

## Expand Tax Credits for Workers and Families

This month, RESULTS continues our work to push Congress to help workers and families in any new tax legislation this fall. The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit support families, encourage work, and provide a financial lifeline to help families make ends meet. Together, they lifted almost 8 million people above the federal poverty line in 2018. But some are still left out. 5 million workers not raising children in the home get such a low EITC, they are the only group in America that is *taxed into* poverty. Also, the \$2,000 per child CTC, which was created to help families with the costs of raising children, is not even offered for children who need it most (families earning less than \$3,000 per year). Congress could have fixed these problems in 2017 when it passed the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*. Instead, they gave wealthy Americans and big corporations a \$1.5 trillion tax cut.

Leaders in Congress want a tax deal this fall that would primarily benefit businesses and corporations. We faced a similar situation in 2015 and like then, we must insist that if Congress does any kind of tax bill this fall, helping low-income workers and families in that bill must be the top priority.

### Use All Your Tools to Get Your EITC and CTC Message to Congress

**Meet with members of Congress.** The House and Senate are on recess the first two weeks of October (September 30-October 14). Schedule meetings and attend town halls to talk to them directly about expanding the EITC and CTC in any new tax bill (as well as continuing to build support for the renters' tax credit). Use our [sample request](#) to schedule a meeting today and contact RESULTS staff when you get one on the calendar. See talking points below.

**Talk to tax aides on the phone.** As you wait to get meetings with your members of Congress back home, reach out to tax aides in their offices to talk about the EITC and CTC. Remind them that the Census data just came out showing that 38 million were living below the poverty line in 2018, but that number would have been 8 million higher without the EITC and CTC. Urge members of Congress to tell House and Senate leadership that any tax bill this fall, must include expansions of the EITC and CTC.

**Generate media on the EITC and CTC.** Continue to push our message in the media by [getting letters to the editors](#) and op-eds published about tax policy that helps workers and families. We have a goal of 70 EITC/CTC media pieces by the end of October. If you do get published, please send copies to the tax aides and take copies to any lobby meetings you have.

**Urge people to call House and Senate offices about the EITC and CTC.** In a recent RESULTS lobby meeting, a congressional aide noted that a mere ten phone calls to their office gets their attention about an issue. [Look up your members of Congress](#), call yourself, and ask others (action networks, social media networks, and others you know) to call and leave this message with the receptionist:

*Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent from \_\_\_\_\_. Leaders in Congress want to do a tax bill this fall to help businesses and corporations. If they do, millions of workers and families struggling to make ends meet should get priority. These people were ignored in the 2017 tax law; they must not be ignored again. Please tell Rep./Sen. \_\_\_\_\_ that if Congress passes any tax bill this fall, it must include expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit for low-income Americans. Will you please give him/her that message? Thank you.*

## EITC and CTC EPIC Laser Talk

For meetings, phone calls with aides, and media, draw from our EITC/CTC Laser Talk for talking points.

**Engage:** *Tax policy can create economic opportunity and mobility. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) lift more families and children out of poverty than any other program.*

**Problem:** *Unfortunately, the current federal tax code taxes more than 5 million low-wage workers not raising children at home into (or deeper into) poverty, and one in four children in low-income families do not receive the full Child Tax Credit.*

**Illustrate or Inform:** *Over the last several decades, gains in income and wealth have primarily gone to those at the top, while economic growth has slowed and inequality has increased. We should restructure tax policies to reduce inequality and help families make ends meet by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit for low-income families [include your own EITC or CTC experience and/or why you care].*

**Call to Action:** *Congress is considering tax legislation this fall that would benefit businesses and large corporations. Will you tell congressional leaders to adhere to the 2015 precedent that no business tax breaks should be extended without also expanding the EITC and CTC for low-income workers and families?*

**Additional House Call to Action:** *Will you prioritize working families by cosponsoring the robust EITC and CTC expansions in H.R.3157?*

If you are also discussing housing policy in meetings, find all our Laser Talks [on the RESULTS website](#).

## Continue to Organize Others into Action around the EITC and CTC

We continue to focus, based on [the work of Dr. Hahrie Han](#), on using our advocacy to inspire others into action. And we need their help. In order to get meaningful expansions of the EITC and CTC in any tax bill this fall, we need as many people talking to them as possible. Use this action to engage other people you know into action. Below are some things you ask people to do.

- Invite someone new to participate in a lobby meeting during the October recess
- Ask someone to attend a town hall with you (and if they're game, ask a question)
- Ask 10 people you know to call each member of Congress and leave a message about expanding the EITC and CTC with the receptionist – use the message on the previous page
- Ask someone to write a letter to the editor about the EITC and CTC in their local paper
- Ask 5 people to write letters to their members of Congress about including the EITC and CTC in any new tax bill (using talking points above)

Remember, the key to success is not only asking them to ask but offering to help as much or as little as they need and circling back to reflect on how taking action felt for them. Adding these steps ensures they have a good experience and increases the chances they'll take action again.