Child-care workers, cashiers, store clerks, delivery drivers and many others across our state can now better make ends meet.

A Way to End Child Poverty

But that's not the only thing the Rescue Plan does. The [Center on Poverty and Social Policy](#) reports that about 27 million children in low-income families did not receive the full Child Tax Credit because their parents' earnings are too low. These are children who came from households of hard-working parents who may suffer from food insecurity. As of March 2021, almost 18% of all people living in the United States experienced food insecurity in the last seven days.

In response, Congress also expanded the Child Tax Credit. They finally opened the full credit to all-low-income families and also increased the amount of the credit to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for children under six). Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45% over the next year! In Mississippi, 96% of children in our state will benefit.

Now, take these same 27 million children, place them in a classroom and think of the results you will see academically. As an educator, I know what can happen. Ending child poverty will affect every aspect of a child's life and have an impact on our world. But it may not last.

'Make These Provisions Permanent'

We are going to see millions of lives improved over the next year because of these changes, only to be erased when these provisions expire in 2022. We cannot let that happen. We must make these provisions permanent.

The Biden administration has proposed making permanent the EITC increase for younger workers and others not raising children and the expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. As for the CTC increase, he proposes only extending it until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the changes permanent, including the CTC increase. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could permanently cut child poverty in half, why wouldn't you? If we can put more money back into the pockets of hard workers, we should. We are a country that boasts American companies, but refuses to do more in support of American

workers and their children. We can cut child poverty in half—permanently. As an educator for the past decade, I know how valuable our children are.

I urge not only my representative, Michael Guest, and Sens. Cindy Hyde-Smith and Roger Wicker, but all of Congress to make the new CTC and EITC provisions permanent at 2021 levels in recovery legislation this year.

— Dr. Tamora McConnell

Dr. Tamora McConnell was born and raised in Jackson, Miss. She has been an educator for the last decade across the state. Dr. McConnell has taken her mission of identifying and dismantling racism from the classroom to Congress. She is a voluntary Results advocate who urges politicians to create policies and to support legislation that will be the most beneficial to all Americans, not just the chosen few. Dr. McConnell lives in her hometown of Jackson.

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/12529/support-american-workers-and-kids-expand-child-tax-credit-permanently/>



Biden's plan will help overlooked Americans

May 8, 2021

President Joe Biden is traveling the country to sell his American Rescue Plan. Even before it was released, naysayers were dismissing it as too expensive (the same detractors who enthusiastically signed off on \$2 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthy in 2017). But the right question is not "How much does it cost?" but "What are we getting for our money?"

The president wants to rebuild bridges and roads. Any penny-pinching Missourian navigating the minefield of potholes on our streets would agree that upgrading roads is a good idea. The president also wants to cut child poverty in half by expanding the child tax credit. Lifting children out of poverty is not only morally right and smart economics, it's far cheaper than tax cuts for the rich.

Critics aren't worried that President Biden's plan will cost too much; they're worried it will work.

The president has a plan. It's not perfect, but it will help millions of overlooked Americans and make us stronger as a country. That's well worth the money.

— Jos Linn

Kansas City

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/your-view-bidens-plan-will-help-overlooked-americans/article_16b11b66-af3d-11eb-be7d-bbc16a4f71ad.html

THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

We can cut child poverty in half - permanently

May 22, 2021

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives Cori Bush to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation. We will not stop advocating until all America has a chance for success.

— **Ben Leigh**

http://www.stlamerican.com/reader_interaction/letters_to_the_editor/we-can-cut-child-poverty-in-half---permanently/article_0127a3ce-bb7b-11eb-b2df-377d96aeda3e.html



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Story highlights struggles for low-income renters

May 27, 2021

I hope our members of Congress read the front-page piece ("[With a little help from some friends](#)," May 23) highlighting the housing struggles of Julie Pogue and her family. Pogue isn't alone in her difficulties finding a suitable rental home. Photos of her children in the hallway of the hotel reminded me of my friend whose children had to handle virtual school and hotel life while she searched for affordable rental housing.

President Joe Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., which would help the problems pointed out in the article. But Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their heads. Housing Choice Vouchers do indeed allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Yet inadequate funding for federal rental assistance means it can only cover 1 in 4 eligible renters.

Missouri Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley as well as Reps. Cori Bush, Ann Wagner and Blaine Luetkemeyer should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters.

— Cynthia Levin

Town and Country, Missouri

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-story-highlights-struggles-for-low-income-renters/article_51cf8f54-852f-5233-a61a-918b892ab740.html



Story highlights struggles for low-income renters

May 27, 2021

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Missouri Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley as well as Reps. Cori Bush, Ann Wagner and Blaine Luetkemeyer should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters.

— **Cynthia Levin**

Town and Country, Missouri

<https://missouriconsumernews.com/letter-story-highlights-struggles-for-low-income-renters-letters-to-the-editor/>

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Housing is security

May 30, 2021

Thank you to The Star for hosting the May 26 “Seeking Solutions” online discussion about housing and crime in Kansas City. (May 23, 1A, “Housing problems fuel gun violence”)

For far too long, lawmakers have ignored America’s affordable housing crisis. Instead of investing resources to help families afford decent housing, they’ve blamed the victims and focused on punitive measures like more police.

They don’t get it. Housing is more than a physical structure. It’s a mindset. When you have stable housing, you have hope. Study after study shows that people in stable housing are healthier and more productive. Their kids do better in school and are less likely to get into trouble.

President Joe Biden wants to invest \$318 billion to create more safe, affordable housing across the country. This is an excellent start, but it won’t work if people can’t afford it. Any new effort to increase the housing supply must be paired with more assistance to help people pay the rent.

I urge Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, and Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

If we want to make our community safer, we need more housing. We need more hope.

— **Jos Linn**

Kansas City

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article250668634.html>

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Let's house them

August 25, 2021

Tens of millions of Americans lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This dramatic employment reduction resulted in an estimated \$3.7 trillion of lost income worldwide. Over the past year and a half, many Americans have experienced housing insecurity from job loss or an inability to work during the pandemic.

Access to housing is crucial for mental and physical health, yet the Department of Housing and Urban Development reported 580,466 people in America were homeless on a single night in January 2020.

In July, a homeless camp was removed from Westport and moved to Penn Valley Park. The camp was established in Westport only because of the expiration of a 90-day program that allowed the homeless to live in hotels.

Talks had begun at City Hall to spend about \$2.7 million for 64-square-foot, air-conditioned "tiny houses" for up to 200 homeless people but were delayed by the council in July.

I am urging members of the Kansas City community to make their voices heard and push for a vote on this ordinance.

— **Emrys Adair**

Kansas City

<https://www.kansascity.com/article253705078.html>

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Help poor kids

October 10, 2021

The days are getting shorter and the nights longer. Soon, winter will be here. For some kids, that means visions of playing in snow. For others, it means worrying about whether they will have a warm place to sleep.

Congress has an opportunity to take a leap and address poverty in a significant way to ensure that every kid has a place to stay warm from harsh Midwest winters. Included in the current proposal for Congress are two critical changes: making the 2021 changes to the earned income tax credit and child tax credit permanent, and expanding the Housing Choice Voucher Program. These changes would help tens of millions of Americans afford rent, child care and other basic needs to stay warm and happy through all seasons.

Some people worry about how to pay for this bill. However, they should think about the millions who are not sure how they will pay for necessities that most people take for granted.

I urge our members of Congress, including Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, to demand that the 2021 earned income tax credit and child tax credit provisions are made permanent and that Housing Choice Vouchers are expanded in the final recovery bill. –

— **Sarah Miller**

University City, MO

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article254860792.html>



Congress should address issues of poverty for children in recovery bill

October 11, 2021

While most schools are back open, students are still having to quarantine when they or a close contact test positive for COVID-19. Imagine trying to learn while also worrying about where you are going to learn from.

Congress has an opportunity to take a leap and address poverty in a significant way to ensure that every kid has a place to stay so that they can learn, regardless of whether they are in school or quarantined at home.

Included in the current proposal for Congress are two critical changes — making the 2021 changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit permanent and expanding the Housing Choice Voucher program.

These changes will help tens of millions of Americans afford rent, child care and other basic needs to stay warm and happy through all the seasons.

Some want to worry about how to pay for this bill. However, they should think about the millions who are not sure how they will pay for basic necessities that most people take for granted.

If we say that we care about the future of our country, then we should invest in this bill.

I urge our members of Congress, including Sen. Roy Blunt and Sen. Josh Hawley, to demand that the 2021 EITC and CTC provisions are made permanent and Housing Choice Vouchers are expanded in the final recovery bill.

Sarah Miller lives in University City and is a volunteer with RESULTS, a grassroots organization that pushes for policies that address ending poverty.



Rent, food relief needed now

December 14, 2022

In response to Cynthia Changyit Levin's letter (Globe, Dec. 9), we not only need to support people around the world but also address the urgent situation in our own country. Numbers continue to climb in St. Louis and our country regarding COVID-19. We continue to reach new records for hospitalizations and deaths. However, if the rent relief doesn't come soon to our city and every city in this country, we will have a bigger health crisis on our hands.

If Congress cannot pass a bipartisan COVID-19 relief package that includes both rental relief and nutrition assistance, we could soon have millions of people hungry and sleeping in the streets in the dead of winter or living with relatives, which will only make the pandemic worse.

I call on our U.S. senators from Missouri, Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, to support a strong COVID-19 relief package that includes a 15% boost in the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit and at least \$25 billion in rental assistance to prevent a mass homelessness crisis in the dead of winter.

We should be prioritizing taking care of our own Americans in this country and doing so immediately.

— **Sarah Miller**

University City

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/your-view-letters-address-trump-masks-covid-19-relief/article_9d0c9858-d420-55e2-85aa-4c67171be5f5.html

Missouri senators could help families by supporting 'Build Back Better' bill

December 31, 2021

In response to the Dec. 30 article “Homeless services and community see need for more affordable housing” by Joy Mazur, I want to echo what was said in the article that homeless shelters are not the only solution to our affordable housing crisis.

Just like food banks are not a long-term solution, neither are homeless shelters. Congress has the opportunity to provide millions of hard-working Americans important aid in these areas through the Build Back Better Act.

Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new child tax credit payments, which have already lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty and helped millions of families pay the rent, put food on the table, find child care and more.

These are critically important services to ensure the well-being of those more vulnerable. I call on our senators, Josh Hawley and Roy Blunt, to take action and pass the Build Back Better Act.

Sarah Miller is a teacher who lives in University City.

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/missouri-senators-could-help-families-by-supporting-build-back-better-bill/article_04bc551a-6a4f-11ec-bfe3-bffb4b30b0eb.html



More needs to be done

March 19, 2021

Missoula's housing problems reflects our national crisis. (['Missoula's housing emergency just got worse' by Robbie Liben, Missoulian, March 5, 2021](#)). The COVID relief bill just passed offers temporary relief to renters and landlords. More needs to be done. There is a bill before Congress to increase the building of affordable housing. This bill, along with an increase for Section 8 housing vouchers, currently only reaching 25% of those who qualify, will help ease the crisis. A refundable renters tax credit has also been proposed to lighten the burden on renters who all too often pay more than 50% of their income for housing. Each of us can help by thanking our members of Congress for starting the work in the COVID relief bill and encouraging them to take all necessary steps to end this housing tragedy.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/more-needs-to-be-done/article_a2d2def0-f3a0-5336-b979-758cdfa9b14b.html#tncms-source=login



Child tax credits another bipartisan solution

April 20, 2021

Great point for our two major parties to work together, in this case to protect our nation's Capitol. ("[Democrats, Republicans must unite to protect the Capitol](#)," by the Times Editorial Board, Missoulian, April 19)

Bipartisan efforts to improve our country are needed in many areas. One recent effort is to make permanent the increases to the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits. This would cut child poverty in our nation in half! Who could not want America's future to be bright by caring for our children?

The crisis in hunger, homelessness and health care are not impossible to solve, if our representatives work together for the benefit of all. We can encourage them with our calls, letters and visits, asking them to start with making the tax credit increases permanent and moving on from there. Our voices matter; it is time to use them.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-child-tax-credits-another-bipartisan-solution/article_470ac2f6-92cc-531a-b339-6eb8041494a7.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

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Child tax credits

May 23, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45%. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it?

Please urge our Representative Matt Rosendale and Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation,

— **Willie Dickerson**

Coram

<https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2021/may/23/letters-editor-may-23/>



Seek full funding for housing choice voucher program

May 24, 2021

Great to see the rental assistance program finally reaching Montanans. ("The Montana Rental Assistance Program can help pay your rent," in the Missoulian, May 21). With the crisis in affordable housing, pandemic-caused increases to unemployment, and the fact that the Housing Voucher Program only reaches 25% of those who qualify, there is much to be done. No wonder homelessness is on the rise.

The American Relief Plan was a good beginning; thank your members of Congress for that, and ask for full funding for the voucher program so all that qualify can receive it. This and other initiatives can battle America's inequities highlighted by the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. Our voices play a part when we use them to ask our members of Congress (202-224-3121) to take action to improve our country.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-seek-full-funding-for-housing-voucher-program/article_afba2ce5-513d-5b58-8123-18281494f9a1.html#tncms-source=login



Opportunity to question candidates

July 7, 2021

Great to see our democracy at work with the recent census giving Montana a second representative in the House. ("Democrat Monica Tranel running for state's new U.S. House seat," by Holly Michaels, Missoulian, July 7.)

For the people, it is an opportunity to ask questions of the candidate: Do you support America's role in global health by helping to fund the Global Partnership for Education? What would you do to end homelessness? Do you support increasing the funding for the Housing Voucher Program so more than current one-fourth of Americans who qualify will receive housing vouchers?

In this way it is easier to make informed choices and hold the victor to their promises after the election.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-opportunity-to-question-candidates/article_726738b7-e2a2-5db1-bac5-4856f6f40546.html#tncms-source=login



Proper taxes invest in the future

August 10, 2021

In their critique of the Biden administration's long-overdue proposed increase in the corporate tax rate, the authors of an Aug. 4 guest column have overlooked the staggering tax avoidance occurring in our unjust tax system.

As University of California economists Gabriel Zucman and Emmanuel Saez continue to demonstrate in professional publications, over the past several decades global corporations have accumulated massive wealth, while middle-class Americans and small business owners have paid the price.

With the approximately \$200 billion in annual revenue from a 25% minimum corporate tax, we could invest in the business leaders of the future — providing our children and young adults with universal preschool and tuition-free community college. We could fund rural hospitals and provide better health care.

The next generation will face profound economic challenges as a result of the climate crisis combined with insufficient regulation and unwise tax policies. Corporations have long externalized significant costs onto American taxpayers, while the government subsidizes many of the costs of doing business.

It's time for global corporations to pay their bills. Learn more about tax policy from economists at taxjusticenow.org.

— **Christie Renner**

Littleton, Colorado (currently staying in Missoula)

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-proper-taxes-invest-in-the-future/article_3c6fd299-4763-537f-9f17-e4d9cd9b194e.html#tncms-source=login



Raise voice to end child poverty

December 26, 2021

The evidence is in. The Child Tax Credit is giving Montana kids the basics and better futures. (Re: "Child advocates turn to Senate for tax credit extension," Dec. 10). Apparently, Montana families are spending the money on food, bills, and to pay down debt.

This is good for Montana families and their children, and it is good for our local economies. Thank you, Sen. Jon Tester for helping to make this version of the Child Tax Credit happen. To be clear, this tax credit is temporary, but Sen. Tester and others are working to extend the Child Tax Credit.

We can help by thanking Sen. Tester and telling him stories of how this changes things for the better in our communities, and by asking Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Matt Rosendale to join in this effort. Any member of Congress can be reached at 202-224-3121. Speaking up now can help Montana children continue to have better lives. Raise your voice to end child poverty.

— **Audrey Murray**

Missoula

https://billingsgazette.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-raise-voice-to-end-child-poverty/article_7211b372-9791-5627-a825-92a0ab2adc63.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Expand rental assistance program

May 29, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis.

Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. The U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey estimates that 48.5% of renters in Nebraska have no confidence to only moderate confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent.

For households with children, the outlook is even more bleak. According to the survey estimates, approximately 75% of renter households with children had no to moderate confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent. Despite the desperate and real need, federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head.

Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our federal representatives, Sens. Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse, and Reps. Jeff Fortenberry, Don Bacon and Adrian Smith, to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Jamy Rentschler**

Lincoln

https://journalstar.com/opinion/letters/letter-expand-rental-assistance-program/article_b1986a67-8dfe-5179-951d-91b919418c19.html



Biden's plans can be a big help

May 3, 2021

Thanks for the two pieces on President Joe Biden, one to fulfill a promise and one highlighting his plan to help American families — “World needs Biden’s help to end pandemic” and “Biden to pitch sweeping ‘family plan’ in speech to Congress,” on April 28.

Both of these articles explain how the president can make a difference for families in America and around the world. A COVID-19 vaccine available to all would help end this pandemic sooner, protecting us locally from the new variants that would continue to reach our shores.

Biden’s plan to help families would provide ladders out of poverty, like child care funding so parents can afford to work. Universal preschool helps ensure that all children are ready for the education that prepares them for our modern world.

We can encourage either of these actions by writing, calling or visiting our members of Congress and asking them to support and pass these important initiatives. This is the power to help put America on the path to equity: communicating to those who represent us and following up to make sure they take action.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Wash.

<https://m.lasvegassun.com/news/2021/may/03/bidens-plans-can-be-a-big-help/>



Recovery plan can do even more

May 7, 2021

I'm pleased that President Joe Biden's new economic recovery proposal includes resources to increase the supply of affordable housing. However, without expanded rental assistance, low-income renters won't be able to afford such housing.

Currently, only 1 in 4 eligible renters gets federal rental assistance due to inadequate funding. Congress should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. This would keep them stably housed, and prevent evictions especially, during the pandemic.

We must also make permanent recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These changes, which expire next year, benefit 17 million low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45%.

We can create an economy in which workers are protected, families are stably housed and children are allowed to thrive. In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge the members of the Nevada delegation to expand rental assistance to all who qualify, and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

— Kathleen Close

Las Vegas

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/may/07/recovery-plan-can-do-even-more/>



Show children how we can lead

June 8, 2021

The June 4 editorial “For the sake of our children, it’s time for American adults to grow up,” calling for the adults in our country to set a positive example for the kids, was excellent.

This starts with Congress working together to battle the hunger and homelessness far too many children face. The Child Tax Credit was increased temporarily, with the power to cut child poverty in half if it is made permanent. This would be a great place for Congress to start, then move on to the housing crisis that is driving more families into homelessness. It’s no wonder, since our housing voucher program is only funded for 25% of those who qualify.

At the same time, America can show how important it is to help others by making a \$1 billion pledge over the next five years to the Global Partnership for Education, putting 175 million more kids in school.

We can help by contacting our members of Congress and asking them to step up to pass these and other initiatives that will not only set the example for our kids, but showcase America’s working democracy.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish, Wash.

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/jun/08/show-children-how-we-can-lead/>



Critical mass for housing crisis

August 5, 2021

Congress needs to act now to avoid a wave of evictions in the coming months.

The Housing Choice Voucher program is our nation's largest and most effective housing program. But only 1 in 4 renters can get a voucher because of inadequate funding. If we expand vouchers to all eligible renters and guarantee funding for the program each year, we could virtually end homelessness, reduce racial inequality and save lives. And we can pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

America has been in a housing crisis for years; the pandemic only made it more conspicuous. Along with investing in building new housing, I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters through multiyear guaranteed funding for Housing Choice Vouchers.

— **Kathleen Close**

Las Vegas

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/aug/05/critical-mass-for-housing-crisis/>



Child tax credit fights poverty

October 26, 2021

Imagine a way to move 3.5 million children out of poverty.

A Columbia study showed that the increased child tax credit did just that in two months, as reported in the Oct. 22 Associated Press story "Child tax credit tussle reflects debate over work incentives."

Making this tax cut permanent would continue to help millions of families have a better future. The alternative: a headline next year saying 3.5 million children (or more) fall back into poverty, hopeless for the future.

We can help make sure the child tax credit increase becomes permanent by asking our members of Congress to pass the Build Back Better legislation that contains the tax credit increase, bringing hope to millions of families, providing ladders out of poverty and creating a better future for our country.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish, Wash.

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/oct/26/child-tax-credit-fights-poverty/>



Nation must fix housing shortage

November 21, 2021

I am pleased that Congress is moving forward with plans to pass the Build Back Better Act recovery package. After 18 months of pandemic hardship, it is vital that our leaders do all they can to see that when this crisis has passed, we all come out better than we were before.

Housing is a key component of our recovery. America has been in a housing crisis for years, and COVID-19 made it worse. Only one in four low-income renters can get housing assistance because of inadequate funding, putting millions of Americans one crisis away from homelessness, especially in Las Vegas. If we expand Housing Choice Vouchers to all eligible renters and guarantee funding for the program each year, we could virtually end homelessness, reduce racial inequality and save lives.

As Congress finalizes the economic recovery bill, I urge our Nevada senators and representatives to ensure that multiyear, guaranteed funding for housing choice vouchers is included.

— Kathleen Close

Las Vegas

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/nov/21/nation-must-fix-housing-shortage/#.YZ0XOxN7CE4.mailto>



Senate has no time to waste

November 28, 2021

I am thrilled that the House finally passed the Build Back Better Act. This bill is a historic investment in the American people. A huge thank-you to our Southern Nevada Reps. Dina Titus, Steven Horsford and Susie Lee, all Democrats.

Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new Child Tax Credit payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty. But Congress is cutting it close; the monthly payments are scheduled to end in December.

The bill now goes to the Senate. With so much on the line and the clock ticking, the Senate must pass this bill as soon as possible. Americans have waited far too long for Congress to get this done.

I strongly urge Nevada's senators, Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen, to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes when it comes to a vote.

— Kathleen Close

Las Vegas

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/nov/28/senate-has-no-time-to-waste/>



Time to raise our neighbors out of poverty

September 28, 2021

Every Saturday, the Antrim Baptist Church Food Pantry is busy, providing people with needed sustenance. These are my neighbors, trying to make ends meet. Yet who is talking about this? Poverty in New Hampshire is the elephant in the room — clearly visible, but ignored.

Sure, New Hampshire's poverty is comparatively low, at 6.2 percent, yet in Keene in 2019, almost 3,000 of its 25,000 residents lived in poverty, including children. Over 14 percent in Cheshire County are food insecure, often not knowing where their next meal will come from. And across the Granite State, there is also a severe housing shortage, with many of the lowest income renters "cost-burdened," paying up to 60 percent of their income every month for rent, often choosing between rent and food. And the rent always eats first.

But a solution is at hand. In March, Congress passed the American Rescue bill with its once-in-a-lifetime anti-poverty measures: making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable and therefore available to very low-income families. This measure has already lifted over 9 million children out of poverty, but it expires in January.

Congress also expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit for childless and younger workers, so they are not taxed into poverty, providing more resources for food and housing.

Thanks to New Hampshire Reps. Kuster and Pappas, the House has already passed the bill. Now New Hampshire Sens. Shaheen and Hassan have the opportunity to make these tax provisions permanent in the Recovery Bill, and also to ensure that the bill includes at least \$90 billion in rental assistance, with the highest possible amount for Housing Choice vouchers while targeting lowest-income households and children.

These provisions can halve child poverty in the U.S., stem the affordable housing crisis, and narrow the racial wealth divide. I urge our senators to hold the course, helping our neighbors across New Hampshire and throughout the U.S. and working toward ending poverty for all.

— **Lucinda Winslow**

Antrim

https://www.sentinel-source.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/time-to-raise-our-neighbors-out-of-poverty-by-lucinda-winslow/article_1cccbd1f-20fe-5d5d-879a-fe7d932fc76c.html



Anti-poverty measures should be permanent

September 30, 2021

Anti-poverty measures can be made permanent in U.S.

To the Editor: Thanks to Union Leader for publishing Dr. Michelle Caughey's excellent op-ed (9-27-21). As a member of NH RESULTS, I support asking Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan to make sure that upcoming legislation makes the March American Rescue Act provisions permanent, rather than allowing them to expire at the end of the year.

We say yes to full refundability of the Child Tax Credit. With only one July payment, it has already lifted 9 million children out of poverty.

We say yes to making the EITC expansions permanent for workers without children and younger workers, so they are not taxed further into poverty.

We also encourage our senators to fund robust housing support, including at least \$90 billion in rental assistance, with the highest possible amount for housing choice vouchers, while targeting lowest income households whose families and children are suffering most in this pandemic time.

These provisions will cut child poverty in half in the U.S., stem the affordable housing crisis, and narrow the racial wealth divide. If the recovery bill also includes at least \$2 billion to scale global COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity we can all emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever before.

RESULTS is a group of volunteers who use their voices to develop the political will to end worldwide poverty.

— **William Baker**

Antrim

https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-anti-poverty-measures-should-be-permanent/article_980a854d-8369-5563-96b0-c87216c19a1f.html

Cut child poverty in half

October 4, 2021

The Monitor reports that the U.S. now has enough vaccines for boosters and children's shots. What a miracle. Just a year ago, the vaccine was just a hope and promise. It took political will to make it reality. Congress created another miracle this year passing the American Rescue Bill in March with its once-in-a-lifetime anti-poverty measures: making the Child Tax Credit fully refundable and therefore available to very low-income families. Already this monthly payment has lifted over millions of children out of poverty. It also expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit for childless and younger workers, so they are not taxed into poverty.

Now we need to urge Congress to make these anti-poverty provisions permanent. I ask NH Sens. Shaheen and Hassan to do all they can to ensure that this happens. I also encourage them to make sure the bill supports robust housing, including at least \$90 billion in rental assistance, with the highest possible amount for Housing Choice vouchers while targeting lowest income households and children. Together these provisions can cut child poverty in half in the U.S., stem the affordable housing crisis, and narrow the racial wealth divide. If the Recovery Bill also includes at least \$2 billion to scale up global COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity, we can all emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever before. With political will, miracles are possible.

— **Lucinda Winslow**

Antrim

Seacoastonline

Housing Choice Voucher program needs to be extended

October 29, 2021

To the Editor:

In reference to "Wrightsman: Why housing matters" (October 20), I am grateful to know that both Senator Hassan and Senator Shaheen support expanding the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Winter rentals in Hampton used to be an affordable option for a temporary home. I thought this might be a great way for a new college graduate to try "adulting" with an affordable budget., not far from home. That plan quickly dissolved when we found that the options available were about what you would expect for a one-bedroom year-round rental. It seems that done are the days of rent reduced by a third, during the winter months at the beach.

For those that need year-round housing, federal housing assistance programs are grossly underfunded, leaving three out of four eligible renters not getting help. As Congress works to pass an economic recovery bill, it must include investments in rental assistance, specifically Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs). These investments should target extremely low-income households, children, families, and people with disabilities.

If Congress decides to prioritize housing assistance in the recovery package, 2,000 households (4,000 people) in New Hampshire would benefit, including 1,000 children, 1,000 people with disabilities, and 1,000 seniors (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities).

In doing this, we can get millions stably housed and dramatically reduce homelessness. Congress can easily finance this investment by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes and giving the IRS the tools for enforcement.

I agree that we can need to tackle housing together and therefore urge our members of Congress to demand that Housing Choice Vouchers are expanded in the final recovery bill in addition to ensuring the 2021 EITC and CTC provisions are

made permanent. The new CTC is already lifting millions of children out of poverty and vouchers keep families housed, healthy, and safe.

— **Crystal Sexton**

Hampton

No online link

The Star-Ledger

A way to cushion the blow of lifting the eviction ban

July 13, 2021

By Star-Ledger Guest Columnist

By Jai Wilkins

Around 60,000 evictions are pending across the state, a small fraction compared to those waiting to be filed after the moratorium ends. Although vaccines are ramping up, the widespread poverty fueled by business closures, job loss, lack of child care, and compromised health has still not found a cure.

Newark, as it was during the pandemic, is gearing up to be the epicenter of the crisis. Nearly 80% of the city's residents are tenants, two-thirds of which are rent-burdened meaning more than 30% of their income is spent on rent alone. Along with a decades-long shortage of affordable housing statewide and a year that has put even the lower-middle class on arrears for rent payments, these lurking evictions will be devastating. While we may have ended lockdown, the future guarantees a growing number of lockouts.

The state moratorium's deadline of mid-August threatens to thrust people further down the socioeconomic ladder, causing problems for the rungs below and above.

Although state legislators have introduced bills for extensions, eventually the ban will be lifted. There is a line of families awaiting homelessness and it is only getting longer. We need a serious plan to cushion the blow.

The federal government has instituted many measures for short-term housing relief. In the wake of a world-changing year, however, the calls for permanent reform are greater than ever.

President Biden's campaign promises along with a recent "Dear Colleague" letter beginning to drum up support for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. Yet despite the talk, more urgent action is still being stalled.

Founded in the 1970s, Section 8 is the largest subsidy program run by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Program participants pay 30% of their adjusted income on rent, while the remainder of their payment is subsidized, helping to alleviate cost burdens.

The program has clear evidence of success. Among recipients, the poverty rate has been reduced by 43%. In New Jersey specifically, it has proven a critical piece of legislation to assist over 66,000 struggling families. Columbia University research even shows that if Section 8 was expanded nationwide to all qualified participants, it would move 9.3 million people out of poverty including 3.4 million children. Yet, in the program's current state, 77% of eligible households will never receive a voucher.

Coincidentally, as in-need families are continuously denied coverage due to voucher limits, the post-pandemic economy has made it harder to afford alternatives. Unemployment in New Jersey still hovers around 7.5% as around 30% of small businesses were lost last year. Meanwhile, as the pandemic-supported stimulus comes to an end, the funds for missed rent will dry up at the exact same time as opportunities to earn at that same level disappear, leaving everyone to scramble for slim pickings. Newark already has a housing shortage of around 16,000 units. It begs the question with so few options for shelter, what will families be left with when forced on the streets.

The people of New Jersey deserve not only to be safe from housing instability but to make gains in affordable and accessible housing. COVID-19 has enacted enough financial, emotional and societal trauma. With so many in danger of being displaced, how could we claim we reached a return to normal?

Senator Booker, Senator Menendez, and Representative Kim, please use this unique opportunity to put forth progressive and enduring housing legislation. Support a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program expansion to support all deserving and qualifying renters.

Jai Wilkins is from Burlington and recently transferred into the Class of 2024 at George Washington University to study political science.

<https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/07/a-way-to-cushion-the-blow-of-lifting-the-eviction-ban-opinion.html>

American Rescue Plan is good for nation's children

May 19, 2021

The American Rescue Plan was passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden in March. This act includes significant improvements in the tax code — expanding the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. These changes can cut child poverty in the U.S. in half. Some 4.1 million children will directly benefit from this change, and 5.75 million more will move closer up the poverty line. In New Mexico, this change will positively affect the lives of 454,000 children. Additionally, changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit include its expansion to 17 million low-income workers.

However, these changes are only temporary. They will expire in December unless our members of Congress ensure these changes are made permanent. Please contact Sens. Ben Ray Luján and Martin Heinrich and U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández and urge them to take action to powerfully change the quality of life for low-income families.

— Kathryn Sherlock

Co-Leader, RESULTS Santa Fe; Santa Fe

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/american-rescue-plan-is-good-for-nation-s-children/article_22bc6a0a-b8e3-11eb-99a3-c3021578b8aa.html

Las Cruces Sun News.

Make CTC and EITC permanent

June 20, 2021

Maria and Luiz Ruiz, of El Paso, are doing incredible and critical work with their Jem Ministries, helping children and families with food donations, (from the article "Still making a difference one person at a time" in the June 14 Sun-News). Thank you for highlighting their efforts! Our communities desperately need such efforts and such good news.

Equally important are other current stories that will change the face of child poverty, not only in New Mexico, but across America. Remember 1 in 4 children may go to bed hungry tonight in New Mexico. Recent COVID relief legislation has expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to provide needed assistance to low-income working families. Estimates show this will cut in half the number of children living in poverty.

That's incredibly good news. Not so good is that this assistance is temporary and will expire at the end of the year unless Congress makes the changes permanent.

Let's support working families. We need Maria and Luis, and we also need our members of Congress to do the right thing by families. Let our elected officials, including Rep. Yvette Herrell, know that you support efforts to end child poverty by making the CTC and the EITC changes permanent. It's the right thing to do.

— **Rich Renner**

Las Cruces

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/2021/06/20/letters-editor-fathers-day/7748515002/>

Las Cruces Sun News.

Make tax credits permanent

July 18, 2021

I agree with Rich Renner's letter from 6/20/21 to make CTC and EITC permanent.

As stated in his letter, the COVID relief legislation that expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) providing assistance to low-income families must be made permanent.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 454,000 children under 18 in New Mexico would benefit from a permanent expansion of the CTC. Almost half a million children would benefit. Additionally, by making these tax credits permanent we could reduce child poverty by 43% each year in New Mexico. Please let our elected officials know that one way they can help show support for the children of New Mexico is to make these changes permanent.

— **Elizabeth Staffeldt**

Las Cruces

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/2021/07/18/letters-editor-homelessness-las-cruces/8003408002/>

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Help our renters

September 11, 2021

Hundreds of Santa Fe County renters are facing imminent loss of their homes due to the ending of the COVID-19 eviction moratorium.

This crisis points up an ongoing shortage of affordable housing in New Mexico. More than 61,000 low-income families pay more than half of their monthly income on rent, meaning they have to choose between buying food and medicine and other needs.

The most efficient way to address this problem is the federal Housing Voucher Program, which subsidizes the difference between what a family can afford and the market rent. But, these vouchers are available to only 12,000 New Mexican families. The pending Budget Reconciliation Bill provides for \$180 billion in 10-year guaranteed funding for this program. The bill is being considered by committees in both Houses. So, now is the time to contact Sens. Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Luján and U.S. Rep Teresa Leger Fernández to urge them to fight for retaining that level of funding.

— **Robert H. Lurcott**

RESULTS Santa Fe, Santa Fe

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/idling-is-wasteful-and-bad-for-environment/article_283e4804-1199-11ec-9b99-7767c50be970.html

Build Back Better Act saves child tax credit

December 15, 2021

I am thrilled the House passed the Build Back Better Act in November. Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to afford a place to live. It also extends the new child tax credit payments, which already have lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty and helped millions of families pay the rent, put food on the table, find child care and more.

On Dec. 15, the next monthly child tax credit payment went out to American families. If the Senate does not pass the Build Back Better Act this month, that payment will be the last, forcing millions of children back into poverty in January. There is too much on the line for Congress to fail. The Senate must pass the Build Back Better Act. I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote yes.

— **Peter Roche**

Santa Fe

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/build-back-better-act-saves-child-tax-credit/article_3d148600-5d28-11ec-ad36-1bb2cf7965ff.html

The New York Times

Accolades for Biden's Relief Plan

March 11, 2021

To the Editor:

It is thrilling news that the stimulus bill has passed to battle the pandemic and poverty, with extended unemployment, food and rent relief, and tax credit expansions that could cut poverty in America by one-third.

Thank you, Mr. President and Congress, for protecting us from the pandemic and its economic fallout, while putting America on the road to equity!

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Wash.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/11/opinion/letters/biden-stimulus.html>

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Permanently expand credits in the effort to fight poverty

June 14, 2021

There is great economic inequality within the United States, and this problem is not far from home. Over 30% of Buffalonians live below the federal poverty line – in contrast, the national average is 14%. Buffalo struggles to provide financial security to many of its citizens, however some are more likely than others to experience this issue. In the East and West Side of Buffalo, half of all single parent households are living in poverty. Considering both of these communities are predominantly Black, these statistics further highlight the racial inequity persistent throughout the Queen City. One way the federal government can alleviate poverty within Buffalo is by permanently expanding the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax credit.

In an effort to support Americans impacted from the coronavirus pandemic, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act. This legislation expanded the reach that both the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit have. By decreasing the age of eligibility for the EITC, 17 million more low-income workers benefited from the tax credit – 900,000 of those from New York. Furthermore, by continuing the CTC, childhood poverty has been projected to decreased by 45% nationally and 87% within New York State.

If resources like these refundable tax credits were provided indefinitely, some financial relief could be had for thousands of Buffalonians.

— **Sarah Bargnesi**

Buffalo

https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-permanently-expand-credits-in-the-effort-to-fight-poverty/article_c4743108-cabc-11eb-a2c9-d3d24d45c430.html

Citizen Times

Cawthorn needs to address poverty

April 1, 2021

Dear Congressman Cawthorn,

As one of your 772,600 constituents, I was happy to read on your congressional website your "America First" issues. In particular, your statement that "a government's primary duty is to its citizens" encouraged me to write to you on behalf of a sizable number of our fellow citizens.

Your constituency is predominantly white (90.4%), most of whom live in our rural areas. However, a whopping 102,000, 13.2% of all your citizens, live in poverty, higher than the official US poverty rate (10.5%).

Breaking the statistics down even further, there are 33,900 families making less than \$15,000, whereas the median income in our district is \$51,884. How do they survive?

My statistics come from the US Census Bureau, 2019. Obviously, you did not create this problem, but it is yours and ours to fix. Please vote yea on appropriations to reduce poverty, such as housing assistance for low-income renters by enacting a refundable renters' credit, increasing the housing supply, and the like. More than that, become a champion of your people by sponsoring poverty-reducing legislation. Since you are in government now, I would think this is your primary duty.

— **Gerard Stamm**

Asheville

No online link available

Citizen Times

U.S. needs to help with global TB, education, poverty

April 6, 2021

Our members of Congress are deep into the process of crating the FY22 budget. Some critical items the United States has championed for many years are not getting the attention they deserve. In particular are global Tuberculosis, Global Partnership for Education and global nutrition. These three line items under the State Department's Development Assistance programs are critical items to maintain the United States presence in developing areas that will increase in importance as commercial trade partners over time.

Prior to COVID, TB was still afflicting 10 million and killing 1.4 million annually (2019 data). COVID has interrupted the treatment of TB, which is treatable and inexpensive to do so. BY maintaining U.S. assistance at \$1 billion we can make a huge impact. Before COVID we saw an estimated 617 million children around the world unable to reach even a minimum proficiency in reading and math. The GPE works with developing nations by requiring a significant portion of their annual budget be allocated to education as a condition for financial assistance. It is critical that the U.S. continues its \$150 million contribution. And global nutrition: 20% of children in the world (144 million) are malnourished due to extreme poverty. It is critical that the U.S. includes \$300 million to stop this carnage.

Contact your members of Congress. In an era of trillion dollar annual defense budgets and COVID relief packages we can surely find funding for these items.

— **Howard Berkowitz**

Candler

No online link

The News & Observer

Tax credits

May 20, 2021

Having just paid my taxes it makes me happy to think that starting this summer some of my money will go towards direct monthly payments to support families with children.

Columbia University estimates the new Child Tax Credit will cut child poverty by 45%.

I am willing to pay my share and hope that any forward-thinking corporation or person with wealth would be happy to do the same. I also hope I'm not alone in requesting that as part of pandemic recovery legislation my representatives in Congress — Rep. Deborah Ross and Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis — consider making permanent the 2021 CTC and Earned Income Tax Credit payments.

— **Patti Maxwell**

Cary

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article251468658.html>

The News & Observer

Rent Relief

June 7, 2021

It may feel like the pandemic is ending and everything is returning to normal, but we need to remember that far too many may soon lose their homes. President Biden's proposal for increasing the supply of affordable housing is a start, but we need Congress to expand federal rental assistance to all those in need.

Federal rental assistance doesn't cover everyone in need — only 1 in 4 eligible renters get assistance. Expanding assistance can help millions of families keep roofs over their heads.

Let's ensure our neighbors have stable housing. I urge Sens. Thom Tillis and Richard Burr and Reps. Deborah Ross and David Price to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. We need this legislation now.

— Maggie Cech

Durham

<https://www.newsobserver.com/article251947323.html>

Citizen Times

U.S. can lead global effort to provide vaccines

Summer 2021

An open letter to President Biden and Members of Congress: Much of the world is still affected by the COVID pandemic. While the U.S. has plentiful quantities of vaccine, many of our fellow citizens are refusing to take it and with the Delta variant, infection rates are starting to rise. Meanwhile, in much of the world not even health care workers have the option to receive a vaccination. Public and private efforts to develop safe, effective vaccines against the COVID pandemic in less than a year after it emerged was a Herculean effort. It is unconscionable for rich countries to hoard the resources and know-how that could end the devastation of COVID-19. Effective vaccines can end this pandemic, they they're not being produced fast enough to reach everyone who needs them. Nine out of 10 people in low-income countries will not receive a single COVID-19 vaccination dose this year. Across the continent of Africa, just one percent of the population is fully vaccinated.

President Biden, along with Congress, you have the responsibility, authority and obligation to lead a global effort to ensure communities across the globe have access to vaccines. Whatever it takes to marshal the resources within the U.S. and our allies to produce enough vaccine fast enough must be done. The cost is small compared to the loss of human lives. Whereas our annual defense expenditures make much of the world afraid of the United States motivations and agendas, a war on the pandemic will show the true nature of America while also ensuring the safety of all our citizens along with those of the our fellow inhabitants of the planet.

There is NO TIME TO WASTE. The Delta variant is spreading quickly and with new cases some new variants; potentially variants will evolve that are resistant to the vaccines. We can't wait for that possibility to occur. Please act NOW!

— **Howard Berkowitz**

Candler

No online link

Citizen Times

Schools need to teach all the facts of US history

August 1, 2021

Progressives continue to fail miserably at public relations and branding. Who possibly could have come up with “defund the police”? At a time that the nation was gripped with insecurity and fear the last thing that possibly could sway conservatives to support necessary policing reforms was “defund the police.” Now there is Critical Race Theory. What genius dreamed up this title? Although the United States is a great nation that has accomplished so much, and raised so many millions of people of all races out of poverty, our country has also taken some very bad actions and made some very bad mistakes. Rather than gloss over those mistakes, we should be taught actual history so they are not repeated and citizens can better understand the feelings of our many ethnic groups. We need to demand the education system teach all the FACTS of U.S. history, not just the “good ones.” Students need to know about the treatment of Native Americans, slavery and ensuing Jim Crow laws, concentration camps and mass killings in the Philippines in early 1900s, Japanese American internment camps during WWII, CIA’s overthrow of Iranian government in the early 1950s, etc. Learning about the good, the bad and the ugly FACTS of our nation will better equip us to understand the actions of our own citizens, as well as people around the world affected by U.S. foreign policy. It’s time for progressives to drop the cute titles and say what they mean.

— **Howard Berkowitz**

Candler

<http://ashevillecitizentimes.nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=15a34a923>



Does Rep. Budd care about working families?

September 21, 2021

If the United States does not have free childcare and also a work requirement in order for the Child Tax Credit to be fully refundable, can we say we are a nation that supports families? If anything, these kinds of legislation make it seem like our politicians really don't want us to have children. In the COVID relief bill of this year, the Child Tax Credit was expanded so that lower income folks, with incomes all the way down to \$0, were able to receive the full CTC refund. This expansion lifted an estimated 3.5 million children above the federal poverty line. Congress now has the chance to make this clearly beneficial change permanent in the upcoming infrastructure bill, but Senator Joe Manchin has expressed that he believes there should be a work mandate on the CTC. With unaffordable childcare and a work mandate on the CTC, what choice do low-income parents have? There is no pulling yourself up by your bootstraps when someone is nailing those straps to the ground.

I am urging Senator Tillis and Senator Burr to speak to leadership and ensure that the CTC expansion is made permanent. Families in North Carolina deserve their support.

— **Maggie Cech**

Durham

https://www.sanfordherald.com/archives/letter-does-rep-budd-care-about-working-families/article_bd301106-c01b-5e75-962b-0bb7800af0d6.html#tncms-source=login

The News & Observer

Tax Credits

September 27, 2021

I have let my congressional representatives know that I support a permanent extension of the Child Tax Credit. I would also like to see the Earned Income Tax Credit made permanent, as well as providing at least \$90 billion in rental assistance with a focus on Housing Choice Vouchers. Through anti-poverty programs millions can be lifted above the federal poverty line. The Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit changes put into place last March have already made a difference. It's time to keep that trend going, permanently.

— **Patti Maxwell**

Cary

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article254554892.html>

Citizen Times

Package needs to include programs of assistance to North Carolinians

October 24, 2021

Open letter To Senators Burr and Tillis: As time moves on, the Democrats are getting closer to a consensus on the reconciliation spending package. Neither of you have indicated support or intention to vote in favor of the increased spending (as well as taxes and closing of tax loopholes on the wealthiest Americans) when it comes to the floor for a vote. However, the Democrats have 51 votes to pass once they whittle it down to a level that the more financially conservative wing of the party can support.

Seeing this reality, please get involved in shaping the package to include programs that will be of great assistance to millions of North Carolinians. Consider how many of your constituents will benefit from access to affordable housing, addressing child poverty,

lowered cost of medicines for seniors on fixed incomes, ending the pandemic by working with other wealthy nations to provide vaccines for all humans on the planet....you get the idea. Please ensure the package the Democrats eventually pass will serve your constituents in North Carolina.

And a favor please while we have your attention: can you attempt to mentor NC-11 "Congressboy" Cawthorn and explain to him that his job requires him to get involved in legislation and that he too should work to get the reconciliation package to include those measures that will benefit those his constituents in his district.

— **Howard Berkowitz**

Candler

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?token=637606cba033099bf215ddd7c2b8affb&cnum=5bf3feb0-720c-e611-990a-90b11c343abd&fod=1111111STD-0&selDate=20211023&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

The Daily Record

CTC revisions need to be permanent

November 5, 2021

When we think about American values, family is at the very core. In some way, we all want to produce a fulfilling and meaningful life for our children. This is why we need to make revisions that have been made to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) permanent.

Unfortunately, members of Congress are actively trying to revoke these newly implemented CTC revisions. Without these benefits, low-income families will suffer. We can't advance as a nation if we ignore the cries of our most critical populations.

Since July 15th of 2021, monthly payments of the CTC have kept nearly 40 million families afloat and provided a stable environment for approximately 60 million children. Not only will this revision continue to support children of low-income families, but Niskanen Center projects that continued application will "boost consumer spending by \$27 billion" and "support over 500,000 full time jobs at the median wage."

I'm calling on Sen. Burr and Sen. Tillis to pass an economic recovery bill that will make the CTC's current provisions permanent, make the credit refundable, and ensure multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers.

— **Carter Davis**

Fayetteville

<https://www.mydailyrecord.com/stories/ctc-revisions-need-to-be-permanent,100416?>



Child care a barrier to federal aid

November 11, 2021

If the United States does not have free childcare and also a work requirement in order for the Child Tax Credit to be fully refundable, can we say we are a nation that supports families? If anything, these kinds of legislation make it seem like our politicians really don't want us to have children. In the COVID relief bill of this year, the Child Tax Credit was expanded so that lower income folks, with incomes all the way down to \$0, were able to receive the full CTC refund. This expansion lifted an estimated 3.5 million children above the federal poverty line. Congress now has the chance to make this clearly beneficial change permanent in the upcoming infrastructure bill, but Senator Joe Manchin has expressed that he believes there should be a work mandate on the CTC. With unaffordable childcare and a work mandate on the CTC, what choice do low-income parents have? There is no pulling yourself up by your bootstraps when someone is nailing those straps to the ground.

I am urging Senator Tillis and Senator Burr to speak to leadership and ensure that the CTC expansion is made permanent. Families in North Carolina deserve their support.

— **Maggie Cech**

Durham

<https://restorationnewsmedia.com/wakeweekly/news/child-care-a-barrier-to-federal-aid-3634979>



Reader urges Senate to follow House in passing Build Back Better Act

November 20, 2021

I am thrilled that the House has finally passed the Build Back Better Act. This bill is an historic investment in the American people.

Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty. But Congress is cutting it close; the CTC monthly payments are currently scheduled to end in December.

The bill now goes to the Senate. With so much on the line and the clock-ticking, the Senate must pass this bill as soon as possible. Americans have waited far too long for Congress to get this done.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote YES when it comes to a vote.

— Sharon Hartwell

Pittsboro

https://www.sanfordherald.com/archives/letter-reader-urges-senate-to-follow-house-in-passing-build-back-better-act/article_24ee3528-37f3-5f4e-a7e9-7baf64c816f8.html



Don't Blame Build Back Better for the Budget Bloat

November 24, 2021

I'm tired of hearing from politicians that we can't afford to spend any money on our people. Many of the arguments against the Build Back Better plan, which could have historic implications for safety net programs, are centered around "reckless spending" and expanding our national debt. If we really want to talk about reckless spending, let's talk about the engorged defense budget that makes up close to 50% of the discretionary budget every year. In the FY21 Discretionary Budget request, over \$600 billion was allocated for Defense, versus the almost \$500 billion allocated for Health & Human Services, Education, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, Energy, Housing & Urban Development, State Dept., and NASA combined. If we want to cut down on debt, why are we concerned about the smallest pieces of the pie? Why look at the few percentage points allocated to social programs like affordable housing and Child Tax Credits, programs that actually help people, when there is much more money being spent elsewhere?

To all of our representatives in North Carolina, stop quibbling about a few drops in the bucket and pass bills that will directly benefit working class citizens.

— **Maggie Cech**

Durham, NC

<https://restorationnewsmedia.com/wakeweekly/news/dont-blame-build-back-better-for-budget-bloat-2943199>



Spend money on people

November 26, 2021

I'm tired of hearing from politicians that we can't afford to spend any money on our people. Many of the arguments against the Build Back Better plan, which could have historic implications for safety net programs, are centered around "reckless spending" and expanding our national debt. If we really want to talk about reckless spending, let's talk about the engorged defense budget that makes up close to 50% of the discretionary budget every year. In the FY21 Discretionary Budget request, over \$600 billion was allocated for Defense, versus the almost \$500 billion allocated for Health & Human Services, Education, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, Energy, Housing & Urban Development, State Dept., and NASA combined. If we want to cut down on debt, why are we concerned about the smallest pieces of the pie? Why look at the few percentage points allocated to social programs like affordable housing and Child Tax Credits, programs that actually help people, when there is much more money being spent elsewhere?

To all of our representatives in North Carolina, stop quibbling about a few drops in the bucket and pass bills that will directly benefit working class citizens.

— **Maggie Cech**

Durham, NC

https://www.sanfordherald.com/archives/letter-spend-money-on-people/article_36f2d89c-2b72-51c7-bda7-1da4e6727c63.html

The News & Observer

Build families

December 5, 2021

It's time to get serious about passing the Build Back Better Act. The next child tax credit payment goes out Dec. 15 and if Build Back Better isn't passed, it will be the last payment.

Social programs in the 1950s contributed to family growth, which contributed to economic growth. According to a Pew Research Center survey released last month, 17% of non-parents ages 18 to 49 don't want to have children due to financial concerns.

Extending child tax credits another year, extending the earned income tax credit, adding 300,000 new housing vouchers for low-income renters, as well as paid family leave, can help families move forward — an important piece towards having a stronger economy.

I applaud recent passage of the infrastructure bill. Now it's time to focus on other things this country values — families and children — by passing Build Back Better.

— **Patti Maxwell**

Cary

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article256190897.html>



North Dakota's federal delegates should work to reduce child poverty, housing instability

April 24, 2021

Congress passed COVID relief in March that will provide relief to renters, but we can't stop there. We must invest in a robust recovery and correct long-ignored inequities in our economy that were exacerbated by COVID-19.

That communities in North Dakota need a strong social safety net is well illustrated by the recent article in the Herald (April 17) about [evacuating the Ambassador Motel](#). The city has declared it unsafe to occupy, so residents must find somewhere else to go. According to the article, one of these residents is only 2 years old.

Thankfully, we have local support, such as the Northlands Rescue Mission, Homeless Helpers, Spectra Health and the Grand Forks Housing Authority, to assist those in need of secure housing.

Congress passed COVID relief in March that will provide relief to renters, but we can't stop there. We must invest in a robust recovery and correct long-ignored inequities in our economy that were exacerbated by COVID-19. First, make housing assistance universal to all who qualify. No one should live under the constant threat of homelessness.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has released a report that explains the benefits of expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to all eligible households and how such assistance is a necessary complement to supply-side investments. The HCV program helps people with the lowest incomes to afford housing in the private market, by paying landlords the difference between what a household can afford to pay and the rent itself, up to a certain payment standard. Vouchers currently help more than 2 million low-income households afford decent, stable housing. Due to inadequate funding, however, only one in four households that are eligible for a voucher receive any form of federal rental assistance

Next, invest in workers and families by making the new Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate these housing and tax changes could reduce child poverty by almost two-thirds.

We can create an economy where workers are protected, families are housed, and children can reach their full potential. I urge our members of Congress, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to take these bold actions to reduce child poverty and housing instability in economic recovery legislation.

— **Kathleen Ness**

Grand Forks

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/6997035-Letter-North-Dakota's-federal-delegates-should-work-to-reduce-child-poverty-housing-instability>



North Dakota's federal delegates should vote to protect vulnerable children

May 26, 2021

After 102 years of service to North Dakota communities, Lutheran Social Services has had to file for bankruptcy. As reported in the Herald (May 19, 2021), overwhelming debt related to providing affordable housing in rural areas is the underlying cause. Evidently their over-extension was in response to the Oil Patch housing shortage during the Bakken boom.

This sad outcome points to the fact that it is unreasonable to expect charitable organizations to compensate for gross inequities in housing caused by market forces. It is time for us as a nation to face up to the actual costs visited upon communities and individuals.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, 24% of North Dakota's rental households are considered low-income, that is, earning no more than \$26,670 for a family of four. Based on HUD's Fair Market Rent, it takes \$33,647 in North Dakota to afford a two-bedroom rental home. At the same time, we have a shortage of 16,303 affordable rental homes for them. Fifty-eight percent of extremely low income renter households are severely cost-burdened: they do not have enough money to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves, even the 48% who usually work more than 30 hours per week.

There are public actions which can help, such as permanently expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC). According to a study conducted by Columbia University, North Dakota's share of children left out of the full Child Tax Credit is 21%; that is, their family's income is deemed too low for them to qualify for the tax credit, yet they are the most needful of all. Impoverished children need this support so they can be well nourished and have a roof over their head. The Earned Income Tax Credit also provides necessary funds for families.

Congress willd decide whether to make the expansion of the CTC and EITC permanent, not just a stopgap to address the effects of the coronavirus. I ask our members of Congress, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to favor this expansion, for the sake of our most vulnerable children.

— **Kathleen Ness**

Grand Forks

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/7042556-Letter-North-Dakota's-federal-delegates-should-vote-to-protect-vulnerable-children>



CTC, EITC changes must be made permanent

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year.

July 17, 2021

Starting July 15, most families can receive the new Child Tax Credit as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent, and bills, to middle-class families that need help with childcare and college savings. One important consequence is that four thousand children in our state of North Dakota will be lifted above the poverty line, according to research from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. According to the CBPP, in North Dakota that will affect the 40,000 children under 17 left out of the full \$2,000 Child Tax Credit in the prior law. But the CTC improvements, along with much needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our members of Congress, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year. The need is urgent. I ask that they cast their votes to lift families out of poverty and help all of our children to thrive.

— Kathleen Ness

Grand Forks

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/7113976-Letter-CTC-EITC-changes-must-be-made-permanent>



Housing assistance a critical need

September 18, 2021

To the Editor:

In our country, millions of Americans struggle to afford housing. According to Harvard researchers, since 1960, renters' median earnings have gone up 5% while rents are up 61% (adjusted for inflation). A worker making the prevailing minimum wage cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment in any U.S. state.

In spite of this dire need, only one in four eligible low-income renters receives federal housing assistance. Before the pandemic, an estimated 24 million of these low-income renters paid over half of their income for housing. Since they cannot afford their housing long-term due to chronic under-investment, even those eligible endure long wait times and greater harm due to prolonged housing instability. As a result, in 2020, 580,466 people were living on the streets and in shelters, and there were about 1.3 million homeless students enrolled during the 2018-19 school year. At present in Grand Forks, 122 school age children meet criteria for homelessness, according to Sue Shirek, the director of the Northlands Rescue Mission.

Children, families, and other extremely low-income households that include a member living with a disability who receives Supplemental Security Income should be given priority. To address this long standing neglect, Congress needs to include at least \$95 billion in guaranteed multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) in the budget reconciliation. Let's urge our members of Congress, Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Representative Kelly Armstrong, to pass legislation that ensures all eligible low-income renters the federal housing assistance they need.

— Kathleen Ness

Grand Forks

No online link



Recovery bill must focus on poverty

October 27, 2021

Congress is working on an economic recovery bill that will make life better for tens of millions of Americans. Included in the current proposals are two critical changes: making the 2021 changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) permanent and expanding the Housing Choice Voucher program. These changes will help those who are now struggling to afford food, rent, childcare, and other basic needs.

Critically, the Rescue Plan ensured that families with low incomes would get the full child tax credit (expressed as full refundability). In the past, extremely low-income Americans were ineligible for full credit. Full refundability needs to be made permanent because it would cut child poverty by more than 40%, raising 4.1 million children above the poverty line, according to research by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP). This component makes the overall Child Tax Credit expansion nearly eight times as effective in reducing child poverty as the previous standard.

Here in North Dakota, making the Earned Income Tax Credit temporary expansion permanent would benefit 39,300 residents. The CBPP also estimates that three thousand people in our state were assisted through the temporary housing voucher expansion, 1,000 of whom were people with disabilities.

The need for these expansions is evident. The new Child Tax Credit is already lifting millions of children out of poverty and vouchers keep families housed, healthy, and safe. All that is required now is the political will to act. I urge our members of Congress, Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Representative Kelly Armstrong to pass a recovery bill now that makes the 2021 Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit provisions permanent and guarantees multi-year

funding for Housing Choice Vouchers. If we care for the future of our nation's children, we can't afford not to.

— **Kathleen Ness**

Grand Forks

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/7253744-Letter-Recovery-bill-must-focus-on-poverty>



Keep Grand Forks housing in mind for newcomers

If a new factory is coming to town, housing could be an issue.

November 29, 2021

A wet corn milling facility that will be built in Grand Forks in the near future will bring an investment that local officials describe as “historic” (Nov. 6 Grand Forks Herald).

Columnist Mike Jacobs commented that the mill will create 1,200 jobs during its construction and more than 700 jobs once the mill is in operation (Nov. 10: “Bochenski shoots and scores”). These numbers represent people who will need a place to live, for themselves and their families. As Congress negotiates legislation under the Build Back Better Act, let’s keep these new Grand Forks residents in mind.

Congress should provide:

- \$22 billion in Housing Choice Vouchers to help more low-income renters find a place to live,
- \$100 billion for the Downpayment Toward Equity Act’s first generation down payment assistance program to provide people of color the opportunity to purchase homes through affordable, mortgage credit;
- \$1 billion for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program to ensure the nation’s private fair housing enforcement infrastructure can be sustained and continue to challenge housing and lending discrimination;
- \$20 billion for the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act (NHIA) to support the renovation of existing affordable housing stock, as provided by S.98 and H.R. 2143, which will result in approximately half a million homes built or

rehabilitated, creating a pathway for more families to buy a home and start building wealth over the next five years;

- \$250 million for the Fair Housing Assistance Program to ensure state and local government agencies can better enforce the Fair Housing Act.

Please join with me in asking Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski, and our North Dakota Congressional delegation, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to support legislation that will help newcomers to Grand Forks want to make our community their home.

— **Kathleen Ness**

Grand Forks

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/7300498-Letter-to-the-editor-Keep-Grand-Forks-housing-in-mind-for-newcomers?fr=operanews>



Extend child tax credit to keep kids healthy

The expanded credit benefits roughly 9 in 10 children across the country, and already data show most parents with low incomes are spending their CTC payments on food, housing, utility bills and education.

December 23, 2021

The passage of The Build Back Better Act by the House of Representatives in November extends the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments which nationwide have already lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty by helping families meet basic needs. The expanded credit benefits roughly 9 in 10 children across the country, and already data show most parents with low incomes are spending their CTC payments on food, housing, utility bills and education.

Columbia University researchers identify several large gains for children and society: lower neonatal mortality, greater health and longevity for children and parents, higher future earnings of child beneficiaries, lower costs of protecting children from abuse and neglect, greater safety from reductions in crime, increased future tax payments by child beneficiaries, and reduced expenditures on children's and parents' health care costs.

According to research from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, an estimated 4,000 children in North Dakota would be lifted above the poverty line by the CTC Expansion. According to ND Kids Count, 1 in 8 households in North Dakota with children do not have enough food. The ratio for families of color is even higher, at a 1:4 ratio. Extending the CTC payments can reduce the financial strain on families so children can receive adequate nourishment each day.

Changes to The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill that Senator John Hoeven is proposing, on the other hand, would exacerbate inequities, and make it harder for schools to provide healthy food for students. Reducing fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and

increasing salt and fats in school meals would weaken nutrition. The timing of this bill couldn't be worse, with childhood obesity and food and nutrition insecurity on the rise, thanks to the pandemic. Our most vulnerable children depend on school meals for nutrition. I ask Senator Hoeven to withdraw the proposed changes.

The CTC expansion truly represents an investment in our children. Please join me in asking our Senators, John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, to vote in favor of expanding the Child Tax Credit. Let's also ask Senator Hoeven to strengthen, not weaken, the quality of food we provide children in school.

— **Kathleen Ness**

Grand Forks

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-extend-child-tax-credit-to-keep-kids-healthy>

The Columbus Dispatch

COVID-19 relief provisions can greatly reduce child poverty in US

March 14, 2021

I am relieved that Congress has passed a new COVID-19 relief bill that will provide assistance to renters, increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45% by expanding the Child Tax Credit. It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by fixing vast inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty.

First, make Housing Choice Vouchers universal to all who qualify; currently, only one in four eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Columbus City Council has just taken steps toward more equity by prohibiting "source of income" discrimination for renters, but we must do more.

Workers and families must be protected by making the new earned income and child tax credits permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate that these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge our members of Congress from both sides to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation this year.

— **Virginia Vogts**

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/03/14/letters-abortion-minimum-wage-child-poverty/6939860002/>

More must be done to fight poverty in America

March 18, 2021

Catherine Rempell's column, headlined "Helping kids out of poverty," published Sunday, highlighted the impact on poverty, especially child poverty, that the COVID-19 relief bill provides. Astoundingly, child poverty will be cut by 45 percent by expanding the child tax credit. But The Chronicle-Telegram's reprint of The Washington Post editorial, headlined "Our tax code needs an overhaul," makes clear, this is a temporary fix unless we make permanent changes.

It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by lifting more children out of poverty. Protect workers and families by making the new earned income tax credit and child tax credit provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimated these combines changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds. In Ohio, an appealing 19.5 percent of children under the age of 18 live in poverty, including over 150,000 children under the age of 4, according to the June 2020 Ohio Poverty Report.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge our members of Congress, including Reps. Jim Jordan, R-Urbana, Bob Gibbs, R-Lakeville, Anthony Gonzalez, R-Rocky River, Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, and David Joyce, R-Chagrin Falls, and U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-Cleveland, and Rob Portman, R-Cincinnati, to take bold action to permanently and dramatically, reduce child poverty through recovery legislation this year.

— **Allison Gallaher**

Grafton

No online link available

The Columbus Dispatch

New Child Tax Credit needs to be permanent to help those in need

March 23, 2021

The Friday article by [Ceili Doyle "Help is on the horizon for rural Ohio children"](#) was an excellent follow-up on the federal Rescue Act provisions. Often, the safety net for low-wage workers is glossed over, when it is the real basis of an economic policy.

The only shortcoming of the Rescue Act was that the Child Tax Credit was only temporary. Making it a monthly refundable provision was a positive step to speeding up the recovery, but to sustain the anti-poverty impact for families living on the "cliff" created by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the new Child Tax Credit rules must be made permanent.

Please urge your members of Congress and both Senators to permanently reduce childhood poverty and change history for generations to come.

— **Kit Logsdon**

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/03/23/letters-judges-and-bail-earmarking-acton/4798095001/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Cut child poverty by making all Child Tax Credit changes permanent

May 24, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half – permanently.

The Biden administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45%! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Connie Hammond**

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/24/letters-making-tax-credits-permanent-can-greatly-reduce-child-poverty/5199750001/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Assistance should be extended to all eligible renters in economic recovery

May 24, 2021

Thanks for reporting on the success of the Move to Prosper project headed by Amy Klaben (Friday column 'Program helps vulnerable families thrive').

It's heartening to see 10 vulnerable families remain stable, especially during a pandemic, and expanding the project to 100 families is exciting. Yet, in central Ohio there are many thousands of equally worthy families who will not get the benefit of a Move to Prosper. All they are likely to get is evicted.

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Yet federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Joe Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allows low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge Sen. Rob Portman and Reps. Troy Balderson and Joyce Beatty to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Virginia Vogts**

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/24/letters-making-tax-credits-permanent-can-greatly-reduce-child-poverty/5199750001/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Congress needs to act so people in poverty can have housing stability

June 6, 2021

Thank you for featuring the May 29 Beth Fetzter-Rice opinion piece “Housing stability can lead to better health for pregnant women and their babies.”

The data presented supports two key priorities the Biden administration has highlighted in the proposed economic recovery package that will ensure a “safe and steady roof overhead,” the expansion of rental assistance to all eligible renters, also noted as universal housing (only one in four eligible receives this assistance now) and the permanent inclusion of two of our most effective tools at reducing poverty, the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, which at this time are only proposed for one year.

For far too long, the numbers of all those living in poverty have risen to new heights, long before the pandemic exacerbated them even further. However, the statistics for children living in poverty is even more staggering. In nine Ohio cities, more than half the children live in poverty. In another 39 cities, the poverty rate for children is at least 30%. In addition, on any given day, an estimated 10,655 individuals are experiencing homelessness in Ohio.

Fetzter-Rice’s work has demonstrated that state and federal programming can dramatically change lives — especially for our children. Through the expansion of rental assistance to all eligible renters, along with the permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, these policies will create a generational leap for millions of low-income Americans. A leap that will ensure a roof over their heads and the additional resources to thrive. Congress, we are counting on you to do the right thing.

— **Mary Casey**

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/06/letters/7504156002/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Proper funding needed to keep renters from becoming homeless

June 19, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Yet federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Joe Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Rebecca Mosher**

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/19/letters-householder-modern-day-hero-rental-assistance-hb-248/7715413002/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Tax breaks need to be permanent

June 23, 2021

American families are finally catching a break.

Starting July 15, most families can receive the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-\$300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent and bills to middle-class families that need help with child care and college savings. Go to www.childtaxcredit.gov to make sure you're getting it. And spread the word.

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year — and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Rebecca Mosher**

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/23/letters-scholar-athletes-inspire-tornado-safety-tax-breaks/7776458002/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Housing Choice Voucher program necessary and should be expanded

July 26, 2021

With the CDC's national eviction moratorium expiring at the end of July, Congress needs to act now to avoid a wave of evictions in the coming months.

is our nation's largest and most effective housing program. But only one in four renters can get a voucher because of inadequate funding. If we expand vouchers to all eligible renters and guarantee funding for the program each year, we could virtually end homelessness, reduce racial inequality, and save lives. And we can pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

America has been in a housing crisis for years; the pandemic only made it more conspicuous. Along with investing in building new housing, I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters through multi-year guaranteed funding for Housing Choice Vouchers.

— **Curtisa Paige**

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/07/26/letters-housing-choice-voucher-program-necessary-should-expanded/8067891002/v>

The Columbus Dispatch

Expanded Child Tax Credit makes sense

October 25, 2021

Thanks for the informative Oct. 15 guest column "Expanded Child Tax Credit should be made permanent column" by Professor Lauren E. Jones on the benefits of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the importance of making it permanent.

Lauren E. Jones is an Ohio State University Department of Human Sciences and John Glenn College of Public Affairs associate professor.

Too often we are reminded of the cost but not the enormous gains the poorest children experience. Her research, backed by 400 economists across the country, not only cited health and educational benefits for children but economic boosts to the family and community.

Prior to the expansion of the CTC when the pandemic hit, only 47 percent of children in the 3rd Congressional House District (Joyce Beatty) were eligible for it because their families made too little money! It was designed to exclude families making under \$12,500 a year.

These were the families that needed it the most. Now those children and many others are free of the pressure imposed by severe poverty. Surely, this is worth continuing and I hope our elected representatives will see that it is made permanent.

— Virginia Vogts

Columbus

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/10/25/letters/6134601001/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Urge Sen. Portman to support Build Back Better

December 7, 2021

Sen. Rob Portman was instrumental in negotiating the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, which was bipartisan; a rare accomplishment these days. Kudos to Sen. Portman.

Although the senator is retiring at the end of his term, he has the opportunity to continue his leadership by supporting the next iteration of restoring our country: President Biden's Build Back Better bill. This would be an extraordinary act given the position of the Republican Party, but he may be capable of taking such a stand.

It would help if he heard from us, his constituents. If he did, that would also be extraordinary.

Can we who believe the Build Back Better bill is indeed a once-in-a-generational opportunity to invest in people and climate control, muster the strength to make a call to encourage our junior senator to support Build Back Better?

I hope so.

— Virginia Vogts

Columbus

https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/12/07/letters-strahans-wasteful-space-trip-contributes-global-warming/8845266002/?utm_source=dispatch-Daily%20Briefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily_briefing&utm_term=li_st_article_headline&utm_content=OHIO-COLUMBUS-NLETTER65

THE PLAIN DEALER



Dave Joyce's heartening decision to work with AOC on expungement bill

December 9, 2021

In this time of chaos and division, it is encouraging to know that Bainbridge Township GOP Rep. Dave Joyce is working with New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on new legislation that would assist states to expunge criminal records for persons convicted of minor, nonviolent cannabis offenses ("Joyce, AOC introduce conviction expungement bill," Dec. 3).

This legislation would pave the way for economic opportunities that otherwise would hold back citizens, especially people of color, from jobs, housing, and other opportunities. Rep. Joyce is also a member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus, a group committed to finding common ground on key issues. Their membership is equally divided between Democrats and Republicans. We need more congressional members like Joyce and Ocasio-Cortez.

— **Donna Galetovich**

Chadron

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2021/12/dave-joyces-heartening-decision-to-work-with-aoc-on-expungement-bill.html>

Child tax credit is vital to helping children in poverty

December 16, 2021

I am pleased to see staff members of local, state and national officials volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank. The Chronicle-Telegram article published Saturday highlighted the urgent need in Northwest Ohio.

This year, the child tax credit (CTC) was transformed in the American Rescue Plan, extending benefits to families of nearly 1 million Ohio children whose income had been too low for eligibility. Additionally, families can choose to receive some of their credit as a monthly payment. Surveys conducted over the summer show that 47 percent of the Ohio families receiving monthly deposits spent it on food. Other uses included paying essential bills, buying clothing, reducing debt and building savings. The percent of families experiencing severe food insecurity was reduced by almost 50 percent.

The permanent expansion of the CTC, part of the Build Back Better Act stalled in the Senate, would cut the number of children experiencing poverty in half. I hope that when the volunteers returned from Second Harvest, they reported CEO Julie Chase-Morefield's urgent message – failure to extend the CTC and the monthly payments could lead to a surge in food insecurity. The Senate must act to pass Build Back Better.

There are over 13,000 children in Lorain County experiencing poverty. In his last year in office, will U.S. Sen Rob Portman, R-Cincinnati, act to make their lives safer or throw them back into the cycles of poverty they are starting to leave behind? I urge him to show the courage to do the former.

— **Allison Gallaher**

Grafton

No online link



Make sure rental assistance, affordable housing priority during populatn growth

May 23, 2021

A recent article pointed out that Tulsa Metro surpassed the 1 million population milestone, putting us in a position to compete for the attention of companies (["Tulsa area population tops 1 million for first time, Census Bureau data says,"](#) May 5).

But at what cost?

From a developer's perspective, this is an opportunity to purchase land at a lower cost. But this land is also desperately needed to fulfill Tulsa's already unmet housing needs as Tulsa's population outpaces the availability of affordable housing.

Our city can grow sustainably in a way that supports economic growth through new development without sacrificing opportunities to ensure available affordable housing to residents.

We must make sure rental assistance is available to people who cannot keep up with the rising cost of rent while also promoting mixed-use zoning which will allow residents and commercial properties to be in one building.

This will ensure that people are not displaced for the sake of economic development and allows developers to reduce their payments on properties as they are shared between owners at lower rates.

I hope U.S. Rep. Kevin Hern will support these solutions to fuel the long-term growth of Tulsa's population and economy for both residents and developers.

— Jacoby Gonzales

Tulsa

https://tulsaworld.com/opinion/letters/letter-make-sure-rental-assistance-affordable-housing-priority-during-population-growth/article_a74c3766-b84b-11eb-ac14-33e923b42797.html



Keeping us informed and reminding us our voices matter

April 4, 2021

Dear Editor:

Stopping over in Ontario, I was grateful to read a copy of the Sunday Argus Observer. Affordable housing is a national crisis, good to see local action being taken.

(‘Affordable housing project to have 70 units’ by Leslie Thompson, The Argus Observer, March 28, 2021)

There is movement right now in Congress to have solutions to the housing crisis be a part of the Build Back Better infrastructure package. The Argus also gives us the way to help make this happen, listing the contacts for Oregon and Idaho Lawmakers on page A4. By calling and writing our members of Congress, asking them to include solutions to the housing problem, we can be a part guiding our government to deal with equitable legislation that helps all Americans.

So thanks to the Argus, for keeping us informed and for reminding us our voices matter.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

https://www.argusobserver.com/opinion/keeping-us-informed-and-reminding-us-our-voices-matter/article_d92ae55c-9190-11eb-802b-f3d36cd99390.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Yes, It's Time To Really Help The Homeless

April 15, 2021

Shannon Wilson's recent plea about local action on the housing crisis ("Building a Luxury Hotel While People Sleep in the Streets," Letters 4/8) comes at the right time and sets a good example. This is a time where America is clearly faced with a fork in the road: equity, or the status quo that leaves the majority of Americans behind. With 10 million Americans paying over 50 percent of their income for housing, the increasing number of hungry, homeless and the unemployed, it is time for this critical choice.

The recent COVID relief bill began the road to equity, but most of the bill is temporary. The increase in the child and earned income tax credits alone could cut child poverty in half, if made permanent. So use your voices, a privilege in our democracy, to write, call and virtually visit your members of Congress, calling on them to make these tax credit increases permanent and pass new housing legislation and other bills to help our country travel the road to equity. Then follow up, follow up, follow up.

If we stay silent, the choice will be made without us, most likely continuing the status quo.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2021/04/15/yes-its-time-to-really-help-the-homeless/>

Child care support

May 19, 2021

Exciting to see child care finally getting support, with locally 70 percent still in need ("COVID grant supports child care" in the Columbia Gorge News, May 11).

Lack of child care and affordable housing are two of the reasons there is little mobility in our country for low income earners, people of color being hit extra hard.

Now is the time for our government to take bold steps to turn around this crisis in basic needs. Step one was the American Relief Plan, which included increases in the Child and Earned Income Tax Credit. The next step can make these increases permanent and increase funding for affordable housing, especially the Housing Voucher Program that currently serves only 25 percent of those who qualify.

Calling, writing, and visiting those who represent us — thank them for step one and ask them to pass these and other critical initiatives.

This is how we build the political will to put America on the road to equity.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Wash.

https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-may-19-2021/article_aae887d8-b7f8-11eb-a31f-43823a7c86bd.html



Tell Congress To Help Renters

July 8, 2021

Great to see local efforts to provide affordable housing (“Affordable Housing Rises from the Rubble” by Henry Houston, EW 6/23). Congress is currently considering legislation that would increase the affordable housing supply, increase funding to the Housing Voucher Program which currently only serves one-fourth of the people who qualify, and create a renters tax credit to help low income renters pay only 30 percent of their income for rent instead of 50 percent and more.

By asking our members of Congress to support these initiatives we can be a part of the solution to the housing crisis. Isn't a five-minute phone call (202-224-3121) to our representatives worth avoiding a tsunami of evictions?

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2021/07/08/tell-congress-to-help-renters/>



Ask representatives to address housing

August 3, 2021

Increasing homelessness is a major problem locally and across the country (“Corvallis Council backs massive annexation, homeless cleanups” by Jim Day, July 19).

Two initiatives in Congress can provide relief. The first is increasing funding for the Housing Voucher Program so it can reach all who qualify, instead of just the one in four it currently serves. The second is legislation that would increase the amount of affordable housing available. We can help by asking our representatives to support and pass these and other initiatives that address America’s housing crisis.

Our calls and letters increase the political will that creates action to end the tragedy of homelessness.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

https://democratherald.com/opinion/letters/mailbag-ask-representatives-to-address-housing/article_78917b73-2dca-563a-8701-aaaedb772f47.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Cai Emmons Reminds Us To Take Action

September 16, 2021

Thanks so much for the inspirational story of Cai Emmons (“A Final Chapter” by Ella Hutcherson, EW 9/2). So exciting to read how she and her partner make the most of each moment, a sense of urgency in their lives and writing. Brings back memories of my brother Bob, his terminal diagnosis from cancer (lived 15 years after that), the unknown question of when, and the urgency with which he volunteered with RESULTS (results.org) to bring an end to the worse aspects of hunger and poverty.

He would have been so pleased to see the president’s agenda for American families, cutting poverty, helping to end homelessness, and so much more. Perhaps we can be inspired to action, realizing in a democracy our voices matter: thanking the president (202-456-1111) and encouraging our senators and representatives (202-224-3121) to support the president’s life-changing family agenda.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2021/09/16/cai-emmons-reminds-us-to-take-action/>

Thank you Congress

December 15, 2021

Thanks to Congress and Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley for the millions coming to rural health providers to keep up their critical COVID work. (“Wyden, Merkley: More than \$118M in COVID Relief headed to Oregon” in Columbia Gorge News, Dec. 7, 2021). This is from the American Rescue Plan Act. Monies that reached families with children came faster in the form of monthly payments from the increased Child Tax Credit. This initiative has raised over three million children out of poverty. The House just passed an extension to this critical tax credit that helps families buy food, pay rent, and transportation to work. Time to ask Sens. Wyden and Merkley to work to pass this in the Senate as well. The extension of the Child Tax Credit is part of the Build Back Better legislation that also targets the housing crisis and high drug prices. Our calls to the Senators (202-224-3121) asking for their support in passing this bill can make all the difference for families.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Wash.

https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-dec-15-2021/article_b9b02972-5d22-11ec-8faf-27159097c7c6.html

THE REPORTER

Bold action can reduce poverty

April 2, 2021

I am relieved that Congress has passed a new COVID relief bill that will provide relief to renters, increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45 percent by expanding the Child Tax Credit - with a monthly child allowance helping families each month starting in July.

It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by fixing vast inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty. First, make Housing Choice Vouchers universal to all who qualify; currently, only 1 in 4 eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Next, protect workers and families by making the new EITC and child allowance provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge our members of Congress to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation this year.

— **Dr. David Ehrenkrantz**

Wyncote

https://www.thereporteronline.com/opinion/letter-to-editor-bold-action-can-reduce-poverty/article_067ab9f4-93ff-11eb-b8a1-230f3dfc2097.html

Courier Times

We can cut child poverty in half

May 23, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45%. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in-recovery legislation.

— **David Dunkleberger**

Doylestown Township

<https://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/story/opinion/2021/05/23/lte-we-can-cut-child-poverty-in-half/5206386001/>

The Sentinel

Make affordable housing a priority

November 1, 2021

A recent Sentinel article lauded Safe Harbour, a local nonprofit, for bounding through the funding hoops to bring 40 new units of affordable housing to Carlisle. There is no doubting the need when 43% of all our Cumberland County neighbors are housing cost burdened. That means they devote 30% or more of their income to housing. A progressively heavier burden is borne by families making the median income or less.

When I moved into the area in 1971, I bought a house whose mortgage payments were about 15% of my income. I could have rented for a comparable burden.

That's how much things have changed in 50 years. Housing cost increases have outpaced incomes by a lot. Too many families have much less than I did to cover expenses after housing (health, food, transportation, child care, insurances, college).

Lawrence Eppard's essay in the Sentinel documented costs to children (and our society) when growing up in low-income households – a big part of "low-income" resulting from high housing costs.

The 40 units to be built depend on wealthy investors stepping up to qualify for a federal tax credit. This is an incredibly backward way to build housing.

There is also a long history of affordable housing assistance in the form of housing choice vouchers. Renters pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent and the rest is covered by the voucher, but the program has never reached more than a fourth of those eligible.

Wouldn't it be reasonable to expand this existing program?

We have three nearby Congressmen who should support making housing choice vouchers available to all who qualify. Where do U.S. Representatives Joyce (13th

District), Keller (12th), and Perry (10th) stand? If they don't like the idea, they owe us to explain why not.

— **Bruce Kessler**

Newville

https://cumberlink.com/opinion/letters/letter-make-affordable-housing-a-priority/article_0b16ff3c-faba-5572-821e-944d6255630d.html

Greenville News

Why pandemic-era tax credits shouldn't end

September 13, 2021

The new child tax credit (CTC) monthly payments started in July, and they are already having a profound impact. Researchers at Columbia University estimate that the monthly child poverty rate dropped by 25 percent after the payments started, lifting 3 million children above the poverty line. This is an amazing accomplishment that will only improve as more people get signed up.

But these CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after this year. We cannot let this happen. We can make these provisions permanent now, funded with fairer taxes on the rich and corporations.

If you are not getting the CTC payments, go to www.GetCTC.org and sign up. Next, contact your members of Congress, telling them to make the new EITC and CTC changes permanent, including full refundability of the CTC for all low-income families, in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Renee Parsons**

Simpsonville

<https://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/2021/09/11/letter-why-pandemic-era-tax-credits-shouldnt-end/5767512001/>



Congress should expand rental assistance

May 7, 2021

President Joe Biden's economic recovery proposal thankfully includes resources to increase the supply of affordable housing. However, without expanding rental assistance, millions won't be able to afford it. Due to inadequate funding, only one in four eligible low-income renters gets federal rental assistance. The proposed budget includes 200,000 new housing vouchers for next year. If split equally, that would be 460 vouchers per congressional district. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett's district has over 16,000 severely cost-burdened renter households – those whose income is less than 30% of the area median income paying over 50% of their income towards housing. U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann's district has almost 15,000.

Due to historical inequitable policies, people of color are more likely to be renters, severely cost burdened, evicted, or homeless. The most marginalized groups before the COVID-19 pandemic, they are most financially affected by it.

Any economic recovery plan should consider these burdens and disparities to determine what assistance will have the greatest impact on those most in need. Let's call on Congress to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters.

— Anne Child

Oak Ridge

No online link available



Congress should help renters hit by pandemic

October 17, 2021

The article 'High rents hit Black families hardest' lays out the disparity in housing, both rental and ownership. According to Harvard researchers, between 1960 and 2018 rent expenses went up 61% while renters' median earnings went up only 5%. Federal housing assistance programs have long been grossly underfunded, leaving three out of four eligible renters stuck on waiting lists, facing homelessness.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, rent continued to climb as low-income jobs dried up. Millions of Americans, once one crisis away from eviction, have encountered that crisis. Affordable housing is critical for the well-being of families and our country. People with stable housing earn more, are healthier and do better in school.

As Congress haggles on the size and scope of an economic recovery bill, it should invest at least \$90 billion in rental assistance funding, focusing on housing choice vouchers along with the supply of affordable housing. This will not only stably house millions of renters, it will shrink the racial wealth divide and inequities of housing.

Estimates predict this will benefit 45,000 low-income Tennessee families severely burdened with rental expenses. Let's call on our elected officials representing Tennessee in the U.S. Congress to remember renters.

— Anne Child

Knoxville

https://knoxvillenews-tn.newsmemory.com/?publink=2eea762a9_1345f6d



Build Back Better Act addresses poverty in Tennessee

December 3, 2021

Our state and country are blessed with many politicians working to prevent wasteful spending. Unfortunately, this divested programs that create a brighter future and left many in dire circumstances today. The Build Back Better Act bill is a historic investment in the American people. It means that 300,000 low-incomerenter households — 6,100 in Tennessee — will finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live, offering stability for attending school, finding work and living healthy. The bill also extends child tax credit payments, already lifting more than 3 million children, including 90,000 Tennessee kids, out of poverty.

But Congress is cutting it close; the CTC monthly payments are scheduled to end this month. Passed by the House, the Senate considers the bill soon. Though likely to pass only along party lines, the country would be thankful if Congress could get together to pass Build Back Better now.

— **Anne Child**

Oak Ridge

No online link

Austin American-Statesman

Our representatives should expand rental assistance

May 24, 2021

While Austin struggles to house the homeless, the pandemic continues to exacerbate the underlying crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay rent. Yet [federal rental assistance only covers 25% of eligible renters](#) due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed [building affordable housing](#) in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. [Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program](#), allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. [Studies show](#) that families [with stable housing](#) earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

Our representatives, and Sens. Cornyn and Cruz, should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year and help struggling Texans afford a safe home.

— **Ginger Hansel**

Austin

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/24/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-may-25-2021/5201791001/>

Eviction Ban

August 6, 2021

Housing is not now, nor ever will be, considered a human right within our system. Human necessities such as housing, food and water, and health care are considered commodities from which profit may be obtained. But there have been times in our history with conditions so dire, such as the Great Depression, that at least some means were instituted, such as Social Security and unemployment insurance, to help pay for these needs. We are now in similarly dire times, due to an unprecedented pandemic, which is far from over, with respect to the coming catastrophe of a massive number of evictions and foreclosures of renters and mortgages. Large and small landlords will lose their properties, since renters can't pay. Renters will thus lose their homes and apartments, and homeowners will lose their houses. To add insult to these injuries, wealthy investors, private equity firms and banks will snatch up these properties for future gains. The above scenario is preventable with an infusion of government aid. The aid will not only help individuals but the economy as a whole. It will prevent an enormous increase in homelessness, which is itself a drain on the economy. Most importantly, it is the moral and right approach to prevent mass suffering when its coming is so surely known.

— **Shaun Smith**

Houston

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Opinion-Needles-weren-t-big-and-vaccine-was-no-16366949.php>

Housing and food security

September 9, 2021

Regarding "Opinion: Ease the daily fear for families, make the Child Tax Credit permanent," (Sept. 5): I am in complete agreement with this message coming from a community stalwart: the Houston Food Bank. Making the Child Tax Credit extension permanent is very important; however, one other powerful program not mentioned which was included in the American Rescue Plan is long-term rental assistance through Housing Choice Vouchers. When combined with the Child Tax Credit, Housing Choice Vouchers will do even more to lift families out of dire poverty. When children have a safe, affordable place to live, research shows all kinds of good things happen: they're more likely to stay in school and have better health outcomes. Letting these extensions return to pre-COVID pandemic funding levels at the end of 2021 would likely cause families to fall back into dire poverty. Pre-pandemic, these vouchers were reaching only one in four eligible families; the holdup is funding. There is simply not enough money. We need the attention of both Texas U.S. Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz to voice support for \$180 billion in guaranteed, multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers in recovery legislation.

— **Kathleen Duncan**

La Porte, RESULTS volunteer

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Opinion-Stop-it-with-the-booster-club-cheers-for-16443898.php>



Urge your representatives to push for equity like Biden's rescue plan

March 30, 2021

President Joe Biden speaks during an event on COVID-19 vaccinations and response, in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus on Monday, March 29, 2021, in Washington. *Evan Vucci, Associated Press*

A new normal of equity is exactly what America deserves after the COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on what needs improvement (["What should a 'new normal' look like?"](#) March 24). The American Rescue Plan was a good start, especially the increases in the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit that have the power to cut child poverty by 45%.

Now is the time to thank our members of Congress and ask them to continue to pass equity legislation to bring America to a new normal with equity for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/3/30/22358619/letter-urge-your-representatives-to-push-for-equity-like-bidens-rescue-plan>



Working should not lead to poverty

May 27, 2021

I appreciate Rep. Blake Moore's solutions-oriented, pro-growth and inclusive approach to supporting families, workers and businesses, while doing away with divisive rhetoric and litmus tests.

But I have one quibble. He worries that unemployment insurance bonuses may keep potential employees from taking work, pointing out that nearly half of recipients are currently earning more than they did from their old jobs.

We tend to incentivize work for the rich by giving them more money: "If taxes are too high executives won't work," while incentivizing the poor to work by taking money away. And perhaps without fully understanding their circumstances. Does a single mom have access to affordable child care, for instance? And should we force workers back into poverty wages?

People who work for a living should not be living in poverty. The bipartisan earned income tax credit could bridge the gap between poverty wages and a living income. I advocate supporting the EITC in any future recovery package Congress approves.

— **Georgia Platts**

South Jordan

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/5/27/22451641/letter-working-should-not-lead-to-poverty>



Together, we can make a difference for children

June 5, 2021

Working full time and still paying over 50% of income on rent, too often resulting in having to choose between food and bills. Making the recent increases to the child and earned income tax credits permanent can make a big difference.

The housing choice vouchers program is also a powerful and proven solution, but currently reaches only 25% of those who qualify. Congress can act to make the tax credit increases permanent and expand the vouchers program to reach all who qualify. Contact your representatives and ask them to do just that. Together we can encourage these changes and make a difference for millions.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/6/5/22463890/letter-together-we-can-make-a-difference-for-children>

The Salt Lake Tribune

American families are finally catching a break with Child Tax Credit payments

July 18, 2021, 7:00 a.m.

The new Child Tax Credit monthly payments have started. Most families will now get an extra \$250-300 from the IRS each month to help with rent, food, childcare and medical costs. If you did not receive a payment, go to www.childtaxcredit.gov to see if you qualify.

This new CTC is a game-changer, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after a year. We cannot lift millions of American workers and children out of poverty only to force them back into poverty a year later. Congress must make these provisions permanent.

We cannot let workers and families down. I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year -- and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Greg Hogan**

Salt Lake City

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2021/07/18/letter-american-families/>



Support the social safety net in the budget plan

No matter what party you belong to, families matter, as does equity in our country

September 3, 2021

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, leaves a Republican policy luncheon as the Senate moves from passage of the infrastructure bill to focus on a massive \$3.5 trillion budget resolution, a blueprint of President Joe Biden's top domestic policy ambitions, at the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021. Andrew Harnik, Associated Press

There is great hope for families and, therefore, America's future, on the horizon with the pending "social safety net" legislation. ("How the social safety net in a \$3.5 trillion budget plan might impact families," by Lois M. Collins, Deseret News, Aug. 25) This budget plan would continue the recent relief that cuts child poverty in half, improve educational equity by funding preschool and community college, and broaden health care coverage, critical in the era of pandemics.

While it is not bipartisan currently, we can ask those who represent us to vote for it. No matter what party, families matter, as does equity in our country. This legislation would take steps to bring hope to both.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish, Washington

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/9/3/22656339/support-3-5-trillion-budget-plan-biden-families-safety-net>

The Salt Lake Tribune

The reconciliation bill holds promise of enormous return on a modest investment

October 28, 2021

When we elect our local, state or national leaders, we hire them to be our investment brokers. We entrust them to invest our pooled tax contributions wisely, for the betterment of our community.

The \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill is an opportunity to invest in the futures of American families. It will support our children with child tax credits, establish medical and family leave to care for newborn infants or ill family members, support affordable childcare and provide universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds. It will build a skilled workforce by providing two free years of community college, reduce drug prices, improve Medicare for our elders and start to address climate change.

Our elected investment brokers seem reluctant to support these investments in our community, claiming that it “costs” too much. But are we really “investing too much” in our children’s future ... investing too much in our future workforce ... investing too much in our economy?

The 3.5 trillion dollars is spread over ten years, so it is \$350 billion invested each year, or an average of \$1,049 per year for each American. According to the Tax Foundation, if you make less than \$79,000 your individual tax share will be less than \$30.41 each year (8 cents/day). We all stand to get an enormous return on a very modest investment.

Now this is such a great opportunity, with such a dramatic beneficial return, it is clear to me that our brokers should jump on this investment.

Now, if I could just get my broker (my congressman) to return my calls.

— **William E. Cosgrove**

Cottonwood Heights

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2021/10/28/letter-reconciliation/>

The Salt Lake Tribune

Will Sen. Romney have the courage to stand up for Utah's children and Utah families?

November 25, 2021

The Build Back Better plan is a once-in-a-generation investment in our human infrastructure. It will directly help Utah families. It lowers child care costs, provides for preschool education for all 3 and 4 year-olds, provides some paid family leave to care for infants or the ill, expands the Child Tax Credit, improves free school meals, invests in in-home care for our elders, addresses our nation's urgent housing crisis, lowers the high cost of prescriptions, reduces the Medicaid coverage gap, reduces premiums for ACA medical insurance, and takes the first bold steps to counter future devastations from global warming.

All of that is accomplished without raising taxes on the bottom 98.2% of taxpayers. Only those earning more than \$400,000 will see their taxes rise.

With such great potential good for Utahns, and so little cost, why have our four congressmen voted against it? Do they not see the direct benefits to families? Not see the indirect benefits to Utah businesses in freeing up parents to work, and improved education for the workforce in the next decade? Do they lack knowledge, or do they lack the courage to stand up for Utah families?

Soon Sen. Mitt Romney, winner of the 2021 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award, will face the same challenge. The fate of this law, the fate of our families, will likely come down to a single senator's vote. Should Joe Manchin fold under political pressure, will Sen. Romney have the courage to stand up for Utah's children and Utah families?

— **William E. Cosgrove**

Cottonwood Heights

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2021/11/25/letter-will-sen-romney/>

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Keep support to end child poverty forever

May 19, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

President Joe Biden's administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for younger workers, and others not raising children, and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but the U.S. Congress must make all of the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45%. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share of taxes.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

Lauren Bennett.

Midlothian.

— **Lauren Bennett**

Midlothian

https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-may-19-2021-keep-support-to-end-child-poverty-forever/article_21450b50-7867-5cec-8d3a-41ca6fd759fe.html

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Cut child poverty, make tax credits permanent

May 19, 2021

I am writing in response to the May 14 op-ed by Amanda Little, "A baby boom would be bad."

Little brings up some interesting points in response to those who want to raise fertility rates to shore up economic growth, and ensure that we do not become a graying nation. This reminded me of an April 27 story in The New York Times, "A Population Bust." It outlined the ups and downs of a population fall, as well as the factors contributing to the slowdown. One of these factors is the American society's failure to support families.

As Little noted, before clamoring for more mouths to feed, we need to recognize the realities of world hunger, as well as the pressures of global warming, both worldwide and in the U.S.

We also must support and value American mothers, children and families. One way we can do this is by lessening the burden of costs for families with children, and reduce their chances of eviction and homelessness by expanding rental assistance to all who are eligible. We also must make recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) permanent. These changes, which expire next year, will benefit 17 million low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45%.

By addressing these issues for American families, we can start to imagine a young, thriving, well-housed and well-fed nation.

In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge our Virginia members of the U.S. Congress to expand rental assistance to all who qualify, and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

— **Michaela Mishoe**

Richmond

https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-may-20-2021-cut-child-poverty-make-tax-credits-permanent/article_fa30331d-3513-5c49-9820-37bfe81749c0.html

The Daily Progress

Extended federal aid can cut child poverty

June 19, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half.

Some 13% of children under 18 in Virginia live in poverty, a rate that rises to 16.4% in our 5th District. For families with a single female householder or parent, the number skyrockets to an estimated 35.8% of children under the age of 18.

In March, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan, legislation that expands two of our most effective tools at reducing poverty — the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Refundable tax credits, including these two programs, lifted 7.5 million people out of poverty in 2019. This year's CTC expansion is projected to cut child poverty by 45% over the next year.

These changes are a generational leap for millions of low-income Americans. However, the CTC changes will expire next year, erasing much of the progress we make. Congress can prevent that from happening. In March, more than 120 national and state organizations called for a permanent expansion of the CTC to ensure reductions in child poverty continue beyond this year.

Of equal importance in the fight against poverty is housing. For example, federal assistance programs can help only 23% of households that are eligible for housing vouchers.

We must value and support Virginia's mothers, children and families. We can lessen the burden of costs for low-income families with children, and reduce eviction and homelessness with assistance for all eligible renters.

I urge Congressman Bob Good to work to extend the CTC changes or to make them permanent, and to support the expansion of rental assistance to all who qualify.

— **Susan M. Shultz**

Albemarle County

https://dailyprogress.com/opinion/letters/opinion-letter-extended-federal-aid-can-cut-child-poverty/article_ed1ffa24-d05c-11eb-b3df-57e463df08eb.html



Stay the course and hope for a better future

March 11, 2021

To the editor — Thanks for the excellent editorial about our current COVID-19 situation -- hope with caution: "Enjoy Phase 2, praise the pause— but don't relax," by the Herald-Republic editorial board (March 5).

Good news with having three vaccines and the recent pandemic relief bill passing the House and now the Senate, with only a few final changes to be agreed to. So time to thank our members of Congress for this work, thank each other for keeping our masks on, and the Yakima Herald for keeping us informed during these difficult times.

Stay the course, we are almost there, encouraging words, and hope for an even better future with the increase in the child tax credit in this latest relief bill. So take a few minutes for thanks and reminding all to keep up the positive work!

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-stay-the-course-and-hope-for-a-better-future/article-355bca85-cabd-5839-ab7a-447dc50ad9d1.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



A good start to solving poverty in America

March 15, 2021

I am relieved that Congress has passed a new COVID relief bill that will provide relief to renters, increase the EITC for low-wage workers, and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45 percent by expanding the Child Tax Credit.

It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by fixing vast inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty. First, make Housing Choice Vouchers universal to all who qualify; currently, only 1 in 4 eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Next, protect workers and families by making the new EITC and CTC provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge our members of Congress to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation this year.

— Diana Tyree-Eddy

Hansville

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/03/15/good-start-solving-poverty-america/4705362001/?fbclid=IwAR3DeXq0WVb0BZKbh48sit3ETaBH2eO8qSg9rJRpmqhkG9jwT9b9Vku9q1Q>

We pay our share, maybe ultra wealthy should as well

March 18, 2021

Regarding the Sun's March 14 editorial cartoon, showing a caricature of President Biden slyly lifting a woman's purse while she beams and comments, "Who's going to pay for this wonderful Covid \$1400 check?" — Yes, most of us will pay for it! The same way we continue to pay for welfare to the very rich. But there's a difference.

With the expansion of the Child Tax Credit in President Biden's American Rescue Plan, 27 million kids will be helped and child poverty in the U.S. will be cut in half. This will benefit our entire society.

Moody's Analytics estimates that for every \$1 spent on state and local government safety net services, the local economy grows by \$1.39. That's an immediate return on the dollar. For instance, for every dollar spent on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the local economy grows by \$1.64. For every dollar spent on Earned Income Tax Credit, the local economy is enhanced by \$1.23. That's because people in need spend the money.

The richest one-tenth of 1% in our rich country owns about as much wealth as the bottom 90%, in large part because of tax loopholes. America's bottom half pays an annual tax on over half of its wealth. But the top 1% pay no annual tax on almost 90% of its wealth. We need a fair wealth tax.

— Donna Munro

Bremerton

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/03/18/we-pay-our-share-maybe-ultra-wealthl-should-well/4756048001/>



Make assistance permanent

March 19, 2021

Always nice to read the Sunday Columbia when I visit my friends in Washougal. This time I was inspired by the story by Anthony Macuk about local scouts and Lions having food drives (“New name, but same goal,” The Columbia, March 14). Hunger has increased because of COVID-19, with one in four children now food insecure, according to Rep. April Berg, who introduced a bill in the state House (passed) to deal with this problem. We can ask our state senators to pass Rep. Berg’s bill.

Fortunately, the latest federal relief package also deals with the hunger crisis: increasing the SNAP program, unemployment and stimulus checks, and expanding the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. These tax credits will cut child poverty in half and poverty in our country by one-third. No wonder most of Washington’s congressional delegation is pushing to have the tax credits made permanent. They bring not only immediate relief from hunger, but also a ladder out of poverty.

We can help by thanking our members of Congress for the relief package and asking them, including Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, to work to make these credits permanent. It is time to end our country’s hunger crisis by providing these ladders out of poverty.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish

<https://www.columbia.com/news/2021/mar/19/letter-make-assistance-permanent/>



Road to equity

Thanks to The Daily News for the latest virus update. (AstraZeneca may have used outdated info in trial; Fauci warns of US case surge; plus more virus news in The Daily News, March 23, 2021.)

The graphs and visuals make it easier to understand, though the sad news is 40% of Americans still are financially stressed due the pandemic. Luckily, Congress passed more pandemic relief that will reach these Americans: hunger and rent relief, and expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit that will cut poverty nearly in half.

No wonder there is a movement in Congress to make these expanded tax credits permanent, providing ladders out of poverty. We can help by thanking our members of Congress and encouraging them to continue with legislation like this that put America on the road to equity for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letters-road-to-equity/article_82022f49-b591-5d4b-b951-19f6a7dbb9f6.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Permanent tax credits needed to help working families

March 26, 2021

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act 2021, passed by Congress and signed by President Biden, some of you have seen your checking account “miraculously grow” or have received your stimulus check directly in the mail. Others have had unemployment extended. State, local and tribal governments as well as schools and child care programs have received grants. There is more federal aid for the pandemic response both in our country and globally! Because we know this pandemic is not over until it is over for all!

This act will improve the lives of so many people. But perhaps the most significant step in helping to lift working families and their children from poverty is the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). These two key changes to the tax code will help cut child poverty in half in the U.S. But as stated in the bill, they are temporary. I agree with Rob Richards’ letter in The Olympian, March 24, which spelled out how financially helpful these programs are. To truly affect the lives of our working low-income citizens, we must make these extensions to the EITC and CTC permanent.

I thank Sen. Murray, Sen. Cantwell and Rep, Strickland for voting to pass this act, but their job is not done. They must make these changes a permanent part of our tax law so working families do not slip back into poverty. Please let them know.

— Helen Henry

Olympia

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article250183815.html>



Legislation is a chance to help children, families

March 26, 2021

Thanks to Rep. April Berg for introducing and helping pass a bill to address the 1 in 4 children experiencing food insecurity in our state (“No child in our schools should go hungry,” The Herald, March 14).

They don’t succeed in school if they are hungry! As a retired teacher I have witnessed that for more than 35 years. Remember our future depends on the children. Thanks to the state House for passing this bill, and by calling or writing our state senators we can ensure its passing in the state Senate.

Covid-19 is giving us a chance to create a new normal, one without widespread hunger and poverty. This bill helps us stay on track to do just that. It follows the latest national pandemic relief bill that protects families, funds frontline programs and governments, and increases the Child and Earned Income tax credits, cutting poverty by more than 30 percent. Another hero, Rep. Suzan DelBene helped write a bill that inspired these tax credit increases. So thank your state and national representatives and request they keep passing legislation like this that makes our new normal one of equity for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/legislation-is-a-chance-to-help-children-families/>



Important to strengthen the Affordable Care Act

April 1, 2021

The Affordable Care Act was strengthened immediately by the American Rescue Plan. ("Biden's relief bill is clear on health care priorities" by Zack Buck, Kitsap Sun opinion, March 26)

Like the increases to the Child Tax and Earned Income Tax Credits that need to be made permanent, the ACA can still be made even better. Our Washington Congressional delegation worked hard for both of these improvements. So take a moment to thank Rep. Derek Kilmer and Sens. Murray and Cantwell for this work, and request they continue on this work that brings equity to America.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/04/01/important-strengthen-affordable-care-act/4839970001/>

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane, Washington Est. May 19, 1883

Hope and equity

April 3, 2021

Thanks for the exciting news that all folks 16 and older will be available to get their shots in two weeks. This is the kind of news that brings hope, like the passing of the recent relief bill. That bill also included increases to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, with the power to cut poverty among children nearly in half!

More good news: Senator Murray was key in making sure the tax credit increase was a part of the bigger bill. So take a few moments to thank Senator Murray for her work, and encourage her to keep working to make these increases permanent, along with other poverty ending measures. We are at a crossroads in America, let's raise our voices to take the fork that leads to hope and equity for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/apr/03/hope-and-equity/>



COVID relief bill has the potential to reduce child poverty

April 7, 2021

Thanks for reporting on Mukilteo's strong stand for unity and against hate. (Mukilteo officials rally for unity by David Pan, Mukilteo Beacon, March 31, 2021 – (<https://bit.ly/3upBsTK>)

This is a clear example of Dr. King's call to speak up "until justice is served." The recent COVID relief bill increased the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits, with the potential to cut child poverty in half. With poverty disproportionately affecting people of color, this helps give the children, America's future, a better start.

Hard to focus on learning when you are hungry or wondering where you will sleep. To make these temporary tax cuts permanent will cut poverty permanently. Time to thank Snohomish County Reps. Rick Larsen and Suzan DelBene, along with Senators Murray and Cantwell for passing this important relief and ask them to make these tax cuts permanent.

We are at the crossroads of equity or hate, let's choose equity and encourage our government to continue to pass legislation that reflects that choice.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2021/04/07/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-covid-relief-bill-has-the-potential-to-reduce-child-poverty/21241.html>

CARE PACKAGES

Local legislators taking steps toward equity

April 21, 2021

To the Editor:

Today's spring sunshine offers hope in these troubled times of a pandemic which has emphasized the inequities in our system. The Black Lives Matter movement also brought forward the criticalness of these issues.

Fortunately, the newly passed relief bill addresses individual, business, and state and local government needs for recovery. At the same time, its passage started us on the road to equity by increasing the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax credit, two of the most effective and proven ways to provide ladders out our poverty.

Our own state Representative Suzan DelBene is offering legislation to make the temporary increase in the Child Tax Credit permanent. The American Family Act she introduced will cut child poverty by 50 percent and more in the hardest hit groups of people of color, rural families, and single moms. This is America's opportunity to turn around the inequity that has plagued us since the beginning. Rep. DelBene also joins Senator Cantwell in pushing affordable housing legislation that will significantly increase the amount of affordable housing available. Senator Cantwell has been a champion of affordable housing for 20 years and this bill will be a crowning achievement. We can ensure these changes all come to pass by encouraging our members of Congress in this needed work with our emails, calls, and stories of why this work is so critical. Let's use our voices to assist in creating America's spring of equity.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



Speak up to change tax policy

April 22, 2021, 6:00am

Thanks to Greg Jayne for the straightforward primer on taxes in America ("[U.S. tax policy is sleight of hand](#)," The Columbia, April 18). Tax policy is the No. 1 way to create more equity among Americans, giving all a chance to finally meet basic needs.

One step to doing this was increasing the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits in the latest COVID relief bill. This increase has the power to cut child poverty in America in half. To do this these increases need to be made permanent. A refundable renters' tax credit has been proposed that could finally end 10 million Americans from paying 50 percent and more of their income for rent each month.

Of course, the best way to insure tax fairness is by writing, calling, and visiting our representatives and senators and asking for it, then following up. Our voices and votes can be the power that finally brings about a fair tax policy that supports equity for all, instead of favoring the wealthiest companies and individuals.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/apr/22/letter-speak-up-to-change-tax-policy/>



Congress has chance to fix homelessness

April 29, 2021

Thanks for highlighting the homeless problem and an inspirational local solution: hosted camps. (TDN April 25, Our View: "Officials must take action on homeless camp")

Unfortunately, the affordable housing crisis in America is making things worse and being exacerbated by the pandemic, but there are solutions. Proposals in Congress would increase the inventory of affordable homes; increase funding for the Housing Voucher program, so it can serve all who qualify; and a refundable renters' tax credit, so millions of Americans would no longer have to pay 50% and more of their income for rent. These three solutions can work together to provide ladders out of poverty, dealing with the homelessness problem at its source.

We can help by encouraging Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler to support them. Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell have long been supporters and sponsors of these kinds of solutions. So, take a moment to contact those who represent you, thank them for their work and request the passing of these and other answers to end the homelessness crisis in the world's richest country.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-has-chance-to-fix-homelessness/article_77ac3105-4461-5a94-b2b0-0dd481a153bf.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

The Seattle Times

Evictions: 'Expand rental assistance'

May 7, 2021

Re: "Judge strikes down CDC's national moratorium on evictions" [May 5, Business].

This decision is unfortunate and will lead to greater housing instability. Many years ago, I used to wake up in the middle of the night and worry about not being able to pay my rent. Although local moratoriums last through June and the economy is improving, I know many people are experiencing this same fear right now.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, housing choice vouchers reduce crowded housing, frequent moves and homelessness. Unfortunately, federal rental assistance only goes to 1 in 4 eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

Congress should expand rental assistance.

— **Erica Schweizer**

Seattle

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/evictions-expand-rental-assistance/>



Rotary Club, Congress doing good work to support the hungry in our community

May 12, 2021

Fabulous work distributing desperately needed food by the Rotary Club of South Everett-Mukilteo. ('Lending a helping hand' by Beacon Staff, Mukilteo Beacon, May 7, 2021 <https://bit.ly/3nYHBnQ>). It definitely begs the question, why are millions of people in the world's richest country in need of food?

This hunger crisis hits people of color, children, and the elderly disproportionately, like it does in the ongoing housing and homelessness crisis. The recently passed relief bill in Congress is beginning to address these problems of poverty. Each of us can be inspired to lend a helping hand by thanking our members of Congress for this work and ask them to act boldly to end these crises in basic needs with ladders out of poverty. Making the increases in the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits permanent would be a start. So use your voice, follow up, and let's put America on the road to equity.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2021/05/12/opinion/letter-to-editor-rotary-club-congress-doing-good-work-to-support-the-hungry-in-our-community/21369.html>

Renters should be part of economic recovery plans

May 15, 2021

Washingtonians were facing an affordable housing crisis even before the pandemic, with high rates of homelessness visible in nearly part of the state. Rocketing housing prices are now making affordable housing, especially rentals even more scarce. Tenants owe billions in back rent. Landlords cannot meet their financial obligations when no rent is coming in. These problems face all Americans across the nation. Thousands are getting evicted and are at risk of homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Eviction moratoriums have been overturned in court. Presently, here and nationwide, federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes. It is cheaper and more aesthetic than having them plague our parks, sidewalks and backwoods with tents a debris.

Please join me in urge our Senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and Representative Derek Kilmer to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Alan Newberg**

Bremerton

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/05/15/renters-should-part-economic-recovery-plans/5108703001/>

Extend rental assistance to help families

May 20, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent., Yet federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Diana Tyree-Eddy**

Hansville

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/05/20/extend-rental-assistance-help-families/5183780001/>



If Congress acts, we can cut child poverty dramatically

May 21, 2021

To the editor — We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

The Biden administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families.

He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Amanda Dickinson**

Yakima

https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-if-congress-acts-we-can-cut-child-poverty-dramatically/article_862b0c4c-58bc-56f9-8258-517beed8b646.html

Congress must expand access to rental assistance

May 27, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Yet federal rental assistance only goes to 1 in 4 eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Diana Tyree-Eddy**

Hansville

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/congress-must-expand-access-to-rental-assistance/>



Strickland's actions address poverty

June 6, 2021

The other Washington doesn't often get a great rap for changing people's lives, but it's worth taking a second look. Recent changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit passed by Congress are going to cut in half the rate of U.S. child poverty this year.

How did such a monumental success come about? As a 30+-year volunteer lobbyist working for the end of poverty, I've learned that some of the most powerful lobbyists in D.C. are members of Congress themselves.

Washington's 10th District Rep. Marilyn Strickland has taken this practice to heart. She's sensitive to the challenges people experiencing poverty are facing. Our [local RESULTS group](#) has been working with her office to address underlying issues of poverty that continue to rob families and communities of a bright future.

This spring, Rep. Strickland signed onto three lobbying letters ("Dear Colleague" letters) in support of global nutrition, education, and the elimination of tuberculosis. These letters help determine where our foreign aid money goes, and where the U.S. commits funds, other Global North countries typically follow.

These seemingly small actions will have results around the world that we will never see: children and parents receiving food, walking into schools where there are teachers and books, and receiving primary health care such as vaccines.

This year has been devastating for people living in poverty — here and globally. The actions our leaders take have enormous consequences. Thank you, Rep. Strickland, for all the ways you are using your power for good.

— Carolyn Prouty

Elma

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article251905073.html>

Reducing poverty should be an American goal

June 10, 2021

It's easy to be cynical about politics in our nation. Yet, despite political division, Congress, came together to implement important interventions that provide a safety net to those who were most impacted and resources for our economy to recover and thrive.

Still, many Americans continue to suffer economic devastation. We need Congress to continue the programs it funded to reduce child and family poverty, specifically the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, so families can also thrive.

Fortunately our Congressman, Rep. Derek Kilmer, is supporting both those initiatives.

In developing countries, however, the situation is far different. While in the U.S. almost half of the population has received vaccinations that allow us to resume our lives, only about 3% of the population in developing countries have received vaccinations. Their economies are struggling and their children are far from returning to school.

Rep. Kilmer is leading a Congressional effort to make sure that all children, despite the pandemic, have the opportunity to attend school. He knows how important education is to each child and to their families, communities, nations and the entire world. As a volunteer with RESULTS, which advocates for our nation to take needed steps to reduce poverty in the U.S. and around the world, I thank Rep. Kilmer for his leadership to promote education worldwide. I call upon Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to do the same.

— **Beth Wilson**

Olalla

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/06/10/reducing-poverty-should-american-goal/7642247002/>

The Seattle Times

Insufficient funding for housing vouchers

June 14, 2021

Compassion Seattle's charter amendment claims to be working toward ending the homelessness crisis while it really just wants to end the visual reminder of it. A charter amendment that codifies inhumane sweeps and lacks a long-term funding source will not help us start solving housing for all of our neighbors. What will though? We certainly need more affordable housing, but until we build it we can make housing more affordable. Research shows that housing choice vouchers are one of the most effective ways to reduce homelessness.

Unfortunately, only one in four eligible renters can actually get housing assistance because the program is not fully funded. That means, in Seattle, people struggling to afford housing have to apply to Seattle Housing Authority to be put in a lottery, just to get a spot on the waitlist. How many people are living unsheltered because there's insufficient funding for a lifeline they are eligible for?

We need to make the housing choice voucher program universal through guaranteed multi-year funding. This shouldn't need to be a bold, progressive push, because this is just the bare minimum. U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, will you lead the charge to provide housing for all low-income renters and families?

— **Jazmine Smith**

Seattle

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/homelessness-insufficient-funding-for-housing-vouchers/>



Urge Congress to support legislation to address housing crisis

June 16, 2021

The housing crisis is local and national and so are its solutions. (City Council passes scaled down Housing Action Plan, Mukilteo Beacon, June 9, 2021) Often hard to reach agreement on a plan, as the recent council meeting showcased, it is clear something needs to be done.

The Housing Voucher Program, Section 8, works, but only reaches 25% of those who qualify. An increase to cover all who qualify would be a good first step.

Sen. Maria Cantwell also has legislation pending to increase the affordable housing inventory. We can help solve this crisis by asking those who represent us to pass both of these initiatives. Hearing from constituents helps create the political will for Congress to take action. Got five minutes for a phone call? (202-224-3121) Together we can solve this crisis!

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2021/06/16/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-urge-congress-to-support-legislation-to-address-housing-crisis/21507.html>

Child tax credit payment should become permanent

June 23, 2021

American families are finally catching a break.

Starting July 15, most families can receive the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) as a monthly payment. An extra \$250 or \$300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent, and bills, to middle-class families that need help with childcare and college savings. Go to www.childtaxcredit.gov to make sure you're getting it. And spread the word.

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year — and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Diana Tyree-Eddy**

Hansville

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/06/23/child-tax-credit-payment-should-become-permanent/5323506001/>

Affordable Housing

Call on Congress to fix housing crisis

July 7, 2021

To the Editor:

Thanks to the Tribune for covering many aspects of the housing crisis, a local and national problem. Affordable housing is in short supply, renters are facing eviction in ever increasing numbers, and the housing crisis for people of color is a sad result of long term systemic racism. Fortunately, there are initiatives in Congress to turn this around. Thanks to Sen. Cantwell and Rep. DelBene for working to increase the supply of affordable housing. There is an effort right now to help renters with a large expansion of Housing Choice Vouchers which currently only reach one-fourth of those who qualify. A "Dear Colleague" sign on letter in the House and Senate calls on Congress to make sure this is in the next recovery package, and we can ask every member of our delegation to sign on to it. There have also been proposals for a refundable renters' tax credit so people don't pay 50% and more for rent, and a Homestead Act for the 21st Century that would help low income people to purchase a home. Our members of Congress need to know that the housing crisis needs to be dealt with now, give them a call and speak up for solutions: 202-224-3121. Our voices in democracy can create the political will for Congress to pass these and other solutions.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>

Paths to make housing more affordable do exist

July 12, 2021

Nearly two years ago, the Sun's editorial board said it was time for housing action, and that was before COVID threatened more families with loss of housing, income, and hunger. ("Our View: Enough task force talk, it's time for housing action," Kitsap Sun opinion, Sept. 22, 2019)

Local and national action is needed to avoid the coming landslide to homelessness now more than ever. One national proposal is to increase the funding the Housing Voucher Program, so it reaches everyone instead of only the current one-fourth who qualify. Sen. Maria Cantwell has legislation pending to increase the inventory of affordable housing.

We can take action by calling and thanking our representatives for this work so far, and asking them to support these two initiatives and more, like the Homestead Act for the 21st Century that would help low income people purchase a home. Using our voices builds the political will for Congress to take action to solve this and other problems that matter to millions of American families.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/07/12/paths-make-housing-more-affordable-do-exist/7939476002/>



Yes, vote wisely – that's how things get done

July 16, 2021

To the editor — Thanks for the reminder of why “it’s critical to vote, and vote wisely.” (‘Here’s your chance to help change the world’ in the Yakima Herald, July 11, 2021.)

Voting is our way to ensure America travels the road to equity. Using our voices, we can guide our representatives to work on what matters.

Constituent voices are responsible for the initiative in Congress to increase the Housing Voucher Program so it reaches all who qualify, rather than the current one in four. This change could help stop the increase in homelessness.

A second bipartisan effort calls on the president to pledge \$1 billion over five years to the Global Partnership for Education, which will encourage other donors and result in 175 million children in school for the first time.

So vote wisely and use your voice to encourage Congress to do the work that helps all Americans and makes a difference in our world.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish

https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-yes-vote-wisely---thats-how-things-get-done/article_84cc228e-1169-5027-a6ac-9ff88f77117a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Thank Congress for passing Child Tax Credit legislation

July 25, 2021

Amazing moment this past week as the newly expanded Child Tax Credit payments came in for millions of families. This tax credit not only has the power to cut child poverty in half, but brings hope for millions of families to move forward to a better life. Of course if it is not made permanent, the headlines in a year will be saying "CHILD POVERTY DOUBLES!" There is a movement in Congress supported by the majority of our state's Congressional delegation to make it permanent. We can help by thanking our members of Congress for supporting this and encouraging them to do all they can to make it permanent. Sharing our stories of the difference it makes gives them more inspiration and the power to make that happen. Take a minute to call: any member of Congress can be reached at 202-224-3121. Children and families in Washington and across the country will greatly appreciate it!

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2021/07/21/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-thank-congress-for-passing-child-tax-credit-legislation/21680.html>



Expand successful programs to address homelessness

August 3, 2021

Immediate housing like that provided in the successful Housing First program is essential to curb the homelessness crisis ("[Homelessness was on decline, until we changed course](#)," The Herald, July 25). Expanding the housing voucher program to reach all who qualify, instead of the current 25 percent will help as well.

The increases in the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit are helping people pay their rent and should be made permanent. An expansion of affordable housing across America has long been championed by Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Suzan DelBene. All of these initiatives can combine to begin solving the sad state of homelessness in the world's richest country.

Take a minute to thank your senators and representatives for working hard on these solutions and encourage them to pass these and other initiatives until homeless is history.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/expand-successful-programs-to-address-homelessness/>



Thanks for efforts being made on affordable housing

September 8, 2021

Thanks are in order: to Sen. Maria Cantwell, along with Reps. Rick Larsen and Suzan DelBene for their efforts to pass legislation that will increase affordable housing across America, including our state. In addition, their plan to increase housing vouchers (currently only reaching 25 percent of those who qualify) would help stem the flow to homelessness. Next, thanks to Housing Hope for its successful efforts to provide ladders out of homelessness via housing and job training.

This program could be modeled around the country as one option to end homelessness. Third, thanks to The Herald Editorial Board for explaining the details on these important initiatives and calling for members of the community to contact government on all levels to insure the success “Efforts for affordable housing need our support,” The Herald, Sept. 3). Hopefully, thanks will be in order for citizens, calling on national, state, county, and city government officials to back these and other programs, taking the actions necessary to finally end homelessness.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/thanks-for-efforts-being-made-on-affordable-housing/>

Extend the programs that have proven to reduce poverty

September 17, 2021

Recently released U.S. Census data on poverty show the official poverty rate in 2020 was 11.4 percent, one percent higher than 2019, the first increase in poverty in five years. Child poverty rose by about 1.1 million children.

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) paints different picture. The Official Poverty Measure (OPM) does not factor in EITC/CTC, stimulus payments, SNAP, or expenses such as taxes, childcare, and other household expenses. The SPM does count these things. As a result, in 2020 SPM poverty rate was 9.1 percent, the lowest SPM poverty rate since 2009. The difference is the result of government interventions during the pandemic. Last year the EITC and CTC lifted 5.3 million above the poverty line and housing subsidies lifted 2.4 million above the poverty line. The data highlights the importance of the social safety net.

The reductions in poverty came from temporary measures, such as stimulus payments and unemployment benefits. With those benefits gone, securing expansions of the EITC/CTC and Housing Choice Vouchers in the recovery bill become very important. Congressman Derek Kilmer and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell should make these gains permanent by enacting them into law as part of the Recovery Act.

— **Alan Newberg**

Bremerton

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/09/17/extend-programs-have-proven-reduce-poverty/8385034002/>



Policies can help working families

October 1, 2021

Regarding the article “Panel OKs Dems’ \$3.5T bill, crunch time for Biden agenda” (Sept. 26): Rep. Jason Smith of Missouri, a Republican, has said “this bill is a disaster for working-class families.” I respectfully disagree. Last year, for one year, Congress temporarily expanded anti-poverty programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. These programs helped reduce poverty by 2.6 percent during the worst economic crisis in nearly a century. These bills are included in the \$3.5 trillion bill.

Congress must make the expansions in both credits permanent as well as expand the Housing Choice Voucher program. Why? Because, despite the good news about a decrease in poverty, too many families continue to face eviction, hunger and poverty. If we have the will, we can continue to make tremendous gains in our fight against poverty even in the midst of a pandemic. On the contrary, this bill will help lift working-class families out of poverty.

— **Zelda Foxall**

Seattle

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/oct/01/letter-policies-can-help-working-families/>



Party wars putting America in danger

October 18, 2021

Is our democracy in danger? Yes. Like the Charles Dickens classic tale, we live in the best of times and the worst of times. ("Our democracy is being torched. A survey out of UVA suggests many voters are willing to watch it burn," by Michael Paul Williams, The Daily News, Oct. 12, 2021).

On the one hand are the party/tribal wars, on the other, legislation that just cut child poverty by 3.5 million and has the power to provide ladders out of desperation and building hope with the Build Back Better legislation.

Many people don't know how to make a difference: taking action works. Call on the President (202-456-1111) to lead the way out of this dilemma and call on our members of Congress (202-224-3121) to pass the Build Back Better legislation. Let's move forward to a better America for all, while defeating the worst of times. Our voices will show we are choosing the best of times for America.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish, Washington

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-party-wars-putting-america-in-danger/article_99fa0d05-d1af-5e0f-a1d7-f7fd6fba2456.html



Support affordable housing work by Congress

October 20, 2021

It is almost like Congress read your article on affordable housing and is proposing answers. (Cities looking for ways to encourage more affordable housing! The Beacon Community Spotlight, Oct. 13, 2021) Senator Cantwell's affordable housing legislation would increase supply, and the Build Back Better legislation would provide relief for renters and could make permanent the increase in the Child Tax Credit that has already lifted 3.5 million children out of poverty. We can support action by government at all levels to solve this crisis. Both Reps. Larsen and DelBene are pushing for this legislation to pass. So we can thank them and encourage them to continue to support and pass this and other legislation to remedy the housing/homelessness crisis in America.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2021/10/20/opinion/letters-for-week-of-oct-20/22075.html>

Kilmer Calls for Robust Affordable Housing Investments

October 21, 2021

Washington, DC – On Monday, U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer (WA-06) joined Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) and over 120 colleagues in Congress to express support for keeping robust affordable housing investments in the *Build Back Better Act*. The letter, which was sent to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Leader Chuck Schumer, calls for any final legislation to include investments in affordable, accessible homes for America's lowest-income and most marginalized people.

"Even before the pandemic, America was in the grips of an affordable housing crisis, most severely impacting the most marginalized and lowest-income people, including seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and others. Nationally, there is a shortage of 7 million homes affordable and available to renters with extremely low incomes. For every 10 of these households, there are fewer than 4 affordable and available homes. There is not a single state or congressional district with enough affordable homes to meet this demand," **the lawmakers wrote.**

They continued, "As this legislation advances in Congress, we urge you to ensure that funding levels for rental assistance, public housing and the Housing Trust Fund match the amounts included in the bill approved by the House Financial Services Committee [...] Taken together, these investments could effectively end homelessness in the United States. Any cuts to funding for these priority programs means fewer people safely and affordably housed."

Specifically, the lawmakers called for:

- \$90 billion to expand rental assistance to 1 million additional households.
- \$80 billion to address the Public Housing repair backlog for 2.5 million residents.
- \$37 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve 330,000 homes affordable to people with the greatest needs.

“Kitsap Community Resources, as our area’s only community action agency, is grateful for legislation supporting affordable housing for our residents. Between September 2020 through July 2021, KCR has assisted 1,749 households with rent and/or utility payments. Nearly \$7.7 million was paid to landlords and utility providers to prevent evictions,” **said Stacy B. Doré, Director of Development at Kitsap Community Resources.** “Our advocacy on behalf of Kitsap residents is supported through investments such as this - and we’re grateful that Rep. Kilmer remains a strong advocate at the federal level for getting this included in the Build Back Better Act.”

“Throughout the COVID pandemic, it's been clear to me that housing is healthcare,” **said Diana Tyree-Eddy, group co-leader of RESULTS Bremerton/North Kitsap.** “I work as a Head Start teacher with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and know families who have needlessly suffered an extra-long time with COVID because they live in multigenerational cramped housing. Kids in my classroom missed out over a month from school as one after the other of their siblings and/or adult caregivers caught COVID. These are kids that need to be in school and their cramped housing situation exacerbated their healthcare and educational outcomes. These investments are long overdue, and Rep. Kilmer is wise and compassionate to advocate for them.”

The letter is endorsed by National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and RESULTS.

See the text of the letter [here](#).

The Seattle Times

Child Tax Credit: 'Should be made permanent'

October 29, 2021

Re: "Sen. Manchin wants to restrict who gets the child tax credit and his own constituents may pay the price" [Oct. 24, Nation & World]:

The good news is that the Child Tax Credit (CTC) has been expanded and adjusted for this year, lifting millions of children out of poverty. The bad news is that Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia has implied that he would not support extending these monthly payments. He complained that there should be a work requirement and a means test.

In a recent vigil held in Washington, D.C., faith leaders questioned whether a year was long enough to make sure children living in poverty had enough food to eat. These leaders drove home the fact that last year, some 23 million children were not eligible to benefit from this tax credit because their families earned too much money. These faith leaders elegantly stated that "raising, nurturing and caring for our children is, in and of itself, a work requirement." And as for that means test? A means test should test the will and privilege of our well-educated and well-resourced public officials to do the right thing.

The CTC provisions should be made permanent and fully refundable for very-low or no-income families.

— **Zelda Foxall**

Seattle

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/child-tax-credit-should-be-made-permanent/>



Increase rental assistance

November 3, 2021

Access to affordable housing is critical to ending the housing crisis afflicting our communities.

When COVID hit, millions of Americans already faced an impossible choice: Do I feed my family or do I pay the rent? As we all know, COVID only deepened the crisis. And federal housing assistance programs have long been grossly underfunded. (Only 1 in 4 qualified applicants actually receive support.)

Congress continues to negotiate the Build Back Better recovery package but there is now a lot of talk about scaling back our investment. Whatever the final outcome, it is critical that rental assistance programs be included. Now is the time to let all our representatives know that this is a rare opportunity to actually do something to help those of us who are unhoused, and we can all see how difficult it is for communities to deal with this situation alone.

I urge Rep. Strickland and Senators Murray and Cantwell to advocate to preserve the proposed \$90 billion in rental assistance, including at least \$75 billion for Housing Choice Vouchers. These investments will remove the threat of evictions and homelessness for countless Americans and start to undo our sad legacy of racial discrimination in housing.

— **Carol Kraege**

Olympia

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article255463121.html>

WALLA WALLA

Union-Bulletin

Support equity nationwide

November 5, 2021

Congrats to the Running Waters Equity Fund for taking on issues of racial equity in the Walla Walla Valley as reported in "New nonprofit aims to help improve racial equity in the Walla Walla Valley" by U-B reporter Jeremy Burnham on October 27. The pandemic exacerbated these issues and made them more visible. The president's Build Back Better legislation addresses this as well, with ladders out of poverty in the areas of health, housing and child care. We can ask our members of Congress by calling 202-224-3121 to pass the Build Back Better legislation and help support equity nationwide, including the Valley.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/support-equity-nationwide/article_7bd50ae2-3d0f-11ec-a73e-a38a78357109.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Child tax credit is reducing child poverty

November 9, 2021

Thanks for the clear explanation of the importance of the Child Tax Credit. (“Work requirement would undo good of child tax credit,” The Herald, Oct. 30). Imagine 3.5 million children have already left poverty since the temporary increase was passed and started being received in July (Columbia University study). If this runs out, those children will be back in poverty, instead of climbing the ladders out of poverty with their families.

We can help keep this important tax credit doing its work by asking our members of Congress (202-224-3121) to pass the Build Back Better legislation with the Child Tax Credit increase made permanent, helping millions of struggling families, increasing equity, and insuring a better future for our country.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/child-tax-credit-is-reducing-child-poverty/>

Federal support for families will help

November 11, 2021

The pandemic has hurt families with children. People have lost their jobs and are behind on their rent. Childcare centers have closed forcing people to leave their jobs. Many families are facing difficult times.

The Build Back Better bill will help. The earned income tax credit and the Child Tax Credit help families below a certain income level. The Housing Choice Voucher Program will help keep people in their homes. We need these programs to fully recover.

Please let our legislators, Rep. Derek Kilmer, and Senators Cantwell and Murray, know that we need their support for this bill.

— **Martha Bishop**

Port Orchard

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/11/11/federal-support-families-help/6390240001/>

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane, Washington Est. May 19, 1883

Good news from Congress!

November 13, 2021

Great to see America's infrastructure get a major shot in the arm. Thanks to Senator Cantwell for her hard work on writing and passing this bill. Exciting to see lead pipes will finally be replaced, public transit improved, including passenger rail, along with insuring broadband internet access for all Americans. This legislation will benefit commerce and take some steps towards equity in safe water and internet access.

More work is needed, the power of the Build Better Legislation will create even more equity, by expanding access to preschool, making child care more affordable, extending tax credit increases that have lifted millions out of poverty and more.

We can help this bill to pass by members of Congress (202-224-3121) to pass the Build Back Better legislation, and to keep working for equity in our country. Our voices can help! Go Congress, Go America!

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/nov/13/good-news-congress/>



Build Back Better bill supports families out of poverty

December 1, 2021

Thanks to the local Rotary Club for insuring 370 families will not be hungry on Thanksgiving. (Rotary Club of South Everett-Mukilteo helps feed the community, Nov. 24, 2021) Nationally, this year also saw good work on the part of Congress to increase funding for the Child Tax Credit that has already lifted 3.5 million children out of poverty.

The Build Back Better bill that just passed the House would extend the Child Tax Credit increase another year. Snohomish County Reps. Larsen and DelBene have played an important part in this successful work.

Time to thank them and ask our powerful senators (202-224-3121) to continue their hard work to insure the Build Back Better bill passes the Senate, continuing to lift millions of families out of poverty.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2021/12/01/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-build-back-better-bill-supports-families-out-of-poverty/22250.html>



Support Build Back Better bill

December 2, 2021

Exciting to see bipartisan legislation pass to improve America's infrastructure ("Biden signs \$1T infrastructure bill with bipartisan crowd," Associated Press, Nov. 15).

The momentum could continue by passing the Build Back Better bill to help millions of American families. We can help the momentum continue by asking our members of Congress (202-224-3121) to follow up on this important opportunity to help all Americans have a better future.

Rep. Jamie Herrera Beutler has been part of a bipartisan group to get things done, and so could be a leader in this effort if she hears from constituents. Our calls can make a difference and strengthen our democracy at the same time.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/dec/02/letter-support-build-back-better-bill/>

Federal legislation is a start in addressing country's needs

December 9, 2021

Columnist Larry Little does an excellent job of defining the dangers to our existence as a nation, our species, and our planet. ("Owning up to our internal decay before we rediscover our purpose," Dec. 3)

New changes were triggered by the pandemic, making the hard truth of our lack of equity extremely clear, triggering a Congressional response that brings hope. The relief package, the infrastructure bill, and now the Build Back Better legislation all offer a new beginning. The Child and Earned Income Tax Credits increase brought 3.6 million children are no longer in poverty (Columbia University Study) and fewer young couples will now be taxed into poverty!

Thanks to the House for passing Build Back Better that will continue these tax credits. Now it is up to our compassionate and powerful Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to lead the way. We can help by sharing our stories with them, by calling 202-224-3121, to share how this matters and creates equity in America.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/12/09/federal-legislation-start-addressing-countrys-needs/6451290001/>

WALLA WALLA

Union-Bulletin

Pass legislation to boost child care

December 12, 2021

Kudos for the informative Dec. 7 U-B editorial "Reducing poverty includes boosting child care" on the critical need for child care necessary if we are ever to recover from the pandemic and bring our back our robust economy.

It's time to request our state and national representatives to come up with the creative solutions needed.

The House just passed the Build Back Better legislation that includes a boost for child care. We can ask Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell (202-224-3121) to make every effort to pass this bill in the Senate. In our state we can call our representatives or leave a message (1-800-562-6000) for them to do this creative problem solving. Not sure what to say? Send them this excellent editorial, say you agree and ask for action.

Our voices will spur these action that make a difference.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/pass-legislation-to-boost-child-care/article_7d2d33da-5a04-11ec-864c-87f7e13fec86.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share



Families Act can be path forward for Child Tax Credit

December 29, 2021

Excellent idea to transform Build Back Better (BBB) into the Families Act, since that is the essence of BBB, with child care, the Child Tax Credit and other initiatives critical for families (“How both Joes can rebuild Build Back Better,” The Herald, Dec. 26).

The proven Child Tax Credit has already lifted 3.6 million children out of poverty (Columbia University study), helping families to pay rent, buy food and deal with debt. Families also need reasonable childcare to be able to go back to work. Snohomish County House members Rick Larsen and Suzan DelBene along with Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell have all worked hard to make these resources a reality. Take a moment to thank and encourage them (202-224-3121) to make sure this legislation passes bringing hope for millions of struggling families.

— Willie Dickerson

Snohomish

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/families-act-can-be-path-forward-for-child-tax-credit/>

THE REGISTER~HERALD.

Beckley, West Virginia

Make tax credits permanent

June 8, 2021

Amy Jo Hutchison's May 22nd guest editorial, "Tax credits would be 'life-altering' for some," was a strong and sensible message for effective action to fight poverty in our state.

Hundreds of thousands of West Virginians, many of them children, will benefit in the most meaningful ways from the temporary expansions to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). These direct benefit payments stand to be the difference between managing a day-to-day scramble for basic needs to having the freedom to thrive and work toward long term goals.

As Ms. Hutchison notes, this is life-altering for many in our state, including the 28 percent of adults in West Virginia who, according to the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey for April-May 2021, are having difficulty paying for usual expenses, like food, housing, car payments and student loans.

And while the Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy projects that CTC and EITC payments will cut poverty rates by 45 percent, these payments will stop at year's end without further intervention from Congress. There is no reason that these should only exist as temporary lifelines when we know they're game changers in the fight to eliminate poverty.

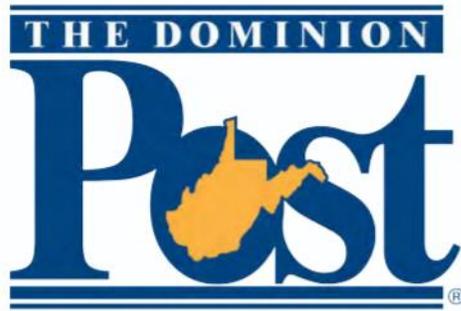
CTC and EITC expansions effectively address poverty because they directly address poverty. I join Ms. Hutchison in urging Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin to prioritize permanent funding for CTC and EITC at 2021 levels in further recovery legislation.

— **Joanna DiStefano**

Morgantown

Editor's note: DiStefano is the leader of RESULTS WV, a network of non-partisan volunteer advocates seeking to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty.

https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/make-tax-credits-permanent/article_b6402502-c7ff-11eb-9b3d-2b9e2669938b.html



SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

Housing crisis needs a federal solution

July 4, 2021

HOUSING IS EXPENSIVE IN MORGANTOWN. Whether you're renting or paying a mortgage or currently unhoused, unaffordability is a fact of life for most people who live here. Today, as we celebrate Independence Day, it is undeniable that the housing reality here in our community is a reflection of an ongoing national housing crisis, a crisis experienced keenly among renters.

Simply put, wages have not kept pace with rising rents, and a short supply of available rental units nationwide has only made the situation worse. The National Low Income Housing Coalition reports currently there is no state or county in the United States where a renter working full-time at minimum wage can afford a two-bedroom apartment.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 24 million people in 11 million low-income American households pay more than half their income for rent, often forgoing necessities, like food or medicine, to stay in their homes.

However, less than half, 10.4 million people in 5.2 million households, are actually using some form of federal rental assistance to afford modest housing. Sixty-eight percent of those renters are seniors, children, or people with disabilities. And because of the legacy of discriminatory housing policies, this is a burden that falls more often on people of color: The NHLIC estimates that although 6% of white households are extremely low-income renters, 20% of Black households, 18% of American Indian or Alaska Native households and 14% of Latino households are extremely low-income renters.

The primary federal program meant to address these inequalities, the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, which makes up the difference between what people earn and the reasonable cost of a safe and decent home, is not funded adequately to meet the need.

Currently, more than 5 million people in 2.3 million low-income families use these vouchers to help pay for housing in the private market, according to CBPP. However, only 1 in 4 eligible renters is able to access this federal housing assistance. That means roughly 75% of households that qualify for HCVs aren't able to get them when they need them. They can languish on waiting lists for months or years, all the while remaining vulnerable to many of the other ills of extreme poverty, like food insecurity, declining physical and mental health and homelessness.

Though provisions for affordable housing were not included in the recent bipartisan Senate infrastructure deal reached this week, Congress should still consider several proposals over the summer for substantial long term affordable housing investment. Any effort to address affordability for renters must also include a boost to the HCV program, for what good is any investment in development if people still lack the resources to rent?

Sen. Joe Manchin sets an admirable standard working with colleagues in the Senate to move economic recovery legislation forward. As the work of Congress continues throughout the summer, affordable housing needs to be among his top priorities.

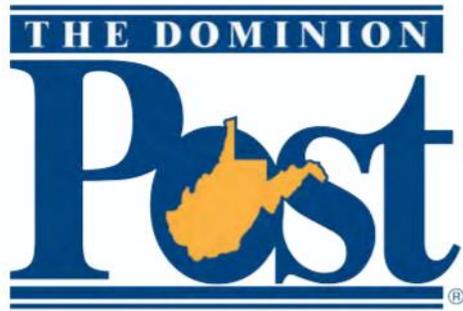
Expanding the supply of affordable housing while ensuring rental assistance to all eligible renters with guaranteed multi-year funding to the HCV program is a solid step in the right direction to address the housing crisis in the U.S. Beyond being a just, equitable and sensible solution to stably house millions of families and start to undo the legacy of racial discrimination in housing, this provides a bridge to economic stability and generational prosperity to millions of Americans struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

— **Joanna DiStefano**

JOANNA DISTEFANO is the Program Manager for the Global Engagement Office at WVU Health Sciences and the leader of RESULTS WV, a movement of non-partisan grassroots

advocates working to influence political decisions that will bring an end to both domestic and global poverty.

<https://www.dominionpost.com/wp-content/uploads/paperpages/DP-2021-07-04.pdf>



SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

Unstable housing is a health care issue

July 11, 2021

In the July 4 edition, Joanna DiStefano's guest essay on "Housing crisis needs a federal solution" hit home for me as a physician who has encountered numerous homeless patients or those with unstable housing.

Multiple studies have shown that being without stable housing can be detrimental to one's health. Those who are unfortunately chronically homeless suffer from higher morbidity in both physical and mental health as well as increased mortality.

Lack of stable housing also leads to high health care expenditures due to overuse of emergency departments and inpatient hospital admissions in place of continuity in primary care clinics. Even those who are not chronically homeless but experience housing uncertainty (couch surfing, falling behind on rent, frequent moves) are more likely to face poor health compared to stably housed peers.

We also know that youth are at increased risk of teenage pregnancy, early drug use, and depression when housing is unstable. Due to disruptions in employment and social security benefits, patients are unable to afford clinic copays or their medications (or even properly store medications if refrigeration is needed).

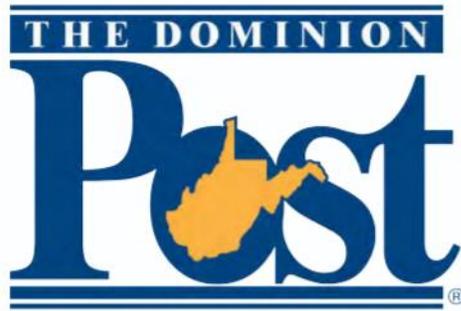
Providing access to stable housing can improve health and reduce health care costs. In a population of 10,000 people with unstable housing in Oregon, delivering affordable housing led to a decrease in Medicaid expenditures by 12%, increase in outpatient primary care use by 20% and a decrease in emergency departments use by 18%.

I agree with Ms. DiStefano that affordable housing should be a priority of our congressional representatives as the benefits include a healthier population.

— **Josephine Reece**

Morgantown

<https://www.dominionpost.com/wp-content/uploads/paperpages/DP-2021-07-11.pdf>



SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

American families are finally catching a break

September 18, 2021

On July 15, most families started to receive the new Child tax Credit as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent, and bills, to middle-class families that need help with child-care and college savings. Go to www.childtaxcredit.org to make sure your getting it. And spread the word.

The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy reports that improvements to the CTC this year could reduce child poverty by 43% in West Virginia, which would make 346,000 West Virginia children eligible to receive the first monthly child tax credit payment. Federal anti-poverty and COVID relief programs reduced poverty by an estimated 71% in West Virginia in 2021, showing the incredible power of federal policy to address the needs of families in our state. But the CTC improvements along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children into poverty. Congress must not let this happen.

Aside from West Virginia, the Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia shows that the monthly poverty rate for children fell from 15.8% in June to 11.9% in July 2021, representing a decline of 3 million children living in poverty nationwide. This drop in child poverty is primarily due to the first payment of the expanded Child Tax Credit. The first CTC payment also reduced food hardship among low-income families by approximately 30%.

I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year – and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share. We appreciate that Sen. Manchin wants to see that caregivers, whether grandparents or parents, are getting the CTC to keep the children of West Virginia out of poverty. We hope that Sen. Capito will join him in supporting these anti-poverty policies.

— **Jacque Visyak**

Morgantown

<https://www.dominionpost.com/2021/09/18/sept-19-letters-to-the-editor-2/>



RESULTS WV / Seeking an End to Poverty

September, 16 2021

Just as our diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives focus on creating meaningful change where we work, learn, and provide care, one group at Health Sciences is targeting their effort toward creating that change among communities we serve, as well.

A statewide chapter of the national, nonpartisan grassroots organization, RESULTS WV seeks to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. Volunteer members build the visibility of domestic poverty and global health issues by cultivating relationships with members of Congress and their staff in addition to generating media on those topics.

Because of the work of the RESULTS team at WVU, members of West Virginia's first congressional district stepped up to co-sponsor resolutions in support of the Global Fund before the international replenishment conference in early October 2019.

Catherine Jones, a graduate student in Art Education, came to RESULTS WV as a way to impact endemic poverty, something that she frequently witnesses as a board member of the Clarksburg Mission.

"Justice and compassion are intertwined at the Mission and each resident has a story of how they fell through the cracks of our social safety net," Jones said. "Not every choice was a good one, but being generationally impoverished can certainly lead to poor decisions."

Through her participation with RESULTS, Jones has the opportunity to transform what she sees into action for change: "Instead of feeling angry and powerless, I'm able to engage with elected officials to build awareness and influence decisions that are more compassionate and lead to better outcomes for unhoused, impoverished, and otherwise vulnerable people."

“Many of the health indicators that we see here in West Virginia mirror those of other low-resource regions throughout the world, so our work isn’t only about advocating for change here at home, but addressing inequality more broadly,” noted RESULTS WV group leader Joanna DiStefano, who is also Program Manager for the HSC Global Engagement Office. “It’s undeniable that poverty drives inequality, so our mission is inextricably linked with anti-oppression values. This is what drives our commitment to advocacy.”

Dr. Josephine Reece, Associate Professor of General Internal Medicine and Director of Internal Medicine Global Health Track in the School of Medicine, is a founding member of RESULTS WV.

"I'm a member of RESULTS because my patients need a voice not only to address medical concerns but all the determinants of health: poverty, housing, education, nutrition, etc.," Reece said. "This group gives me the opportunity and resources to advocate for patients not only in our West Virginia community but the global community as well."

While under the sponsorship of the Global Engagement Office at Health Sciences, members hail from throughout the state - faculty, staff, and students in higher education alongside community members including teachers, social workers, and others who have experienced poverty.

Members of RESULTS WV meet monthly. When conditions permit, hybrid meetings (in-person with a virtual option) take place at both noon and in the early evening, and members have the option to attend one of the meetings that best suits their schedule.

Outside of regular monthly meetings, members correspond via email, social media, and text to coordinate actions, generate media, and carry out other leadership activities.

Many commit to different leadership roles within the group, including contact leads for Congressional offices and communications and outreach coordinators. Members with limited availability may choose to join the group's action network, which carries out directed communications strategies at key points in the legislative

process. All members are invited to attend an annual international conference in Washington, DC, where they also participate in a lobby day on Capitol Hill.

“We know that the issues our RESULTS chapter has advocated for in recent years — such as poverty, affordable housing, and measures to address infectious diseases globally — have an enormous impact on the health of our community, far greater than those from modern hospitals at the population level,” noted HSC Global Engagement Office Director Dr. Chris Martin.

“Helping the next generation of health leaders both understand and effectively champion these causes is critical to our mission as a land-grant university,” added Martin, who is also a professor at the WVU School of Medicine and School of Public Health.

Those wishing to augment their learning experience may also wish to take part in a national organizing and advocacy fellowship opportunity that RESULTS sponsors for volunteers ages 20-35. This 11-month experience is structured to help participants hone organizing and advocacy skills as part of a cohort of dozens of activists throughout the country.

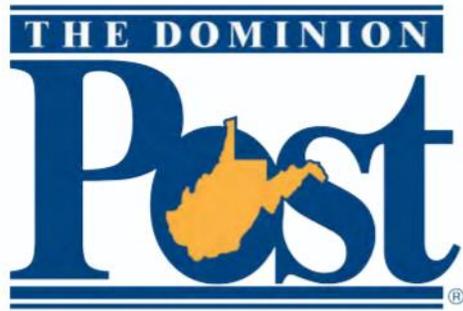
Yolanda Gordon, Senior Associate for Expansion and Advocacy at RESULTS, views the fellowship as an essential vehicle for transformation: “Advocacy and organizing is the life’s blood of selfless service. It is core to our organization and necessary to end injustices in the world. Everyone can be an advocate and provide their leaders with valuable information to help them make an informed decision. The RESULTS Fellowship is a unique holistic fellowship that provides personal and professional growth.”

“The fellowship is about so much more than simply building civic engagement skills,” said DiStefano. “This is a rare opportunity for young people in our state that emphasizes experience, principles, and action, and we are very eager to welcome more national fellows into RESULTS WV.”

During virtual meetings with members of Congress, the RESULTS global and domestic poverty members have discussed their legislative agenda, including addressing gaps in the social safety net laid bare by the pandemic.

To learn more about becoming a RESULTS WV member, contact Joanna DiStefano. Anyone interested in applying to the national fellowship is encouraged to review the fellowship overview and application guide. The deadline to submit fellowship applications is Oct. 15.

<https://health.wvu.edu/news/story?headline=hscommunity-results-wv-seekingend-to-poverty>



SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

To beat the opioid crisis, lift people out of poverty

By Dr. Erin Winstanley

October 2, 2021

What is the best thing we can do to address the opioid epidemic? I've been asked this question countless times. The best answer that I have is that it's never only one thing, but the many things that stand to make a difference. One often overlooked strategy is to provide resources and support for at-risk low-income families.

In 2019, there were 70,000 West Virginian children living in poverty. Growing up in poverty is stressful and families that struggle economically often cannot meet their children's basic needs for safe shelter and access to healthy foods. Children living in poverty may encounter more stressful life events and have an increased risk of experiencing adversities or trauma that can have lasting impacts on their health. At times these adversities can be character building, but in the context of poverty children may become less resilient. The more adverse events that children endure, the higher likelihood of drug use and mental illness occurs. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges faced by low-income families in WV; nearly a quarter of WV parents report feeling down, helpless or blue.

Too many WV families have already lost a loved one to overdose and our child welfare system simply cannot adequately care for the thousands of children impacted by parental addiction. As our state has increased access to evidence-based treatment for parents with substance use disorders, expanded resources for low-income families and reduced childhood poverty will be critical to the prevention of multigenerational drug addiction.

The Build Back Better budget proposal currently making its way through Congress contains many components that will help low-income families. One of the most significant pieces of this legislation is seeing that the recent enhancements to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) are made permanent and fully refundable. Columbia University researchers estimated that after the first CTC payment went out to families in July, there was an immediate 25% increase in the number of families reporting that they had enough food to eat. Recent data from the WV Center on Budget and Policy (WVCBP) has demonstrated that WV families are spending their CTC on household essentials including food, utilities and clothing. WVCBP estimates that if all eligible families access the CTC, then nearly 50,000 WV children would no longer live in poverty.

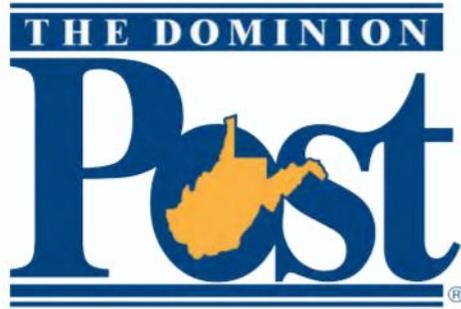
Senator Manchin has recently expressed his hesitation to support this proposal referencing a number of concerns relating both to its potential to discourage self-reliance and the bill's inability to weed out the undeserving.

It is my sincere hope that what will inspire Senator Manchin to act now, as it has so many times in the past, is that no one is more deserving than a child in poverty.

Addressing the opioid epidemic has been a chief priority for Senator Manchin during his time in public office. One of the greatest contributions he can make to it now is to give his full and energetic support of the Build Back Better agenda and its robust anti-poverty policies.

The strength of our communities is inseparable from the wellbeing and resiliency of our children. We have the means now through policy to truly reduce childhood poverty in our state and across the nation. In doing so, we will give families the resources they need to raise healthy children and allow them to lift themselves above the despair caused by poverty.

<https://www.dominionpost.com/2021/10/02/guest-essay-to-beat-the-opioid-crisis-lift-people-out-of-poverty/>



SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

W.Va. need the Build Back Better proposal

October 9, 2021

As a practicing neurosurgeon in West Virginia, I wish to strongly echo Dr. Winstanley's plea for Sen. Manchin to support the Build Back better proposal in her recent guest essay, "To beat the opioid crisis, lift people out of poverty."

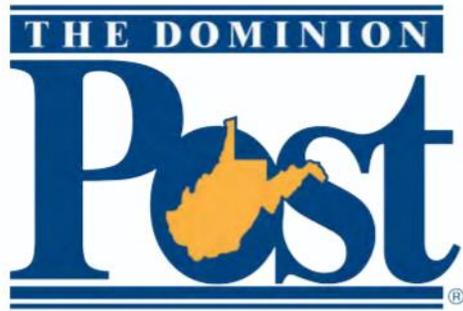
A huge amount of my practice is operating on life-threatening spinal infections arising from drug use. In my work caring for these people, I've seen first-hand the power of my patients' love for their children, which drives their resolve to do better and be better, for them.

We need the anti-poverty policies of Build Back Better in West Virginia to grow out of and overcome the opioid crisis and improve the future of all West Virginians.

— **Cara Sedney**

Core

<https://www.dominionpost.com/2021/10/09/oct-10-letters-to-the-editor-2/>



SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

What does Sen. Manchin want his legacy to be?

October 24, 2021

With the Build Back Better plan, Sen. Joe Manchin could have a profound impact on West Virginia, long past when he leaves office. One piece of that plan, the enhanced Child Tax Credit, can help a generation of West Virginia children get out of poverty.

Child poverty rates are already high in the U.S., and West Virginia has long ranked well below the national average. Since enhanced CTC payments began over the summer though, child poverty rates have decreased by nearly half. Over 93% of West Virginia children — that's nearly 350,000 — have benefited from this credit.

Imagine the implications within our state. That's more kids getting healthier, doing well in school, going to college and getting good jobs right here in the Mountain State.

And by insisting that the wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share of taxes, the one thing our kids won't get from Build Back Better is more debt.

As transformational as the CTC has been and could continue to be, Sen. Manchin has not given his full support of extending this measure beyond its expiration at the end of the year. Instead, he has suggested that the benefit should be tied to work requirements. This particular constraint stands to do more harm than good. The greatest would be the inevitable exclusion of children raised by their grandparents and children of parents with a disability, not to mention children whose parents are enrolled as full-time students or otherwise have full-time caretaking commitments.

The CTC has been life-changing for children and families across our state and throughout the country. It is an example of policy that works, and it deserves enthusiastic support, not arbitrary limitations that needlessly cut out many of the people who need it most.

Sen. Manchin's action on Build Back Better and the CTC may well determine what his legacy will be. Perhaps it will be politicians and business elites saying he was a good penny-pincher. Or it could be a generation of West Virginia kids saying thank you. Which will he choose?

— **Rebecca Reece**

Morgantown

<https://www.dominionpost.com/2021/10/23/oct-24-letters-to-the-editor-2/>



Sen. Manchin should support Build Back Better Act

October 24, 2021

Senator Manchin is enjoying unprecedented national attention these days. He has an opportunity to lead and cement his legacy as a fearless Mountaineer by supporting President Biden's Build Back Better Act.

The Build Back Better Act is an investment in human lives. It is an investment in one of the most basic of needs — shelter. The BBA contains enhanced Housing Choice Voucher legislation that will keep West Virginians in houses and off of the sidewalks. The HCV program enables Senator Manchin's low-income constituents to afford decent, stable housing, avoid homelessness, and make ends meet.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition reports that across West Virginia, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low-income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI).

Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost-burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and health care to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.

In West Virginia, 32% or 61,881, of renter households are extremely low income. This group inevitably pays more than half of their limited incomes on rent and are 23% more likely to face food insecurity.

This leads to a greater likelihood of poor health outcomes in children. In fact, Children's HealthWatch estimates that the U.S. will spend \$111 billion over the next 10 years in avoidable health-care costs because of housing instability.

Access to safe, affordable housing is more than a reasonable request — it's a human right. It's time to do the right thing. If you are fortunate enough to have a place to call home, or possibly even more than one home, consider the opportunity we have now to provide for our friends and neighbors at risk of having no home at all.

Call on Senator Manchin to use his outsized influence to see that the Build Back Better Act passes with investments in housing for West Virginia.

— **Catherine Jones**

Clarksburg

https://www.wvnews.com/theet/opinion/letterstoeditor/sen-manchin-should-support-build-back-better-act/article_b75ed77c-342d-11ec-ae17-67d0132c40b7.html

THE REGISTER~HERALD.

Beckley, West Virginia

Child Tax Credit should be made permanent

October 30, 2021

Despite good intentions, Sen. Manchin is wrong in pushing cuts to the Build Back Better plan as a solution to the national debt. The question he should be asking is not how much something costs, but the value we're getting for our money.

For example, the new Child Tax Credit will boost the annual income of the lowest-income West Virginia families by an average of \$4,000. As a result, children in these families will grow up healthier, do better in school, and earn more as adults. By investing in them now, we reduce the number of West Virginians in poverty for decades. That's both morally and fiscally responsible.

As a pediatrician, I know too well the effect poverty has on the immediate and long-term health of our children in West Virginia. Let's help to make our children's future brighter during this ongoing pandemic and beyond by lifting them out of poverty – a goal all Americans should support.

And if Sen. Manchin is still worried about cost, his smart proposal is to roll back the Trump tax cuts for the wealthy to pay for it.

The new Child Tax Credit is an investment in West Virginia. Sen. Manchin, please demand it be made permanent in the Build Back Better plan.

— **Josephine Reece, MD**

Morgantown, Formerly of Mullens

https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/child-tax-credit-should-be-made-permanent/article_d3210aec-684e-5b04-8bb9-06c093ec0932.html

Manchin should reconsider his position on child tax credit

October 30, 2021

It seems not every situation has been afforded proper recognition or consideration by Sen. Joe Manchin (himself a grandparent) who supports the child tax credit (CTC) work requirement. Senator Manchin wields immense influence that should be used to establish sensible legislation that will alleviate poverty for West Virginia's children. There is clearly a need for more programs to promote anti-poverty initiatives, especially those proposed in H.R.5376, the Build Back Better Act.

According to the 2019 U.S. Census data, more than half of grandparents in West Virginia are primary caregivers to grandchildren under 18 years old, making West Virginia the second in the nation for grandparents raising their grandchildren. This is a responsibility many older West Virginians, who are generally devoted to home and family, are neither financially nor emotionally prepared to take on. I have several family members who have been tasked with this challenge due to parental disability or substance abuse. Many struggle to provide their grandchildren with a middle-class standard of living on the income of a retiree, which can often be markedly less than if they were still working.

Overall, many retirees look forward to the golden years of retirement and have worked toward it their whole adult lives. It is shameful that grandparents in West Virginia must either delay retirement or increase their regular work hours to meet unplanned financial obligations. The income provided by the CTC would help to alleviate this struggle for older West Virginians who have paid their fair share of taxes and have diligently planned for their futures.

Senator Manchin and others in Congress should consider the unique situations that are impacted by the work requirement and support a less restrictive tax credit that will lessen the burden on grandparents who are struggling financially and only seek to provide a better life for their grandchildren.

— **Leann Hughes-Price**

Charleston

https://www.herald-dispatch.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-manchin-should-reconsider-his-position-on-child-tax-credit/article_dc5151b0-ef3e-587a-8c47-115f13c72d9a.html

Manchin should fully support the Build Back Better Act

October 30, 2021

West Virginia did not fare well in the most recent U.S. News and World Report's economic and development rankings. The comprehensive rankings of 50 states included 71 metrics in eight categories.

How did we do? Among other data, West Virginia ranked 50th (dead last) in infrastructure, 48th in economy, 47th in health care and 45th in education. In an economic development metric, West Virginia was the only state to experience declining population, according to the 2020 national census.

In the current national political climate, opinion and legislation appear to be created and supported along strictly political lines. This comparatively recent phenomenon reflects the national mood, but it contributes nothing to fashion meaningful, intelligent discourse for the greater societal good.

The current political impasse in Washington and our country cannot be healthy in the long term for economic growth, prosperity and the fulfillment of the dreams of our young people. Political party affiliation is a main driver of this metric.

West Virginia's youth, health care, public education and economic development should be supported without regard to political party affiliation.

In building a better West Virginia and United States of America, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., should fully support the Build Back Better Act without hesitation.

In so doing, he would be supporting all West Virginians. More importantly, he'd be doing what's right for his constituents.

— **Larry Scwab**

Morgantown

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-manchin-should-fully-support-the-build-back-better-act/article_5df3a009-a1cb-52ec-994b-611166646a71.html

THE REGISTER~HERALD.

Beckley, West Virginia

Child Tax Credit should be extended

November 8, 2021

Thanks to Dr. Reece for the reminder of the power of investing in our children by making the Child Tax Credit permanent in the Build Back Better Act. ("Child Tax Credit should be made permanent" by Josephine Reece, MD, The Register-Herald, Oct. 30, 2021). After many visits to family in the Mountain State and 35 years of teaching, I can confirm the good doctor's view of how it is important for our children to have enough to eat and secure housing. Let's all encourage Sen. Manchin (202-224-3121) to pass the Build Back Better legislation, including making the Child Tax Credit increase permanent. The investment in our children is worth the cost and will result in a better future for our country.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, WA

https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/child-tax-credit-should-be-extended/article_8096af2a-4117-11ec-a02e-9759c48a1634.html

Where's Manchin's support for BBB?

November 26, 2021

The White House and congressional leaders have reached a deal on the Build Back Better economic recovery bill. Despite many hard concessions to appease Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., this plan is still a transformative step forward in helping tens of millions of Americans get on their feet after the pandemic.

This plan extends the new child tax credit payments another year, meaning children already lifted out of poverty this year won't be pushed back down next year. It also provides much needed assistance to low-income renters to help them afford rent.

The new framework has kept provisions for improving the access to and quality of long-term care for seniors and those with disabilities as well as expanding Medicare to include coverage for hearing loss. Even more, it addresses childcare by making preschool universal for all three- and four-year-olds. This will allow parents to rejoin the workforce without having to sacrifice wages for the high costs of childcare. And the plan is paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

I am grateful Manchin agreed to keep these provisions in the bill. I ask that he listen to his constituents here in West Virginia who support these investments to improve the working class.

The Build Back Better bill will provide financial support to our grandparents raising their grandchildren, will create opportunities for a workforce that is begging for good paying jobs and will keep our children from falling back into poverty.

These are just a few of the many successes to come out of this bill. It's not perfect but it is historic. It lays the foundation for building an economy where no West Virginian gets left behind. It must be passed.

As a physician, I am most excited about the plan to allow the federal government to negotiate prescription drug costs, including for insulin, as well as putting a cap on out-of-pocket expenses under Medicare Part D. I have too many patients that have to choose between medications and food or elect to get behind on rent and other bills due to high healthcare costs.

The provision of a guaranteed four weeks per year of paid family and medical leave would also be a win for my patients; whether it be for parents of the newborn I'm seeing in the clinic or for one of my adult patients who needs time off to recover from a serious illness or care for a loved one. This would eliminate the stress of having to choose between their health and income, which is an unfortunate but common occurrence for West Virginians.

Manchin has gotten the smaller bill he wanted. It's now time to get it done. When the Build Back Better bill comes to a vote, I strongly urge all our members of Congress to vote yes.

— Dr. Josephine Reece is an internist and pediatrician in Morgantown, and part of RESULTS WV.

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/opinion/op_ed_commentaries/josephine-reece-where-manchins-support-for-bbb-opinion/article_1aff8c84-3d20-58fe-887d-829cb67cd4ee.html



Child Tax Credit proves anti-poverty policy can be both ambitious and effective

December 14, 2021

In the fight against childhood poverty, focus can easily shift between aspiring for possibility and settling for probability. It is not always that we see solutions that we know our public institutions are capable of delivering, but rather those thought to be more realistic or achievable. If events of the past year have proven anything, it is that these outcomes need not be mutually exclusive. It is well within the means of government to enact meaningful anti-poverty policies and deploy resources in a timely and coordinated manner for maximized impact. If we need any convincing, the remarkable progress following the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) implementation, enacted as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) earlier this year, provides a very clear picture of how swiftly and effectively policy can impact those in need.

The changes to the CTC included three key provisions: an increase in the maximum credit amount (from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600 for a child under age six and \$3,000 for a child aged 6-17 for head of household tax filers making less than \$112,500 and married tax filers making less than \$150,000), the inclusion of 17-year-old children for the first time, and full refundability (so that even if a qualifying family did not have a tax bill at the end of the year, they could still receive the full value of the credit). Disbursement also changed. Families were able to receive advance payments of one-half of the credit on a monthly basis beginning from July to

December of this year, rather than as a lump sum next year at tax time. Families can claim the remaining credit amount when they file taxes next year.

Monthly distribution of expanded CTC payments began in July and reached nearly 60 million children nationwide. According to the Columbia Center on Poverty and Social Change, this kept an estimated 6 million children from poverty in that first month alone. That represents an immediate reduction in child poverty of 40%. CTC payments have since remained a consistent month-to-month influence in percentage point reductions of the national child poverty rate: 4.7 in August, 4.6 in September, and 4.9 in October.

Ninety percent of families with low incomes used these funds to meet basic needs, such as housing, food, clothing, and utilities, in addition to education by October. This reflects an earlier finding in August that the number of adults living with children reporting that their household didn't have enough to eat fell by 3.3 million, or nearly one-third. The additional income available to families through the expanded CTC increases the security of children and thus the long-term outlook for better health, better educational performance, and higher earnings as adults.

Impacts here in West Virginia mirror the national scene. Nearly 350,000 of our state's children can access the expanded CTC credit. Over 90% of low-income West Virginia families report using these funds to meet basic necessities, and food insecurity in households with children in our state dropped from 11.6% in June to 8.4% in July.

The data gathered following expanded CTC payments this year proves that progress can be ambitious, effective, compassionate, and just. When we embrace the extent of what is proven possible, anything else becomes less and less acceptable. This includes allowing the CTC expansions to expire at the end of the year. Kids are left especially vulnerable now by the inability of Congress to agree on the Build Back Better Act, which includes provisions for the continuation of the CTC for at least one year. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, if the Build Back Better Act is not enacted, the Child Tax Credit would revert to its pre-pandemic status, decreasing total credits per child, excluding 17-year-olds, and losing full refundability. This ultimately results in the least help to the children who need it most — approximately 27 million American children would once again get a

partial credit or none at all because their families' incomes are too low. In our state, that's projected to be 170,000 kids.

This is no time for mere pragmatism and settling only for a temporary period of poverty alleviation. The CTC payments that go out on December 15 cannot be the last. Permanent solutions that lead to the elimination of childhood poverty are not only in everyone's interest, but they are also clearly within our ability.

*— **Joanna DiStefano** is the Program Manager of the Global Engagement Office at WVU Health Sciences and leader of RESULTS WV, a grassroots movement dedicated to seeking nonpartisan solutions for the elimination of global and domestic poverty.*

<https://thinkkidswv.org/child-tax-credit-proves-anti-poverty/>

THE REGISTER~HERALD.

Beckley, West Virginia

Kudos and a request to Manchin

December 16, 2021

Congratulations to Senator Manchin for making an effort to work in a bipartisan fashion. ("Manchin: "We have a division in our country right now"" by Eric Cravey, The Register-Herald, Dec. 13, 2021) Sorry it didn't work for the voters' rights bill he wrote, that he thought sure 10 Republicans would join, none did. The senator's bipartisan work to increase funding for rural health care is also to be applauded. Now, his vote for the Build Back Better program can ensure that 3.6 million children will not fall back into poverty, thanks to the increase in the Child Tax Credit. Not to mention housing and health care help.

The senator is right, West Virginia is a special state (My dad grew up there and I spend many joyful visits with family there), AND he does work for his constituents. So call him (202-224-3121) and ask him to step up to pass the Build Back Better legislation that will improve life for millions of American families, in West Virginia and across the nation!

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Wash.

https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/kudos-and-a-request-to-manchin/article_32acba12-294d-5e6a-9e5a-e181dc2b4788.html

THE CAP TIMES

Congress needs to expand rental assistance

June 8, 2021

Dear Editor: The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the U.S. housing crisis. The extension of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's eviction moratorium is set to expire on June 30. Yet based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently found that more than 10 million Americans are not currently caught up on rent.

While I commend the Biden Administration's efforts to build affordable housing, more needs to be done to ensure millions of American families can keep a roof over their heads. With the expiration of the moratorium quickly approaching at the end of the month and millions still struggling to afford rent, Congress must take greater action to further expand rental assistance to all eligible renters through increased funding for Housing Choice Vouchers. As America's largest rental assistance program, Housing Choice Vouchers allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Furthermore, studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I call on Wisconsin Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Emily Merkel**

Madison

https://madison.com/opinion/mailbag/emily-merkel-congress-needs-to-expand-rental-assistance/article_f75b916b-3e74-511f-8b8d-cf0375e1ae92.html

THE CAP TIMES

Expanded tax credits must be made permanent

June 24, 2021

Dear Editor: With high unemployment rates due to COVID-19, Americans need and want additional money to help make ends meet. This will soon become reality for millions as Congress' major expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) goes into effect next month.

The CTC expansion not only increases the amount of money most families will get but also provides families the option to receive monthly payments from July to December. This additional \$250-\$300 each month can help pay for rent, food, childcare, and other bills. Furthermore, the EITC changes will benefit millions of low-wage workers across the nation and in our community. This tax credit will target foodservice, hospitality and transportation workers who have been essential throughout the pandemic.

I applaud Congress and the Biden administration for taking this initiative to help American families, children and workers. However, this expansion cannot be a one-year, temporary fix. In order to truly make an impact on American lives, these tax credit changes need to be made permanent.

Wisconsin Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson must ensure the 2021 CTC and EITC improvements become permanent in recovery legislation this year to continue lifting millions out of poverty.

— **Emily Merkel**

Madison

https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/emily-merkel-expanded-tax-credits-must-be-made-permanent/article_83893306-9668-5f3c-99f1-01632b7f0433.html

Senate must extend expanded child tax credit as soon as possible

December 15, 2021

I am thrilled the House passed the Build Back Better Act in November. Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new Child Tax Credit payments, which have already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty and helped millions of families pay the rent, put food on the table, find child care, and more.

Today, Dec. 15, the next monthly tax credit payments go out to American families. If the Senate does not pass the Build Back Better Act, it will be the last, forcing millions of children back into poverty in January. There is too much on the line for Congress to fail. And the clock is ticking. The Senate must pass it now.

— Marie Claire DeLuna

Fort Atkinson

https://www.gazettextra.com/opinion/letters/your-views-senate-must-extend-expanded-child-tax-credit-as-soon-as-possible/article_2a3a2c1c-6b07-5024-a699-70f37c768d78.html



Build Back Better Act

December 16, 2021

I am thrilled the House passed the Build Back Better Act (BBB) in November.

Build Back Better will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance to help them afford a place to live. It also extends the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments, which have already lifted more than three million children out of poverty and helped millions of families pay the rent, put food on the table, find child care and more.

On Dec. 15, the next monthly CTC payment goes out to American families. If the Senate does not pass BBB this month, it will be the last, forcing millions of children back into poverty in January.

There is too much on the line for Congress to fail. And the clock is ticking. The Senate must pass BBB now.

I strongly urge our senators to demand immediate consideration of the Build Back Better Act and to vote YES when it comes to a vote.

— Melvin Marshall

Somers

https://www.kenoshanews.com/opinion/voice_of_the_people/melvin-marshall-build-back-better-act/article_67ec4653-7d9c-5c94-8622-230491daf1f1.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share



Tell Congress to support bills to boost affordable housing

October 22, 2021

WTE recently ran a series of articles on the housing crisis in Cheyenne. Unfortunately, the crisis isn't limited to Cheyenne. Affordable housing is one of the issues included in the proposed "Build Back Better" legislation.

Most people who work with the problem called for \$180 billion over the next 10 years, including Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) for everyone who qualifies. But the House has proposed only \$75 billion for HCV, with an additional \$15 billion for other housing assistance needs. The administration doesn't seem to have prioritized housing as an issue in negotiations. As the bill gets trimmed, even this reduced amount may be cut. Tell Congress NOW that we must make this investment.

A problem not addressed, though, is that many landlords don't accept HCV. They have experienced problems, such as burdensome delays in home inspections, problems with security deposits and unrealistic estimates of rents in their property's neighborhood. Our own Sen. Lummis has co-sponsored a bill to address these and other problems. S. 1820, Choice in Affordable Housing, provides a number of financial incentives and speedier inspections with closer attention to neighborhood-specific data on rents.

The bill is endorsed by industry associations such as the National Association of Realtors. RESULTS, advocating for policies that can help end poverty, and other advocates for affordable housing has endorsed the bill, too. It is a win-win!

Thank you, Sen. Lummis, for taking a practical step toward getting more families into homes!

— **Ann Erdmann**

Cheyenne

https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/tell-congress-to-support-bills-to-boost-affordable-housing/article_b257c7c1-4cca-5251-a7ce-9c0fa4f79894.html



A few cents a day can make an enormous impact

November 10, 2021

As children, my sister and I heard our parents talk each month about which bills they would have to pay when payday came and which could skip a month or be paid only in part. At the time, our school participated in the Department of Agriculture milk program: for a nickel, you got a half-pint carton of milk for a mid-morning snack. For 8 cents, you could get chocolate milk.

We didn't qualify for free milk; but the two of us decided, in our elementary-school wisdom, that we would do our part by not getting chocolate milk. That way, between the two of us, we contributed 6 cents a day to the family budget, a little more than 60 cents in today's money.

On the other hand, we gladly put 10 cents a day into the March of Dimes cards to end polio and help people who were already sick. That was another way we could make a difference with just a few cents a day. And, of course, we managed a quarter for the Sunday School collection every week.

Laramie County voters just said they are overwhelmingly willing to spend a few cents a day to invest in our community. So, what could just a few cents a day mean — what could they have meant — for an investment in our whole country?

The full \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better bill would have been a huge investment in the futures of American children and families. It would have supported the care and education of our children with tax credits to help families raise their children, medical and family leave to care for newborn infants or ill family members, child care for working parents, and universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.

It provided two free years of community college to better prepare our workforce, helped with affordable housing, decreased drug prices and added important

Medicare benefits for our elders. It started to address climate change to avert a looming crisis much worse than COVID.

But Congress whined about supporting these investments in our country, claiming that it “costs” too much, that it would be a huge burden for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren — the very same people the bill invested in. It's like the advisers who said not to put money into Apple because it was just a couple of kids in a garage and recommended storing your money in the sock drawer for your family.

A friend of mine looked at what BBB would actually have cost. The investment was spread over 10 years, \$350 billion each year, or an average of \$1,049 per year for each American (current population 333,490,143). That averages out to \$2.87 per person per day. If you are in the bottom half of taxpayers (make less than \$79,000) the Tax Foundation shows your tax share would actually be about \$30.41 each year (8 cents/day). As with any investment, those at the top who invested more would be the ones to reap a far greater return in the long run.

My sister and I understood in early elementary school that a few cents a day could have enormous impact on the future — on OUR future. Instead of investing in our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Congress has whittled away at BBB and left much of the responsibility for these problems to the future. It isn't clear who Congress thinks will bear the costs then.

Next time you donate to a Go Fund Me or similar call for assistance, think about how a few pennies a day might have prevented the economic catastrophe that leaves people having to beg strangers for help. Let our congressional delegation know that you are ready to invest in the future and don't want to see that investment cut any further. Our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren can't afford it.

Ann Erdmann is the group leader for RESULTS Cheyenne, a grassroots movement of people advocating for policies that will bring an end to poverty. Email: annerdmann291@gmail.com.

https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/guest_column/erdmann-a-few-cents-a-day-can-make-an-enormous-impact/article_d973504e-c124-5d76-a251-84e9d3aa1d7a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



The Expanded Child Tax Credit Is Changing Lives. Congress Should Make It Permanent.

August 8, 2021

by Ashley Burnside

Some 39 million families across the country found something in their bank account (or mailbox) last month that's long overdue: A significant investment by our government in eliminating child poverty.

That's because as of July 15 and every month until the end of the year, the federal government began distributing monthly installments of the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden in March. But this initiative to put money directly in the pockets of millions of parents is only budgeted to last for one year. It's up to Congress to extend support for millions of parents who struggle to make ends meet.

Unlike many government programs, the Child Tax Credit is not hard to explain. Married couples earning \$150,000 a year or less will receive \$300 a month for every child under six years old, and \$250 for every child between six and seventeen. For heads of households, the income threshold to receive the maximum CTC benefit is \$112,500. Providing the benefit monthly rather than as an annual lump-sum aligns with the monthly expenses that families face, like rent and utilities, and can help them with budgeting.

It's a simple formula that has the potential to be transformative — not just for millions of children and families — but for the country as a whole.

After all, there is nothing complicated about the principle at stake. Raising kids is hard work and parents deserve support. Whether the money goes toward healthy meals, paying for childcare, or allowing access to enrichment activities, the CTC

recognizes parents know what works for their children and gives them the resources they need to meet their particular challenges.

For parents like Yolanda Gordon of Fort Mill, S.C., the CTC gave her the ability to make sure her children are getting the education she knows they deserve. "Access to additional money from my Child Tax Credit will help me pay for the fees that my children will have for school. It will reduce the burden that I will feel to ensure they have everything they need."

All told, the CTC has the potential to reduce the number of children who live in poverty by half. That alone should give every American a reason to walk a little taller.

But the positive impacts are even more impressive when we look beyond the aggregate numbers. After all, a few hundred dollars each month has the potential to be even more transformative for those who have the greatest need. For some of the neediest families, this investment will help parents serve their children three meals a day instead of two, or keep the electricity on during what has already been a dangerously hot summer.

In the context of what we already know about how wealth is distributed in the United States, the CTC can also mitigate profound racial disparities. The median net worth for a White family in the U.S. is \$188,200. For a Black family, it is just \$24,100, and for a Latino family, it's \$36,000. Simply by ensuring that all children in families below a certain income level have a minimal, standard investment from our government, the CTC has the biggest impact on those who have been shut out the longest.

For most families, this support will be automatic. About 80 percent will simply see the money deposited in their bank accounts; the remainder will receive a check to the address the IRS has on file or will have the opportunity to enroll in the payments using an IRS non-filer portal.

That support has a big impact after years of slow wage growth combined with rising medical and housing costs. Providing a cushion for families struggling to make ends meet—while supporting the health and wellbeing of the next generation—is a wise use of our resources and a smart investment for our country. But the expanded

program is only funded for one year, and Congress will need to take action soon to continue at the new level.

Kids are our nation's best investment. That is why the original CTC passed Congress with broad bipartisan support. Now it is up to Congress to make sure we are not giving up too soon on a great idea. In the coming months, the House, Senate, and the Biden administration should all work together to make the expanded Child Tax Credit a permanent feature in our support for children and families.

Ashley Burnside is a policy analyst with the Income and Work Supports Team at the Center for Law and Social Policy. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.

<https://insidesources.com/the-expanded-child-tax-credit-is-changing-lives-congress-should-make-it-permanent/>

What the expanded Child Tax Credit means to me

I grew up poor and traumatized, not knowing how to get help. Now my own child's life will be better.

By **La'Shon Marshall** | September 15, 2021

I remember finding out I was about to become a mother. I felt the fear taking hold of me. My brain stopped. I remember crying but had no tears. I remember trying to run, but I couldn't move.

No one had prepared me for motherhood — my own mother abandoned me when I wasn't even two years old. My child's father was violently abusive. My life was unstable and I was terrified of having another human being depend on me.

Things are so much better now. My son Caleb is starting kindergarten, and he's the light of my life. We've been through so much together, but we're making it.

One thing that's helping more than words can express is the new, expanded Child Tax Credit. Passed as part of the Biden administration's COVID-19 relief package, it puts money into our bank account — and the bank account of nearly every parent in this country — every month.

That credit is on track to lift half of all kids living in poverty out of it, including mine. That will help them lead safer, happier lives well into adulthood.

My own early childhood was filled with trauma.

After our mother left us, my father had to take care of all of us children. He did his best, but he didn't know how to access social services for us. When he got sick, we lost everything. We ended up living in a tent "village" under a bridge, where I had to cook for 50 people for the next seven years.

I was just a child.

I was afraid of people on the street, students at school, even of being around others where I lived. When I acted out and skipped school, I was incarcerated in

juvenile detention for truancy. The years that followed saw cycle after cycle of abuse, instability, and trauma.

But eventually, I found help. At age 18 and on the run, I got a job at a homeless shelter called Covenant House and moved in there. They helped me get an ID and taught me about social services and how to get them.

I never knew help existed for someone like me. I became a team leader there and my life started to change. Now I'm an advocate with a nonprofit called RESULTS, which trains and supports people to fight for policies that help families like mine survive and thrive.

Along the way I've learned something really important: Many of us who grew up in abusive situations simply don't have access to mental health services, so we find ourselves in abusive relationships as adults. And many others who experience the trauma of poverty simply don't know how to get help.

Before the COVID-19 relief package, I would never have been able to access the Child Tax Credit — I was simply too poor. And complex paperwork and bureaucratic requirements put other help out of reach, too.

But now families like mine, and every other family with kids, get life-changing help deposited directly into their bank accounts. I can't tell you how much of a difference this makes.

Thanks to the Child Tax Credit, Caleb won't suffer the tremendous trauma that I did as a child. His life will be better. He'll have the love and economic support he needs to thrive.

We are the wealthiest nation on earth, but too often we've abandoned our poorest children like my mother abandoned me. But if we have the political will, we can make more smart economic choices like these to give all children a safe and secure childhood.

Not only will Caleb thrive, but we as a whole society will.

La'Shon Marshall lives in Detroit and is an advocate and Expert on Poverty at RESULTS Educational Fund. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

<https://otherwords.org/what-the-expanded-child-tax-credit-means-to-me/>



Thanks to the Child Tax Credit, My Son Won't Suffer the Tremendous Trauma I Did

I grew up poor and traumatized, not knowing how to get help. Now my own child's life will be better.

By La'Shon Marshall

September 16, 2021 by OtherWords

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La'Shon Marshall lives in Detroit and is an advocate and Expert on Poverty at RESULTS Educational Fund.

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/09/16/thanks-child-tax-credit-my-son-wont-suffer-tremendous-trauma-i-did>

COUNTERPUNCH

What the Expanded Child Tax Credit Means to Me

By La'Shon Marshall

September 17, 2021

I remember finding out I was about to become a mother. I felt the fear taking hold of me. My brain stopped. I remember crying but had no tears. I remember trying to run, but I couldn't move.

No one had prepared me for motherhood — my own mother abandoned me when I wasn't even two years old. My child's father was violently abusive. My life was unstable and I was terrified of having another human being depend on me.

Things are so much better now. My son Caleb is starting kindergarten, and he's the light of my life. We've been through so much together, but we're making it.

One thing that's helping more than words can express is the new, expanded Child Tax Credit. Passed as part of the Biden administration's COVID-19 relief package, it puts money into our bank account — and the bank account of nearly every parent in this country — every month.

That credit is on track to lift half of all kids living in poverty out of it, including mine. That will help them lead safer, happier lives well into adulthood.

My own early childhood was filled with trauma.

After our mother left us, my father had to take care of all of us children. He did his best, but he didn't know how to access social services for us. When he got sick, we lost everything. We ended up living in a tent "village" under a bridge, where I had to cook for 50 people for the next seven years.

I was just a child.

I was afraid of people on the street, students at school, even of being around others where I lived. When I acted out and skipped school, I was incarcerated in juvenile detention for truancy. The years that followed saw cycle after cycle of abuse, instability, and trauma.

But eventually, I found help. At age 18 and on the run, I got a job at a homeless shelter called Covenant House and moved in there. They helped me get an ID and taught me about social services and how to get them.

I never knew help existed for someone like me. I became a team leader there and my life started to change. Now I'm an advocate with a nonprofit called RESULTS, which trains and supports people to fight for policies that help families like mine survive and thrive.

Along the way I've learned something really important: Many of us who grew up in abusive situations simply don't have access to mental health services, so we find ourselves in abusive relationships as adults. And many others who experience the trauma of poverty simply don't know how to get help.

Before the COVID-19 relief package, I would never have been able to access the Child Tax Credit — I was simply too poor. And complex paperwork and bureaucratic requirements put other help out of reach, too.

But now families like mine, and every other family with kids, get life-changing help deposited directly into their bank accounts. I can't tell you how much of a difference this makes.

Thanks to the Child Tax Credit, Caleb won't suffer the tremendous trauma that I did as a child. His life will be better. He'll have the love and economic support he needs to thrive.

We are the wealthiest nation on earth, but too often we've abandoned our poorest children like my mother abandoned me. But if we have the political will, we can make more smart economic choices like these to give all children a safe and secure childhood.

Not only will Caleb thrive, but we as a whole society will.

La'Shon Marshall lives in Detroit and is an advocate and Expert on Poverty at RESULTS Educational Fund.

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2021/09/17/what-the-expanded-child-tax-credit-means-to-me/>

THE SMIRKING CHIMP

What the Expanded Child Tax Credit Means to Me

by La'Shon Marshall

September 18, 2021

— from OtherWords

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<http://smirkingchimp.com/thread/la-shon-marshall/98392/what-the-expanded-child-tax-credit-means-to-me>



What the Expanded Child Tax Credit Means to Me

La'Shon Marshall

September 20, 2021

COMMENTARY - I remember finding out I was about to become a mother. I felt the fear taking hold of me. My brain stopped. I remember crying but had no tears. I remember trying to run, but I couldn't move.

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(La'Shon Marshall lives in Detroit and is an advocate and Expert on Poverty at RESULTS Educational Fund. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.)

<https://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/375-voices/22607-what-the-expanded-child-tax-credit-means-to-me>



The Center for Law and Social Policy

Tired Argument on Child Tax Credit Is Simply Wrong

By Yolanda Gordon

October 25, 2021

Note: Yolanda Gordon, who lives in Fort Mill, S.C., is a member of CLASP's Community Partnership Group, which is a diverse collective of activists from across the United States who partner with nonprofits to ensure that their work is grounded in the expertise and experiences of people directly impacted by anti-poverty policies.

Caring for our children is one of the most important contributions anyone can make to society. Our children, my children, are our top priority, and they are non-negotiable.

Bruce D. Meyer recently wrote an opinion editorial in the Washington Post asserting that the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is one of the most expensive proposed spending plans based on a study that is an outlier. He made extreme and unrealistic assumptions about how willing parents will be to give up work in order to live in poverty with an extra \$2-3,000 per year.

He stated "...making the tax credit permanent in its current form will end up unintentionally hurting many of the children it is supposed to help." Mr. Meyer's argument stems from baseless claims that the CTC would not only increase unemployment, but it would cut child poverty by only a third. The reality is the opposite.

The Census Pulse survey conducted from July 21- August 2, 2021, found that parents who received their advanced tax credits spent their payment on food, child care, and rent or their mortgage. The estimated total number of children who would benefit from the expansion of the CTC is 27 million.

My children benefit from the advanced CTC payments to help pay for essentials such as clothing, hygiene products, and for items that they need for school. It has lessened the weight on my shoulders to find a way to extend my budget. Parents with children, especially those in households with low incomes, have to be more creative with their budgets as their children's needs change. I can tell you that having means to ensure that my children's needs are met has helped lessen the burden. As a parent, I have always worked, and no benefit has prevented me from working to take care of my children.

To Mr. Meyer, there are many things that would hurt children, and giving parents more money to care for them is not one of those things. Lack of quality food, safe housing, quality health care, quality child care, and a lack of access to good schools hurt children. I am a parent who receives the CTC, and I have since I became a mother. And I have never stopped working because of it.

The argument that is being used is an upside-down argument that a parent would be willing to quit a job that pays for all of their basic needs because they are getting a \$250-300 tax credit per month. The CTC expansions are about ensuring all children have an equal shot at a bright future. Just as public school should not be conditioned on caregiver earnings, neither should the CTC.

Sir, I am a mother, and this would cause irreversible harm to my children. The purpose of this credit is to cut child poverty in half, which it has. Sir, are you okay with putting half the children in America back into poverty?

<https://www.clasp.org/blog/tired-argument-child-tax-credit-simply-wrong>

The Washington Post

Joe Manchin can get West Virginia even closer to heaven

October 26, 2021

Whether you were born in West Virginia or got here as fast as you could, we all soon learn that poverty, hunger and despair can be as much a part of our landscape as mountains and rivers.

In America's Almost Heaven, why is this so? An even better question would be, why does it persist?

Though we may never agree on the causes of poverty, we will most certainly be able to mark this moment in our nation's history as either our greatest turning point for health, well-being and economic justice or our costliest missed opportunity.

We clearly have the means to make lasting progress against poverty with the Build Back Better Act and its provisions for affordable housing, paid leave and an enhanced child tax credit. Yet proposed cuts and arbitrary limitations stand to diminish its impact, reversing the progress already made in cutting child poverty in half.

Rather than being reminded of his profound influence in this process, we would do well to remind Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) that it is entirely within his power to secure prosperity, security and hope in West Virginia and across the nation through a robust Build Back Better Act.

— **Joanna DiStefano**

Morgantown, W.Va.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/letters-to-the-editor/joe-manchin-can-get-west-virginia-even-closer-to-heaven/2021/10/25/9b097e7a-3369-11ec-8036-7db255bff176_story.html



Tired Argument on Child Tax Credit Is Simply Wrong

By Yolanda Gordon

November 15, 2021

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This is a guest blog post by Yolanda Gordon, an advocate and [RESULTS](#) staff member in South Carolina.

<https://www.momsrising.org/blog/tired-argument-on-child-tax-credit-is-simply-wrong>



Federal legislation is a start in addressing country's needs

December 9, 2021

Columnist Larry Little does an excellent job of defining the dangers to our existence as a nation, our species, and our planet. ("Owning up to our internal decay before we rediscover our purpose," Dec. 3)

New changes were triggered by the pandemic, making the hard truth of our lack of equity extremely clear, triggering a Congressional response that brings hope. The relief package, the infrastructure bill, and now the Build Back Better legislation all offer a new beginning. The Child and Earned Income Tax Credits increase brought 3.6 million children are no longer in poverty (Columbia University Study) and fewer young couples will now be taxed into poverty!

Thanks to the House for passing Build Back Better that will continue these tax credits. Now it is up to our compassionate and powerful Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to lead the way. We can help by sharing our stories with them, by calling 202-224-3121, to share how this matters and creates equity in America.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish

This article originally appeared on Kitsap Sun: Federal legislation is a start in addressing country's needs

https://news.yahoo.com/federal-legislation-start-addressing-countrys-194143133.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma&guccounter=1

SNAP support

December 2021

Great to see government efforts to curtail with a food stamp increase for millions of families {"Food Help for Older Americans", In the News]. The recent increase to the child tax credit also helps families leave poverty and not have to choose between food and rent. Let's encourage our government to make this ladder out of poverty permanent.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, Washington

No onlink available



Volunteer with Results

Winter 2021

Thanks for the issue of PURPOSE, particularly the article that explains how we sabotage ourselves with “inner ageism” (“Our Inner Ageist”, by Dr, Connie Zweig, Fall 2021). We “elders” have so much to offer and the ability to make a difference. Volunteering with RESULTS (results.org) to end the worst aspects of hunger and poverty has been an eye-opening journey, working with my members of Congress, and like-minded folks of all ages. What is your plan to stay vital and make a difference? RESULTS welcomes all voices, helping you learn how to matter in this world.

— **Willie Dickerson**

Snohomish, WA

https://issuu.com/3rdactmagazine/docs/interior_winter2021_print