Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit

**Engage**: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) help hardworking families make ends meet and lifted 9.4 million people out of poverty in 2013, including 5 million children.

**Problem**: Despite the success of these pro-work tax credits, 16 million Americans, including 7.7 million children, could fall into or deeper into poverty if Congress does not save key EITC and CTC provisions.

**Inform/Illustrate**: Let me tell you my story/a story about the impact of these tax policies… The EITC and CTC promote work and help working families escape poverty, while making a big impact on the lives of children. In addition, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) wants to fix a glaring gap in the EITC by expanding the EITC for low-income workers without children.

**Senate Call to Action**: Will you personally speak to Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and/or Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), urging them to make saving the EITC and CTC provisions their top tax priority this year?

(FOR SENATE DEMOCRATS) In addition, will you co-sponsor the *Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2015*, S.1012, if you haven’t done so already?

**House Call to Action**: Will you speak to House Ways and Means Committee Chair Paul Ryan (R-WI) and/or Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-MI), urging them to make saving the EITC and CTC provisions their top tax priority this year?

(FOR HOUSE DEMOCRATS) In addition, will you co-sponsor the *Child Tax Credit Permanency Act* (H.R.1286) and the *Earned Income Tax Credit Improvement and Simplification Act* (H.R.902), if you haven’t done so already? These bills support working families by saving the expiring EITC and CTC provisions and fix the gap in the EITC for workers without children.

**NOTES**

Protect SNAP and Child Nutrition Programs

**Engage**: Nutrition programs have made a big impact on my life – I’d like to tell you a bit more about my experiences.

**Problem**: Like many families, we often struggle to put food on the table…

**Inform/Illustrate**: SNAP is America’s first line of defense against hunger, and it has made a big impact on my life… OR Child nutrition programs are critically important, which I can vouch for in my family… Federal nutrition programs play a critical role in fighting hunger.

**Call to Action**: Will you work to protect SNAP//child nutrition programs in Congress this session?

**NOTES**

Wealth Inequality and the Racial Wealth Gap

Before we leave, I want to highlight a background piece in this packet. Often, the discussion of inequality focuses just on income inequality, but we need to also discuss wealth inequality and the racial wealth gap. Government policies have played a key role in perpetuating structural racism that leave millions of Americans of color without the same opportunities to move up the economic ladder. I hope you will consider this as you work to enact comprehensive tax reform in the coming years.

**NOTES**