Final Push for EITC and CTC Expansions

RESULTS continues to push Congress to help workers and families in any new tax legislation this fall. New data shows that the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) together lifted 8.9 million people above the federal poverty line in 2018. Expansion of the EITC could help prevent 5 million workers not raising children in the home from getting taxed into poverty, while expanding the CTC to all low-income families will ensure that America’s lowest-income children are covered.

Congress has until December 20 to finalize a new budget and any tax bill they pass will be attached to it. Support for including expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) is getting stronger, but we are not there yet. Final decisions on any tax legislation will be made in the first two weeks of December (Congress will need to vote on the week of December 16). When we faced a similar situation in 2015, sustained pressure on members of Congress until the very end won us a victory. We need that again.

Take Action NOW

Time is of the essence. Please take the following actions to help us secure an expansion of the EITC and CTC for workers and families this year.

Speak/follow up with tax aides. Next to meeting with your members of Congress, working with policy aides in DC is your best way to influence policy. If you have not yet touched base with your Senate and House tax aides, contact them now. Ask if they will speak to their bosses about only supporting a tax bill this fall if it includes expansions of the EITC and CTC. If you’ve already spoken to the aide, follow-up to what happened when they spoke to their boss. See our EITC/CTC Lobby Request for details and contact RESULTS staff for coaching.

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 (you’ve gotten 101 published so far). If you do get published, please send copies to the tax aides and log them at www.tinyurl.com/RESULTSMedia.

Call or e-mail members of Congress. Use our online action to call or e-mail your members of Congress today urging them to expand the EITC and CTC for workers and families this year.

Urge others to act. Call on people you know (your action networks, friends, colleagues, social media etc.) to call or e-mail Congress about the EITC and CTC. Send this message to them urging them to act:

Dear (Name), If Congress passes a tax bill this year, it’s details will be finalized in the next week. If they do anything, they must expand of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) for low-income workers and families. We need your help to make this happen. Please send an e-mail to your members of Congress today urging them to prioritize workers and families in any tax bill this year. Thank you!

If you need coaching before contacting your congressional offices, please contact Jos Linn at jlinn@results.org. Thank you for your invaluable advocacy and good luck!