

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

results

RESULTS Print Media: U.S. Poverty

January 1 – December 31, 2022

Date	State	Article	Outlet	Media Type
<u>Go to Alabama media</u>				
<u>Go to Alaska media</u>				
1/12/22	AK	<u>Keep the expanded child tax credit</u>	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
8/1/22	AK	<u>Child Tax Credit</u>	Daily Sitka Sentinel	Letter to the editor
9/16/22	AK	<u>Child Tax Credit</u>	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
11/16/22	AK	<u>Revive the Child Tax Credit — our children deserve nothing less</u>	Alaska Beacon	Op-ed
12/1/22	AK	<u>Reinstate the expanded Child Tax Credit</u>	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Arizona media</u>				
1/25/22	AZ	<u>Child tax credit is necessary</u>	Havasupai News-Herald	Letter to the editor
2/13/22	AZ	<u>Growing Constituency: Addressing Public Responses Surrounding Build Back Better Bill</u>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
2/14/22	AZ	<u>Speak up to battle the Housing Crisis</u>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor

2/16/22	AZ	Re: the Feb. 14. article “Letter: Speak up to battle the Housing Crisis”	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
2/20/22	AZ	Extend child tax credit	Havasu News-Herald	Letter to the editor
5/2/22	AZ	Poverty isn’t as simple as we like to think it is’ by Jim Kiser	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
6/19/22	AZ	Speak up and vote for solutions	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor
7/21/22	AZ	Congress must expand child tax credits	Daily Independent	Letter to the editor
7/21/22	AZ	Child Tax Credit expansion must pass	Havasu News-Herald	Letter to the editor
8/10/22	AZ	Congress must extend child tax credit	Daily Independent	Letter to the editor
8/11/22	AZ	Here’s what’s missing from Inflation Reduction Act	Daily Independent	Letter to the editor
10/20/22	AZ	Support child tax credit	Havasu News-Herald	Letter to the editor
10/27/22	AZ	Restore the child tax credit	Kingman Miner	Letter to the editor
11/2/22	AZ	Action on the Child Care Crisis	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor

[Go to Arkansas media](#)

12/9/22	AR	Expand child tax credit	Arkansas Democrat Gazette	Letter to the editor
12/9/22	AR	Expand child tax credit	Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette	Letter to the editor

12/14/22	AR	Message to Congress: Help struggling families before it's too	Washington County Enterpris-Leader	Op-ed
<u>Go to California media</u>				
1/18/22	CA	Invest surplus in kids to strengthen country	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
1/18/22	CA	Invest surplus in kids to strengthen country	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
1/25/22	CA	Ending child tax credit punishing poor families	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
1/25/22	CA	Ending child tax credit punishing poor families	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
3/2/22	CA	Move our country toward equity for all	Bakersfield Californian	Letter to the editor
3/2/22	CA	Tax credits should be reinstated for 2022	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor
5/19/22	CA	Reinstate child tax credit	San Francisco Chronicle	Letter to the editor
6/4/22	CA	All children are precious	Bakersfield Californian	Letter to the editor
7/13/22	CA	Housing is a crisis of equity	Bakersfield Californian	Letter to the editor
8/24/22	CA	Congress should restore expanded child tax credit	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
8/24/22	CA	Congress should restore expanded child tax credit	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
10/12/22	CA	Extending the Childhood Tax Credit: Critical for Our Kids and Our Future	LA Progressive	Op-ed
11/13/22	CA	Proven Solutions	Sacramento Bee	Letter to the editor

11/20/22	CA	Urge Congress to expand CTC	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
11/20/22	CA	Urge Congress to expand CTC	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
11/21/22	CA	Congress must reinstate expanded child tax credit	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
11/21/22	CA	Congress must reinstate expanded child tax credit	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
11/22/22	CA	Invest in children	San Francisco Chronicle	Letter to the editor
11/29/22	CA	Reinstating CTC would alleviate poverty	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
11/29/22	CA	Reinstating CTC would alleviate poverty	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
11/30/22	CA	It's Time to Make the Expanded, Monthly Child Tax Credit Permanent	Voice of San Diego	Op-ed

[Go to Colorado media](#)

3/24/22	CO	Senator Bennet cares about the children	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
6/16/22	CO	Ask, listen, vote accordingly	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
7/18/22	CO	Pass an expanded Child Tax Credit	Aurora Sentinel	Letter to the editor
9/1/22	CO	A model for renters tax credit	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
10/27/22	CO	Support a renters tax credit	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor

12/5/22	CO	"Promote the general welfare" of children	Denver Post	Letter to the editor
12/7/22	CO	The Child Tax Credit should be renewed	Grand Junction Sentinel	Letter to the editor
12/8/22	CO	Support a renter's tax credit	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
12/26/22	CO	Housing: Let's make 2023 the year we end homelessness	Daily Camera	Letter to the editor
Go to Connecticut media				
3/30/22	CT	Congress must extend Child Tax Credit	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor
3/30/22	CT	Congress must extend Child Tax Credit	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor
3/30/22	CT	Congress must extend Child Tax Credit	The Hour	Letter to the editor
3/30/22	CT	Congress must extend Child Tax Credit	News Times	Letter to the editor
3/30/22	CT	Congress must extend Child Tax Credit	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor
3/30/22	CT	Congress must extend Child Tax Credit	Register Citizen	Letter to the editor
3/30/22	CT	Congress must extend Child Tax Credit	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor
5/20/22	CT	The fallout of not enough affordable housing stock	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor
5/20/22	CT	The fallout of not enough affordable housing stock	The Hour	Letter to the editor

5/20/22	CT	The fallout of not enough affordable housing stock	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor
5/20/22	CT	The fallout of not enough affordable housing stock	Danbury News Times	Letter to the editor
5/20/22	CT	The fallout of not enough affordable housing stock	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor
5/20/22	CT	The fallout of not enough affordable housing stock	Torrington Register Citizen	Letter to the editor
5/20/22	CT	The fallout of not enough affordable housing stock	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor
11/8/22	CT	Extend child tax credit	The Day	Editorial

[Go to Delaware media](#)

--	--	--	--	--

[Go to Florida media](#)

1/5/22	FL	Addressing democracy, climate are New Year's resolutions	Orlando Sentinel	Op-ed
1/18/22	FL	Child poverty	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
1/29/22	FL	Senate needs to pass Child Tax Credit	Port Charlotte Sun	Letter to the editor
1/29/22	FL	Senate needs to pass Child Tax Credit	Venice Gondolier	Letter to the editor
3/9/22	FL	Housing assistance badly needed in US	Port Charlotte Sun	Letter to the editor

3/9/22	FL	Housing assistance badly needed in US	Venice Gondolier	Letter to the editor
6/21/22	FL	Child Tax Credit	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
11/24/22	FL	End Child Poverty	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Georgia media</u>				
<u>Go to Hawai'i media</u>				
11/9/22	HI	Extend child tax credit now	Hawai'i Tribune-Herald	Editorial
<u>Go to Idaho media</u>				
<u>Go to Illinois media</u>				
9/20/22		Expanded child tax credit reduced child poverty, so Congress must renew it	Chicago Sun Times	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Indiana media</u>				
5/18/22	IN	Reader urges Congress to renew CTC	Daily Journal	Letter to the editor
11/4/22	IN	Tightening abortion laws reignite conversation around a permanent Child Tax Credit	Indianapolis Record	News article

11/12/22	IN	Child tax credit deserving of expansion	Journal Gazette	Letter to the editor
11/29/22	IN	Want to reduce poverty? Bring back monthly child tax credit payments.	Indianapolis Star	Op-ed
12/14/22	IN	Congress can extend struggling families a lifeline	Journal Gazette	Op-ed
<u>Go to Iowa media</u>				
1/31/22	IA	Why are we torching our best tool to end child poverty?	Times Republican	Op-ed
3/1/22	IA	Our Senators need to keep up fight against child poverty	Iowa City Press-Citizen	Letter to the editor
3/1/22	IA	Extend the 2021 EITC provisions	Muscatine Journal	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Kansas media</u>				
<u>Go to Kentucky media</u>				
2/3/22	KY	Broaden Tax Credit	Lexington Herald Leader	Letter to the editor
3/18/22	KY	Child poverty	Lexington Herald Leader	Letter to the editor
6/27/22	KY	Tell Congress to ensure every child is fed	State Journal	Letter to the editor
10/11/22	KY	The Child Tax Credit saved my family, we must bring it back and make it permanent	Louisville Courier Journal	Op-ed

Go to Louisiana media

--	--	--	--	--

Go to Maine media

--	--	--	--	--

Go to Maryland/Washington, DC media

1/21/22	MD	Congress must renew expired child tax credit	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
4/29/22	MD	Baltimore mayor's guaranteed income pilot will help 200; a restored Child Tax Credit can help the rest	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
8/21/22	MD	U.S. needs an expanded child tax credit	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
12/6/22	MD	Expand federal tax credit to help lift kids from poverty	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor

Go to Massachusetts media

1/4/22	MA	Building Back Better	Boston Herald	Letter to the editor
3/11/22	MA	Extend the child tax credit now	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
7/12/22	MA	Women forced to bear children will need more support — reinstate Child Tax Credit payments	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor

10/19/22	MA	We have to make our voices heard	Boston Globe	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Michigan media</u>				
1/30/22	MI	Tell our lawmakers to pass new child tax credit proposals	Detroit Free Press	Letter to the editor
8/21/22	MI	Bring back expanded child tax credit	Detroit Free Press	Letter to the editor
12/18/22	MI	Extend the child tax credit to poorest families	Detroit Free Press	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Minnesota media</u>				
2/14/22	MN	Time getting tight to address poverty	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
3/22/22	MN	Stop accepting the status quo of poverty	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
5/2/22	MN	Alternative option to the filibuster	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
6/20/22	MN	Working together is the key to progress	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
7/27/22	MN	Use our votes to strengthen democracy	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
10/8/22	MN	This is how a successful democracy works	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
11/8/22	MN	Extend tax credits for kids	Minneapolis Star Tribune	Editorial
<u>Go to Mississippi media</u>				

<u>Go to Missouri media</u>				
1/9/22	MO	Working families need the Build Back Better Senate vote	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
1/16/22	MO	Greatest needs	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
1/26/22	MO	Congress must help hardworking families	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
1/27/22	MO	Senate must pass CTC extension	St. Louis American	Letter to the editor
1/30/22	MO	Make Child Tax Credit permanent to help parents with child care	Springfield News-Leader	Letter to the editor
2/10/22	MO	Congress should put children first	St. Louis American	Letter to the editor
3/10/22	MO	Moms must pay attention to the child tax credit	Columbia Missourian	Op-ed
3/21/22	MO	Congress should pass Child Tax Credit to help families out of poverty	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor
3/31/22	MO	We need to extend 2021 child tax credit	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
4/6/22	MO	Prioritize federal funding for rental assistance	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
4/10/22	MO	Roofs over heads	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
4/13/22	MO	Renewing the Child Tax Credit would lift up all of society	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor

4/18/22	MO	Urges Congress To Extend "Critical" Child Tax Credit	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor
4/25/22	MO	Restore Child Tax Credit	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor
4/27/22	MO	Take care of the Earth, and human needs, too	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
5/18/22	MO	Child Poverty	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
5/21/22	MO	Child tax credit must be extended	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
5/22/22	MO	Extend child tax credits to keep kids out of poverty	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/9/22	MO	Author/advocate sets inspiring example	St. Louis Jewish Light	Letter to the editor
7/7/22	MO	Congress can act to alleviate child poverty	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor
8/12/22	MO	Inflation Reduction Act sadly missing Child Tax Credit	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
8/14/22	MO	Pushing a stroller while advocating for change: St. Louis author says moms can do both	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	News feature
9/19/22	MO	We need to expand the Child Tax Credit	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
9/30/22	MO	Congress should find a way to make child tax credit permanent	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor
10/7/22	MO	Senate should make child tax credit permanent law	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	News feature
10/7/22	MO	In favor of the Child Tax Credit	West Magazine	Letter to the editor

11/15/22	MO	Renew the Child Tax Credit to stave off hunger, poverty	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
11/27/22	MO	No corporate tax breaks unless child tax credit passes	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
12/10/22	MO	Before retiring, Blunt should back the child tax credit	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
12/11/22	MO	Thanks, Sen. Blunt	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor
12/12/22	MO	Pass expansion of Child Tax Credit	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
12/15/22	MO	Congress should act now to extend child tax credits for families	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor
12/16/22	MO	Blunt's Legacy	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor

Go to Montana Media

4/14/22	MT	Expand Child Tax Credit payments	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
11/16/22	MT	Revive the Child Tax Credit — our children deserve nothing less	Daily Montanan	Op-ed
12/18/22	MT	Pass an expansion to the Child Tax Credit	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
12/18/22	MT	Pass an expansion to the Child Tax Credit	Billings Gazette	Letter to the editor

Go to Nebraska media

4/23/22	NE	Child Tax Credit making difference	Lincoln Journal Star	Letter to the editor
---------	----	--	----------------------	----------------------

4/25/22	NE	Smart tax cuts help children	Lincoln Journal Star	Letter to the editor
---------	----	--	----------------------	----------------------

[Go to Nevada media](#)

3/16/22	NV	Ease the burden on working class	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
3/18/22	NV	Child tax credit helped families	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
4/22/22	NV	We've proven we can fight hunger	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
5/22/22	NV	Child tax credit would help moms	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
6/22/22	NV	Bring back the child tax credit	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
8/12/22	NV	Elect leaders with compassion	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
9/20/22	NV	Renew the fight against poverty	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
10/16/22	NV	Find out who supports kids	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
12/3/22	NV	Don't waste last month of control	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
12/10/22	NV	Reengage in fight against poverty	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
12/17/22	NV	Aid for children aids entire nation	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor

[Go to New Hampshire media](#)

8/23/22	NH	Real relief for working families	Concord Monitor	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to New Jersey media</u>				
12/14/22	NJ	Expanded Child Tax Credit Needs to Be Restored to Reduce Poverty Rate	Town Topics	Letter to the editor
12/15/22	NJ	Federal Child Tax Credit needs to be restored to help prevent child poverty	Princeton Packet	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to New Mexico media</u>				
3/22/22	NM	Families deserve expanded tax credit	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor
5/31/22	NM	Congress must pass CTC, EITC lifelines	Albuquerque Journal	Letter to the editor
12/1/22	NM	Ask reps to restore the extended CTC	Albuquerque Journal	Letter to the editor
12/3/22	NM	Renew child tax credit	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to New York media</u>				
5/29/22	NY	Vote them out	Daily News	Letter to the editor
9/15/22	NY	Congress must expand an effective Child Tax Credit	Buffalo News	Letter to the editor
9/11/22	NY	Protect homes	New York Daily News	Letter to the editor
9/19/22	NY	Expand Child Tax Credit To All Low-Income Families	Post-Journal	Letter to the editor

10/15/22	NY	Vote responsibly	New York Daily News	Letter to the editor
11/18/22	NY	Rent help	New York Daily News	Letter to the editor
11/20/22	NY	Congress must permanently expand the Child Tax Credit	Buffalo News	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to North Carolina media</u>				
1/14/22	NC	Progress made, but more needed, in fight against poverty	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
1/25/22	NC	NC families are hurting. Expand the Child Tax Credit.	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
2/3/22	NC	Senate should expand CTC for all low-income children	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
2/19/22	NC	Housing Choice Vouchers help families keep a roof over their head	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
2/25/22	NC	What is our Congressperson doing for his constituents?	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
3/3/22	NC	Solution needed for rising housing costs	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
3/4/22	NC	We missed a chance	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
3/20/22	NC	Child tax credit	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
3/21/22	NC	Time to take action and reinstate Child Tax Credit	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
4/3/22	NC	Child Tax Credit needs to be made permanent	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor

4/6/22	NC	The folly of Congress	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
4/6/22	NC	Don't let families slip into poverty	Mountain Xpress	Letter to the editor
4/10/22	NC	Child poverty is up by 41 percent; extend the child tax credit now	Salisbury Post	Letter to the editor
5/11/22	NC	Child Tax Credit	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
5/18/22	NC	Child Tax Credit would help reduce poverty	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
6/22/22	NC	Medicaid expansion is needed	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
8/16/22	NC	Back to School Blues	Salisbury Post	Letter to the editor
8/16/22	NC	Time to expand the Child Tax Credit	Independent Tribune	Letter to the editor
8/19/22	NC	Monthly Child Tax Credit payments were lifeline for families	Hickory Daily Record	Letter to the editor
9/25/22	NC	Bring back CTC	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
10/12/22	NC	Let's address childhood poverty	The Mountaineer	Letter to the editor
10/23/22	NC	Expand the CTC	Winston-Salem Journal	Letter to the editor
12/25/22	NC	Child Tax Credit	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor

[Go to North Dakota media](#)

2/16/22	ND	Support expansion of Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit programs	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
2/22/22	ND	Act now to keep kids out of poverty	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
4/6/22	ND	Child Tax Credit must be extended	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
5/21/22	ND	Congress must work to expand child tax credit	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
7/27/22	ND	Congress, work now to expand Child Tax Credit	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
9/30/22	ND	Expansion of Child Tax Credit is essential	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
10/19/22	ND	Moorhead grad pens book encouraging mothers to become advocates	Inforum	News article
12/8/22	ND	Benefits to extending Child Tax Credit	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor

[Go to Ohio media](#)

2/6/22	OH	Child Tax Credit helps reduce child poverty and should be a priority for us all	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
3/1/22	OH	Rise in poverty shows need for Child Tax Credit	Elyria Chronicle-Telegram	Letter to the editor
3/9/22	OH	To help children succeed, permanently restore monthly Child Tax Credit payments	Cleveland Plain Dealer	Letter to the editor
3/19/22	OH	Child Tax Credit must be permanent, period	Toledo Blade	Letter to the editor

6/24/22	OH	Permanently expand Child Tax Credit	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
7/30/22	OH	Now help children	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
9/13/22	OH	A.J. Wagner belonged to the whole community	Dayton Daily News	Op-ed
9/18/22	OH	No title	Dayton Daily News	Letter to the editor
10/1/22	OH	Honor A.J. Wagner's work by expanding Child Tax Credit	Dayton Daily News	Letter to the editor
10/1/22	OH	Honor A.J. Wagner's work by expanding Child Tax Credit	Journal-News	Letter to the editor
10/1/22	OH	Honor A.J. Wagner's work by expanding Child Tax Credit	Springfield News-Sun	Letter to the editor
10/26/22	OH	Republican 'solutions' will make inflation worse	Ohio Capital Journal	Op-ed
11/17/22	OH	Congress should prioritize an expanded Child Tax Credit over corporate tax breaks	Cleveland Plain Dealer	Letter to the editor
12/3/22	OH	The Child Tax Credit should be made permanent	Elyria Chronicle-Telegram	Letter to the editor

[Go to Oklahoma media](#)

5/22/22	OK	Child tax credit should be renewed	Tulsa World	Letter to the editor
10/11/22	OK	Child Tax Credit missing from bill	Lawton Constitution	Letter to the editor
11/8/22	OK	Extend child tax credit now	Lawton Constitution	Editorial

Go to Oregon media

2/10/22	OR	Think Locally, Act Nationally	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
3/17/22	OR	Federal Help On Housing	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
3/24/22	OR	It's Time For The Rich To Help Out	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
4/13/22	OR	Weigh in now	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor
5/26/22	OR	Weeklies are What's Happening	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
6/10/22	OR	Courage to make changes is needed	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor
6/10/22	OR	Courage to make changes is needed	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor
6/16/22	OR	Bring Back The Child Tax Credit	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
7/20/22	OR	Congress will tackle all crises	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor
7/20/22	OR	Congress will tackle all crises	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor
8/25/22	OR	Fight Inequity On Many Fronts	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
10/31/22	OR	Take a tiny step, cast informed vote	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor
10/31/22	OR	Take a tiny step, cast informed vote	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor

11/9/22	OR	DeFazio must focus on Child Tax Credit	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor
11/9/22	OR	DeFazio must focus on Child Tax Credit	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor
11/15/22	OR	Child Tax Credit	Klamath Falls News	Letter to the editor
11/30/22	OR	No title	West Linn Tidings	Letter to the editor
12/2/22	OR	Congress should restore expanded child tax credit	Oregonian	Letter to the editor
12/22/22	OR	Results Are On Our Mind	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
12/31/22	OR	Perhaps it is time to better ourselves	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor
12/31/22	OR	Perhaps it is time to better ourselves	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor

Go to Pennsylvania media

1/8/22	PA	Build better	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Letter to the editor
1/10/22	PA	Pass Build Back Better Act	Trib Live	Letter to the editor
3/18/22	PA	Compassion on the home front	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Editorial
10/20/22	PA	New anti-poverty program spans five counties	Times Leader	News article
11/6/22	PA	Extend child tax credit now	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Editorial

11/10/22	PA	Extend child tax credit now	Bedford Gazette	Editorial
12/5/22	PA	Our two Congressmen can address child poverty	Sentinel	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Rhode Island media</u>				
<u>Go to South Carolina media</u>				
11/17/22	SC	Make credit permanent	Post and Courier	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to South Dakota media</u>				
<u>Go to Tennessee media</u>				
7/17/21	TN	Extend child tax credit to take children back out of poverty	Knoxville News-Sentinel	Letter to the editor
10/9/22	TN	Tell candidates to expand the child tax credit again	Knoxville News-Sentinel	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Texas media</u>				
1/23/22	TX	Work to build better safety nets for families must get more funding	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
9/18/22	TX	Expand child tax credit	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor

9/22/22	TX	Yes to child tax credit expansion	Dallas Morning News	Letter to the editor
12/18/22	TX	Restore this tax credit as a tool to help fight childhood poverty	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
12/19/22	TX	Poverty crisis	Houston Chronicle	Letter to the editor

Go to Utah media

9/25/22	UT	Reduce childhood poverty: Pass the Family Security Act 3.0	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor
10/1/22	UT	We need Romney and Lee to work together on family legislation	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
10/15/22	UT	How could we let the child tax credit expire?	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
10/20/22	UT	Expanded Child Tax Credit drastically cut the child poverty rate. It must be brought back.	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor
11/23/22	UT	Cut child poverty by expanding the Child Tax Credit	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor
11/26/22	UT	Our senators should lift children out of poverty this Christmas	Deseret News	Letter to the editor

Go to Vermont media

3/30/22	VT	Further Feeding	Seven Days	Letter to the editor
6/14/22	VT	Vermont child tax credit not enough	VT Digger	Letter to the editor
8/2/22	VT	Congress must extend the child tax credit now	VT Digger	Letter to the editor

11/8/22	VT	No corporate tax cuts without expanding the child tax credit	VT Digger	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Virginia media</u>				
3/17/22	VA	Fund rental assistance	Richmond Times-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/13/22	VA	Extend the Child Tax Credit now	Fairfax County Times	Letter to the editor
5/17/22	VA	Bring back child tax credit	Daily Progress	Letter to the editor
8/17/22	VA	The missing piece	Richmond Times-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
12/13/22	VA	Bring back the Child Tax Credit	Richmond Times-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Washington media</u>				
1/1/22	WA	Child Tax Credit made a difference	Daily News	Letter to the editor
1/4/22	WA	Child tax credit worth noting	Columbian	Letter to the editor
1/6/22	WA	Pass Build Back Better Bill	Olympian	Letter to the editor
1/10/22	WA	Get to know Congress by participating and communicating	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
1/18/22	WA	Push Congress to follow Spokane's example	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
1/23/22	WA	Honor Martin Luther King by passing important initiatives	Walla Walla Union-Bulletin	Letter to the editor

1/26/22	WA	Levy money keeps up quality schools	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
2/9/22	WA	End of tax credit sets families back	Columbian	Letter to the editor
2/15/22	WA	Child tax credit best option to fight poverty	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
2/22/22	WA	Fighting against poverty is what Congress should be doing	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
2/23/22	WA	Build Back Better legislation would help families	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
2/26/22	WA	Take action on homelessness	Wenatchee World	Letter to the editor
3/2/22	WA	Congress should act to help working parents and their children	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
3/6/22	WA	Restore federal Child Tax Credit to save kids from poverty	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
3/6/22	WA	Let's teach children how our democracy works	Walla Walla Union-Bulletin	Letter to the editor
3/14/22	WA	Let's pursue the policy that proved to help families	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
3/18/22	WA	Renew child tax credit	Columbian	Letter to the editor
3/24/22	WA	Taking care of our children	Columbian	Letter to the editor
4/6/22	WA	Bring back Child Tax Credit	Wenatchee World	Letter to the editor
4/9/22	WA	Speak up to make a difference for millions	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor

4/19/22	WA	CTC is a tool to help families survive inflation	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
4/20/22	WA	Power of people	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
4/22/22	WA	Don't lose focus on our need for action on climate change	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
4/24/22	WA	Some senators work for solutions	Columbian	Letter to the editor
4/25/22	WA	Congress must resume Child Tax Credit immediately	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
5/20/22	WA	Respect democracy by getting involved	Columbian	Letter to the editor
5/29/22	WA	Ask questions of representative	Columbian	Letter to the editor
6/17/22	WA	Readers share what Juneteenth means to them	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
7/3/22	WA	Vote to right America's path	Columbian	Letter to the editor
7/7/22	WA	Support Ukraine, but also American families	Columbian	Letter to the editor
7/8/22	WA	Ask candidates how they will work to keep America on the equity path	Daily News	Letter to the editor
7/13/22	WA	Ask questions of the candidates, then vote, and follow up	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
7/18/22	WA	Rep. Rick Larsen a leader many issues besides World Cup bid	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
7/28/22	WA	How democracy works best	Moscow-Pullman Daily News	Letter to the editor

8/1/22	WA	The Child Tax Credit Helps Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren	AgeWise King County	Op-ed
8/3/22	WA	Expand the Child Tax Credit	Olympian	Letter to the editor
8/4/22	WA	Ask questions, vote answers	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
8/12/22	WA	Use your vote wisely; be inspired by Bill Russell	Daily News	Letter to the editor
8/28/22	WA	Support equity for all	Columbian	Letter to the editor
8/31/22	WA	Bravo to Rep. Strickland for housing Allowance Proposal	Olympian	Letter to the editor
9/1/22	WA	The Child Tax Credit Has One Last Chance for Expansion in 2022	South Seattle Emerald	Op-ed
9/12/22	WA	Congress must extend the Child Tax Credit now	Courier-Herald	Letter to the editor
9/22/22	WA	Congress must pass an expanded Child Tax Credit	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
9/22/22	WA	Extend Child Tax Credit	Columbian	Letter to the editor
9/30/22	WA	How about a renters' tax credit to help low-income renters?	Daily News	Letter to the editor
10/1/22	WA	Support Child Tax Credit	Columbian	Letter to the editor
10/8/22	WA	Child tax credit makes a difference	Columbian	Letter to the editor
10/16/22	WA	U.S. House, 1st District: DelBene helped cut child poverty	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor

11/10/22	WA	Extend child tax credit now	Yakima Herald-Republic	Editorial
11/15/22	WA	Support bills that help families	Columbian	Letter to the editor
11/15/22	WA	Congress should extend the child tax credit	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor
11/24/22	WA	Time remains to restore Child Tax Credit to fight childhood poverty	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor
11/24/22	WA	Child Tax Credit	News Tribune	Letter to the editor
12/9/22	WA	Child Tax Credit: Make it permanent	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
12/18/22	WA	Speak up, follow Pitts' lead	Columbian	Letter to the editor
12/29/22	WA	Rep. DelBene's leadership post is no surprise	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor

[Go to West Virginia media](#)

3/29/22	WV	Continue the fight against pandemics	Register-Herald	Letter to the editor
10/21/22	WV	Assistance needed to build ladders out of poverty	Register-Herald	Letter to the editor
10/24/22	WV	Assistance needed to build ladders out of poverty	Register-Herald	Letter to the editor
12/7/22	WV	'End Hunger' initiative will help people eat healthy	Charleston Gazette-Mail	Letter to the editor

[Go to Wisconsin media](#)

3/26/22	WI	Tax credit reduces child poverty rate	Wisconsin State Journal	Letter to the editor
<u>Go to Wyoming media</u>				
1/23/22	WY	RESULTS sets aside partisan identities to help end poverty	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor
4/13/22	WY	Congress needs to make Child Tax Credit changes permanent	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Op-ed
12/1/22	WY	Congress should permanently expand Child Tax Credit	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Op-ed
<u>Go to National media</u>				
1/26/22	US	Why are we torching our best tool to end child poverty?	Other Words	Op-ed
1/27/22	US	Why are we torching our best tool to end child poverty?	Inequality.org	Op-ed
1/27/22	US	Why are we torching our best tool to end child poverty?	The Smirking Chimp	Op-ed
1/28/22	US	Why are we torching our best tool to end child poverty?	Counter Punch	Op-ed
1/29/22	US	The Child Tax Credit Improves Lives. Why Is Congress Killing It?	Common Dreams	Op-ed
2/22/22	US	Fighting against poverty is what Congress should be doing	Yahoo Sports	Letter to the editor
3/18/22	US	As Evictions Rise Nationwide, These People Are Doing Something About It	Motley Fool	News article
5/20/22	US	Respect democracy by getting involved	Yahoo News	Letter to the editor

7/7/22	US	Support Ukraine, but also American families	Yahoo News	Letter to the editor
7/7/22	US	Support Ukraine, but also American families	Yahoo Finance	Letter to the editor
9/1/22	US	Inspirational quotes	Costco Connection	Letter to the editor
10/5/22	US	Revive the Child Tax Credit. Our children deserve nothing less.	Other Words	Op-ed
10/6/22	US	For Our Kids and Our Future, We Must Fight to Extend the Childhood Tax Credit	Common Dreams	Op-ed
11/17/22	US	Congress' lame duck priorities	Washington Post	Letter to the editor
12/5/22	US	We reduced child poverty by historic rates. Congress can do it again, but it must act now.	USA Today	Op-ed
12/7/22	US	Congress: Help Struggling Families Before It's Too Late	Other Words	Op-ed
12/31/22	US	Making a difference	Costco Connection	Letter to the editor

Alabama media

Alaska media

Keep the expanded child tax credit

January 12, 2022

In December, we witnessed a rare bipartisan decision. Congress voted to provide \$768 billion for the military for one year. Unlike the military, the children from poor and middle-class families in the United States did not fare so well. The Child Tax Credit (CTC), lifting nearly 4 million children out of poverty in November, stalled when Congress could not reach a decision (bipartisan or purely one-party) on Build Back Better and the CTC expired at the end of December. The excuse was its high cost, although that was calculated over a 10-year period.

I may be disappointed but not surprised that the Democratic party was not unified. After all, there are many perspectives to be considered. What is extremely disappointing is that the Republican Party did not even enter the conversation and was unified in their disdain for the needs of our citizens. Yes, unified without any thought nor apparently any interest or freedom to think for themselves on these disparate needs.

I've often heard it said recently that ours is a Christian country and we need to preserve our values. I look at these decisions and wonder what our values may be — certainly not Christian. War over care of those in need, especially children. I call upon Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, both Catholic, to reflect on the decisions they have made or failed to make. I call on them to make the Child Tax Credit a priority in 2022. Raising children out of poverty through the Child Tax Credit is just one casualty of their inaction.

– Patricia Kennish, *Anchorage*

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2022/01/12/letter-keep-the-expanded-child-tax-credit/>

Child Tax Credit

August 1, 2022

Dear Editor: Are we a country that cares about its children? If so, Congress needs to pass the expanded Child Tax Credit.

The 2021 CTC expansion with monthly payments was nothing less than extraordinary. After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped by 40 percent, food security increased, and families finally made ends meet. One important reason for this success was that, for the first time, the CTC was fully refundable making all low-income children eligible for the full CTC.

The U.S. House extended the new CTC past 2021, but 51 senators blocked it and the payments stopped in January. Child poverty skyrocketed. Now with inflation driving up rent, food, and gas prices, Congress must act.

Families and children need help now. We urge leaders of Congress to pass an expanded Child Tax Credit that reaches the lowest-income families with monthly payments as soon as possible.

– Sitka RESULTS, Michele Friedman, Mary Soltis, Donna Donohoe

<https://sitkasentinel.com/7/2012-05-10-22-08-58/letters-to-the-editor/20744-august-1-2022-letters-to-the-editor>

Child tax credit

September 16, 2022

When Congressman Don Young died, there was no longer anyone to bring Alaska interests forward. Now Mary Peltola is in Washington. It is exciting to know that she is already addressing issues affecting Alaskan families. In a recent tweet (Sept. 9) she noted that the temporarily expanded Child Tax Credit, or CTC, reduced child poverty by more than 40% and we should all be behind renewing it. The CTC reached 83,000 Alaska families, including 155,000 children. Among those were 17,000 military families with 35,000 children.

When the CTC expired in December, 21,000 Alaskan children under 18 were at risk of slipping back under the poverty line. It is not a giveaway but an adjustment to taxes, paid out monthly rather than an annual lump sum. Most Alaska families used this income on food, clothing, rent, utilities, mortgage, school expenses and child care.

Thank you, Rep. Peltola, for immediately addressing the needs of children and families. And congratulations! We look forward to working with you in your efforts to reduce poverty in our state.

- Patricia Kennish, *Anchorage*

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2022/09/16/letter-child-tax-credit/>



Revive the Child Tax Credit — our children deserve nothing less

By Maureen Bowling

November 16, 2022

I like to think I'm an American success story.

I was born into homelessness, grew up in the foster care system, and suffered unthinkable domestic abuse as an adult. Now I'm on track to graduate with a Master's degree in social work next spring.

But don't mistake my story for the "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" trope that conservative lawmakers like to call the "American Dream." That idea is mythical, and my own success story proves it.

I'm one hero of my story, certainly. My children, friends and community members are, too.

But so are the well-funded foster care services I received growing up in Michigan. And the publicly funded therapy and recovery services that helped me overcome the trauma of my early years spent on the street.

Also essential? The Section 8 federal housing program and public programs in Lexington, Kentucky, where my kids and I now live. Those services kept a roof over my children's heads, put food on the table, and provided child care assistance so I could work and enroll in college as a single parent.

Finally, the big hero that helped me and my children survive the pandemic and thrive through loss of employment, child care, and in-person school was the enhanced monthly Child Tax Credit, passed as a cornerstone of the pandemic relief American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

That credit put monthly payments directly into the bank accounts of nearly every parent and guardian in this country.

Like over 90 percent of all parents who received this benefit, I spent the money on necessities for my family — the first check alone nearly paid off my back rent. I experienced a notable reduction in stress and anxiety, which helped me focus on being a good student and mom.

The Child Tax Credit brought 30 percent of children out of poverty in its very first month. During its year-long duration, it eventually lifted nearly half of all poor children out of poverty, bringing child poverty to a stunning historic low.

Research connects getting out of poverty to much better health and cognitive development in children, with life-long impacts on educational success, income, and well-being. But despite the overwhelmingly positive effect on nearly all families with children — no matter where we live, our household income, or what we look like — conservative federal lawmakers refused to continue this critical lifeline.

They falsely claimed that helping children out of poverty incentivized their parents not to work. Recent Census data destroys this argument. It shows a large increase in working-age adults' employment for the duration of the 2021 enhanced Child Tax Credit benefits. The rise in employment was virtually the same for adults with and without dependent children.

Similarly, claims that the expanded Child Tax Credit spiked inflation lack evidence. On the contrary, the very necessities that families used the credit to pay for — including heat, housing, and food — are those that have increased in price. Continuing the expanded credit would have eased the effects of inflation on families.

Instead, the expanded Child Tax Credit payments expired at the end of 2021. And child poverty immediately began to shoot back up.

We all want our children to be safe, happy, and healthy. We want to provide the foundation from which they can pursue their dreams. That's the real American Dream, right? But life presents us all with obstacles, from the unpredictable winds of fate to lawmakers who all too predictably vote to destroy the programs that helped families like mine succeed.

Yet if we come together, raise our voices, and exercise our democratic power at the ballot box, we can elect representatives that will vote in favor of supporting our children's dreams, not against them.

Revive the expanded monthly Child Tax Credit and make it permanent. Our children deserve nothing less.

<https://alaskabeacon.com/2022/11/16/revive-the-child-tax-credit-our-children-deserve-nothing-less/>

Reinstate the expanded Child Tax Credit

December 1, 2022

Now that Congress is back in session, Rep. Mary Peltola, Sen. Dan Sullivan and Sen. Lisa Murkowski have an important job to do: reinstate the expanded Child Tax Credit, or CTC. In 2021, the expanded CTC reached 83,000 Alaska families, including 155,000 children. The monthly tax credit gave Alaska families the freedom and flexibility to cover rent, food and utilities when they needed it most — monthly bill time. It helped cut child poverty by 46% in 2021 — the largest one-year reduction in history.

When Congress let the CTC expire last December, approximately 21,000 Alaska children were at risk of slipping back under the poverty line. This year, child poverty has increased, parents have stepped out of the workforce because they can't afford child care, and global inflation has made basic necessities ever more expensive.

Before the term is up, Congress plans to extend tax breaks for wealthy corporations. It would be unconscionable for Congress to do that while ignoring millions of American families struggling to make ends meet. I urge our members of Congress to make sure an expanded, monthly CTC for all low-income families is included in tax negotiations.

– Sara Buckingham, *Eagle River*

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2022/12/01/letter-reinstate-the-expanded-child-tax-credit/>

Arizona media

Child tax credit is necessary

January 25, 2022

Editor: In the first few weeks of the new year, Congress has already failed to represent the interests of everyday citizens. Because of the Senate's failure to pass the Build Back Better bill, families did not receive the desperately needed Child Tax Credit on January 15th. These funds would have been used to keep roofs over their heads and their children fed. Instead, Congress is pushing millions of families and their children back into poverty.

Financial hardships have only increased in the era of Covid-19, yet disconnected Congressional leaders believe these hardships are due to individual mismanagement as opposed to their true cause: failure of political leadership to protect its citizens from the spread of Covid-19 and the exacerbation of poverty. The Child Tax Credit is one of our biggest tools in the fight against poverty, which is why I am calling on Senator Sinema and Senator Kelly to fight for Arizona's most vulnerable by voting yes on the Build Back Better bill and recruiting their colleagues to do the same. Poverty is not an inevitable phenomenon, it is largely dictated by the actions (or inactions) of those in power — it's time to use that power for good.

- Rayna Castillo, *Tempe*

https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/rayna-castillo-child-tax-credit-is-necessary/article_1a24059e-7e70-11ec-a1ee-6b1efe250274.html

Growing Constituency: Addressing Public Responses Surrounding Build Back Better Bill

February 13, 2022

Our congressional leaders must listen to the public and take action in support of the Build Back Better Bill. We must speak and advocate for our children who cannot.

Skeptics believe recipients of the Child Tax Credit will abuse the credit and use it for nonessential items such as vacations, and lavish expenses, this is simply not the case. Research has shown that families use these tax credits to pay for necessities like basic household expenses and education (CBPP, 2021). Supporting the Build Back Better bill is also an issue of equity. According to the 2021 US Household Pulse Survey, Reported rates of receipt were lowest among Hispanic/Latinx adults (54 percent); non-Hispanic/Latinx adults who are American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and adults with household incomes below \$25,000 (47 percent). I urge Senator Sinema and Senator Kelly to work to address the administrative burdens that prevent low-income families from claiming the Child Tax Credit by supporting the Build Back Better bill.

- Karina Garavito, *Foothills*

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-growing-constituency-addressing-public-responses-surrounding-build-back-better-bill/article_33351952-89ff-11ec-aa7d-ebbedae8d552.html



Speak up to battle the Housing Crisis

February 14, 2022

Re: the Feb. 6 article "Affordable housing needs Sinema's vote."

Thanks so much for the editorial calling on Senator Sinema to vote to pass Build Back Better (BBB). Not only will it help with affordable housing, it battles poverty by extending the Child Tax Credit. Both of these initiatives along with other parts of BBB will increase equity in America at a time when the gap between the haves and the have-nots is widening. Senator Sinema's support is more likely to happen when she hears from constituents. A call, email, or letter can make a difference. Not sure what to say? Send her this article and say you agree. This moment in our history offers a rare opportunity to battle hunger and homelessness, and it needs your voice!

- Willie Dickerson, Northwest side

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-speak-up-to-battle-the-housing-crisis/article_b2bc991e-8b46-11ec-b831-9b5791e7c854.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Re: the Feb. 14. article "Letter: Speak up to battle the Housing Crisis"

February 16, 2022

I agree with Willie Dickerson's letter, "Letter: Speak up to battle the Housing Crisis" (February 14, 2022). In 2021, the Child Tax Credit kept over 3 million children from poverty each month the payments went out. However, that extension expired on December 31, 2021 and has yet to be renewed. If an extension were to pass, Congress then has a chance to help millions of children in our country access a safe roof and adequate nutrition - two things that help kids grow up to be productive members of our workforce. Just when Americans face additional financial hardships from higher costs and pandemic disruptions, half the Senate is turning a blind eye. Lifting millions of children and workers out of poverty creates immeasurable benefits for them and society as whole. Our kids are the country's future. By investing in our kids, we are investing in our future. I call on all of Congress to put aside partisan politics to do something right now to keep our kids out of poverty.

- Sarah Miller, *East side*

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-feb-14-article-letter-speak-up-to-battle-the-housing-crisis/article_c6785602-8e82-11ec-b75f-0bb4b2184229.html

Extend child tax credit

Feb 20, 2022

Editor: 2021 was an exceptional year for progress against child poverty in America. By expanding the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families and sending it out as a monthly payment, over 3 million children were kept from poverty each month from July to December. As an educator in a Title I school in West Phoenix, I have heard from many of my own families what this assistance has meant to them.

Columbia University researchers estimate that continuing the 2021 CTC could reduce child poverty by a stunning 45 percent. I can't stop thinking about the impact lifting half of all children out of poverty would have on their learning experiences and our country. Maybe I wouldn't have to stock up on "emergency snacks" for kids who hadn't eaten, or worry about absenteeism or concerning behaviors.

- Katherine Colucci, *Phoenix*

https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/katherine-colucci-extend-child-tax-credit/article_f8d33216-92d8-11ec-a388-c77f4f7a9aa9.html



**'Poverty isn't as simple as we like to think it is' by Jim Kiser,
Arizona Daily Star, April 26, 2022**

May 2, 2022

Dear Editor,

Jim Kiser's excellent insights on poverty help us to see through the current stereotypes. Kudos to the Tucson City Council for creating a task force to understand the issues of poverty and hopefully move on to deal with it. Right now Congress is considering tax policy that could help: renewing the Child Tax Credit, which lifted 4 million children out of poverty. Then of course they were dumped back in when 51 senators stood in the way of renewing this powerful ladder out of poverty. So while the task force studies, we can take action: requesting our members of Congress to renew the Child Tax Credit and other initiatives that deal with the housing crisis and child care that too often doom those experiencing poverty to be locked in. Our voices can make a difference, let's use them!

- Willie Dickerson, Northwest side

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/local-issues/letter-poverty-isn-t-as-simple-as-we-like-to-think-it-is-by-jim/article_dd842e94-c662-11ec-9521-ffe025d271c8.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Speak up and vote for solutions

June 19, 2022

Dear Editor,

Mel Feasel's letter hits the nail on the head: voters can bring about the changes that matter, by electing candidates who are supporting these changes. ('Lets change things' by Mel Feasel, Arizona Daily Star, June 3, 2022) Climate change, housing and childcare crises, and gun tragedies all have solutions. Another solution, already proven to work was expanding the Child Tax Credit that lifted 4 million children out of poverty. When it wasn't renewed those same children fell back into poverty. Why? During this election time is our opportunity to ask candidates what they will do. Use their answers to decide your vote and then follow up to make sure the solutions are forth coming. Our votes and voices can truly make a difference and strengthen our democracy in the process.

- Willie Dickerson, *Northwest side*

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-speak-up-and-vote-for-solutions/article_b692ddd8-eb58-11ec-9fee-5fcc604773c9.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Congress must expand child tax credits

July 21, 2022

I am an educator in west Phoenix.

As we've started to prepare for the new school year starting in a couple of weeks, we have heard from families and staff concerns about safe and affordable housing, being able to afford transportation to school and child care, and so on.

If we are truly a country that cares about its children, Congress would pass the expanded Child Tax Credit.

The 2021 CTC expansion with monthly payments was nothing less than extraordinary.

After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped by 40%, food security increased, and families finally made ends meet.

Frustratingly, Congress allowed these payments to expire in January. Child poverty has skyrocketed, especially with inflation now driving up rent, food, and gas prices.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, has now proposed a new "child allowance" similar to the expanded CTC. This is encouraging, but his credit still excludes the lowest-income children.

Our kids and families need help now. I urge Sens. Sinema and Kelly to pass an expanded CTC that reaches the lowest-income families with monthly payments now.

- Katherine Colucci, *Phoenix*

<https://www.yourvalley.net/stories/colucci-congress-must-expand-child-tax-credits,317431>

Child Tax Credit expansion must pass

July 21, 2022

Members of Congress across the political spectrum tout the importance of supporting American families. However, their actions (or more accurately, lack thereof) fail to match these commitments. One of the best tools Congress has for making sure families are supported during these insecure times is the Child Tax Credit (CTC), but they allowed previous expansions of this program to expire at the beginning of this year.

The 2021 CTC expansion had reduced child poverty by 40 percent, improved food security, and allowed families to meet their basic needs. For the first time, the CTC was fully refundable, meaning all low-income children were eligible for the full CTC.

While the House extended the new CTC past 2021, 51 senators blocked it. As a result, child poverty skyrocketed once again. Now with inflation driving up rent, food, and gas prices, Congress must act.

Democratic leaders have pushed for the CTC extension for months. Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) has now proposed a new "child allowance" similar to the expanded CTC. This is encouraging, but his credit still excludes the lowest-income children.

Families and children need help now. I urge our Congressional leaders, including Senator Sinema and Senator Kelly to pass an expanded Child Tax Credit that reaches the lowest-income families with monthly payments as soon as possible.

- Rayna Castillo, Tempe

https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/rayna-castillo-child-tax-credit-expansion-must-pass/article_ff0e3158-0984-11ed-b9d2-7bed76467b5a.html#tncms-source=signup



Congress must extend child tax credit

August 10, 2022

While the Inflation Reduction Act recently passed by the Senate is a good start for improving the economic stability of American families, it still falls short of enacting an important policy — expanding the Child Tax Credit.

The expansion of the CTC has proven that it is an effective vehicle at reducing poverty. In fact, child poverty dropped by 40 percent once the monthly payments started reaching families who could spend it on housing, food, and educational costs for their children.

However, Congress failed to act and the provision expired at the end of 2021. As a result, poverty increased once again.

While Congress is expected to pass more tax bills that help corporations, it continues to overlook its constituents who need assistance. I urge our members of Congress, including senators Sinema and Kelly to pass an expanded Child Tax Credit that reaches the lowest-income families and includes monthly payments in any tax legislation this year.

– Rayna Castillo *of Tempe*

<https://yourvalley.net/stories/castillo-congress-must-extend-child-tax-credit,320684>



Here's what's missing from Inflation Reduction Act

August 11, 2022

I am pleased that the Inflation Reduction Act will help Americans by reducing health care costs and making corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

But there is one big missing consideration from the bill — the expanded Child Tax Credit.

The 2021 CTC expansion with monthly payments was nothing less than extraordinary. After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped by 40%, food security increased, and families finally made ends meet. But Congress let the expanded CTC expire at the end of last year.

Even though, currently Arizona has among the highest inflation rates in the country according to the U.S. Labor Statistics, families are still struggling with higher costs for rent, food and gas.

Congress is expected to pass a bipartisan tax bill at the end of this year, which will include tax breaks for corporations. That future bill must prioritize children and families first by not letting infrastructure spending offset spending and tax relief provisions allocated to children and families.

I urge our members of Congress to pass an expanded Child Tax Credit that reaches the lowest-income families and includes monthly payments in any tax legislation this year.

– Karina Garavito *of Tucson*

<https://yourvalley.net/stories/garavito-heres-whats-missing-from-inflation-reduction-act,320910>

Support child tax credit

October 20, 2022

Editor: The rising inflation rate is creating financial uncertainties for all Arizonan and undermining the ability of many to meet the monthly costs of housing, food, clothing, and transportation for their families. Last year's expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) kept money in the pockets of families and allowed them to use it as each family most needed— for rent, groceries, childcare, or gasoline. Not surprisingly, this program was a major reason the child poverty rate in the US dropped an astounding 46% according to the US Census.

The CTC is pro-family and unintrusive, ensuring that parents can provide for their own children's needs while remaining independent of government control. Rather than passing tax cuts that benefit only corporations and those at the top of the economic structure, reinstitution of this program would put money in the hands of those who need it the most, low-income families struggling to make ends meet. If we truly value families, we need to support the expansion of the CTC.

– Barbara Rodman

https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/barbara-rodman-support-child-tax-credit/article_75f69c4c-510b-11ed-b381-e3398c8a2698.html

The Miner

Restore the Child Tax Credit

October 27, 2022

The rising inflation rate is creating financial uncertainties for all Arizonans and undermining the ability of many to meet the monthly costs of housing, food, clothing and transportation for their families.

Last year's expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) kept money in the pockets of families and allowed them to use it as each family most needed – for rent, groceries, childcare or gasoline.

Not surprisingly, this program was a major reason the child poverty rate in the U.S. dropped an astounding 46%, according to the U.S. Census.

The CTC is pro-family and unobtrusive, ensuring that parents can provide for their own children's needs while remaining independent of government control.

Rather than passing tax cuts that benefit only corporations and those at the top of the economic structure, reinstitution of this program would put money in the hands of those who need it the most – low-income families struggling to make ends meet.

If we truly value families, we need to support the expansion of the CTC.

I urge our leaders to reconsider this vital program of support to families with children.

– **Barbara Rodman, *Phoenix***

<https://kdminer.com/news/2022/oct/27/letter-restore-child-tax-credit/>



Action on the Child Care Crisis

November 2, 2022

Thanks for printing the Washington Post editorial with a clear picture of and suggestions for dealing with America's child-care crisis. ('How to fix America's broken child-care industry' in Arizona Daily Star, October 11, 2022) Starting with renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit as championed by Rep. Suzan DelBene and Sen. Michael Bennet would be a quick way to get help to families. Sen. Patty Murray has long been a champion of fixing the child-care crisis, but needs support from the full Senate. We can help by sending this editorial to those who represent us in the House and Senate, calling on them to take the actions suggested. Perfect timing with the mid-term elections next month, let those who represent you know your vote depends on their support for these initiatives to deal with the child care crisis.

- Willie Dickerson, *Northwest side*

https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-action-on-the-child-care-crisis/article_a4d63238-595e-11ed-b26a-dbe3e5821df2.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Arkansas media

Expand the tax credit

December 9, 2022

Lots of politicians have again been campaigning on the importance of family values. If that's the case, they need to do more to help children and families struggling paycheck to paycheck

Last year, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families at monthly bill time. This allowed families to choose how best to use it, which they did for rent, food, and child care. And child poverty dropped by 46 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The expanded CTC is a pro-family policy that works.

After the election, some politicians in Congress want to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be scandalous for Congress to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the CTC. If lawmakers truly care about family values, they will expand the CTC to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year.

– **Stevie Smith, *Maumelle***

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2022/dec/09/letters/>

Reprinted in:

<https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2022/dec/09/letters/>



Message to Congress: Help struggling families before it's too late

Lawmakers are considering year-end tax breaks for corporations. A little help for families like yours and mine would go much further.

By Sarah Izabel

December 7, 2022

Right around the time I heard lawmakers were considering a year-end package of tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations, my 12-year-old son's bike broke. It felt like just another thing I couldn't fix for him.

Yet here are our lawmakers "fixing" things for those with the fewest problems. That's unacceptable when there are so many ordinary families who need help.

I know what it's like to pull myself up by my bootstraps -- I've had to do it again and again. But I also know how far even a little help can go.

I grew up in Brazil, where my mother instilled in my siblings and me the value of hard work and education. I worked my way into law school, where I met a man from the United States. We fell in love, married and had a child. I moved with him to Virginia to go to college and raise our family.

It felt like I was doing everything right... but things went wrong. When my husband developed a substance abuse problem and became aggressive, I had to flee with my child to a local YWCA for refuge.

I dropped out of school to get more jobs and scraped together enough to pay for rent, apply for Pell grants and get back into school. But when I got back together with my husband during a period of sobriety for him, we ended up worse off than before. He lost our money and the car, leaving me with car payments and no transportation.

Yet I kept going with classes and work, biking my son to his school. I house-sat, couch-hopped, got a cheap car and worked for DoorDash. I finally graduated and started work as a research fellow in neuroscience.

But the bills kept coming, not least for my \$58,000 in student loans. I still didn't have enough to feed my child properly or buy those little extra things he wanted or needed. I lived in constant fear of any small financial emergency. The food pantry became a saving grace for us.

Then, in 2021, Congress passed an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

Suddenly I had a reliable, monthly infusion of cash that meant we could eat consistently. It meant we didn't face repeated eviction notices. It meant I could put gas in the car, buy my son dress pants for choir and apply to graduate schools. It meant something I could finally count on.

It meant everything. I got into Stanford's Ph.D. program in neuroscience, where I got childcare subsidies on campus, a full-tuition scholarship and campus jobs.

Those payments sent us on our way. But they stopped suddenly a year ago, when all 50 Senate Republicans plus Democrat Joe Manchin refused to extend this program that had cut child poverty in half in just six months.

So my son's bike is broken and I can't get it fixed. The food pantry is again our lifeline - and we're not alone in that. The loss of the expanded Child Tax Credit is associated with a 25 percent rise in food insecurity nationally.

I again live in fear of any emergency. I'm stressed out and my child feels so much guilt that he won't ask for basic things he needs.

This is a policy choice, affecting tens of millions of struggling American families who've done all they can to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. But Congress has a chance to right this grievous wrong by restoring the critical enhancements to the Child Tax Credit.

If lawmakers want to cut taxes for corporations and the rich, then they'd better do the right thing and give ordinary working families a boost too. A little help makes all the difference in the world.

Sarah Izabel is a Neurosciences Doctoral student at the Stanford School of Medicine. As an anti-poverty advocate, she's the Silicon Valley Group Leader at RESULTS and the RESULTS Educational Fund. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

California media

The Mercury News

Ending child tax credit punishing poor families

January 18, 2022

As a single mother, I have worked at many jobs in my life; teacher, waitress, door-to-door sales, fitness instructor, etc. I consider myself very blessed and lucky to have made some excellent investments that allow me a very comfortable retirement, and I can give considerable amounts to many charitable causes. I also pay a lot of taxes.

So I think I have a right to request my tax money go to making this an economically strong country in which I can be proud to live. That country invests my taxes in things like protecting American children from poverty, with investments in child tax credits, allowing children the benefits of higher education and earnings. That's how you make a great and economically strong country.

– **Tari Nicholson, *Martinez***

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/01/17/letters-677/>

Reprinted in:

EAST BAY TIMES

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2022/01/17/letters-677/>

The Mercury News

Ending child tax credit punishing poor families

January 25, 2022

Why is it that conservatives seem to be more concerned about rich people in the United States being allowed to hoard money than they are about poor families trying to feed their children?

Allowing the expanded child tax credit to die is just wrong in the richest country on earth. If you want to expand the economy, allowing poor families to spend money on food, clothing and extras for their children puts money into local economies and helps everybody. Rich people storing money in tax-exempt havens and overpriced stocks does not move economies.

I believe we should use our wealth to help poor families feed, clothe and educate their children. That is how you make a great and prosperous country.

– **Bill Nicholson**, *Martinez*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/01/24/letters-685/>

Reprinted in:

EAST BAY TIMES

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2022/01/24/letters-685/>

Move our country toward equity for all

March 2, 2022

Compassion, understanding and love, as demonstrated by the Pope, is a good idea for everyone. ("Undoing some damage with compassion, understanding," by Valerie Schultz, Feb. 26.) This example of anti-oppression is worthy of attention, and a great step to equity for all.

There is enough for everyone, yet the hunger and housing crises are worse than ever because of the pandemic. The Child Tax Credit that lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty was not extended, not an example of compassion.

Fortunately, we live in a democracy and can call or write those who represent us in Congress to turn this around and pass more initiatives like this to compassionately move our country toward equity for all.

– Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.

https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-move-our-country-toward-equity-for-all/article_8e6a414c-98cf-11ec-82b3-47ab22026a1a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Tax credits should be reinstated for 2022

March 2, 2022

2021 was an exceptional year for progress against child poverty in America. The 2021 expansion of the federal child tax credit to all low-income families and new monthly payment option kept more than 3 million children from poverty each month the payments went out.

Additionally this tax season, millions of low-wage workers previously taxed into poverty will get a break because of the 2021 expansion of the earned income tax credit.

But the 2021 changes have expired. So far, a slim majority of senators has refused to extend it. This bad news comes just as Americans face additional financial hardships from higher costs and pandemic disruptions. Now half the Senate is turning a blind eye.

Lifting millions of children and workers out of poverty creates immeasurable benefits for them and society as whole. It's also the right thing to do.

I urge our members of Congress to immediately extend the 2021 tax credit provisions for low-wage workers and children, including permanent full refundability and resumption of the monthly payments.

- Ariana Crisafulli, *Petaluma*

<https://www.marinij.com/2022/03/01/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-march-2-2022/>



Reinstate child tax credit

May 19, 2022

One impactful way of reducing poverty is by providing monthly payments for families via the federal child tax credit. Last year, the revised credit (which extended payments to even the lowest income households) reduced the number of children experiencing poverty by a whopping 30%.

The impact of this cannot be understated. We have the chance to combat the detrimental effects of poverty on millions of children and their families.

But unfortunately, our government failed to renew these added benefits at the end of 2021, leaving so many families at risk of poverty and homelessness yet again. How are we turning a blind eye to one solution that is right in front of us?

I call on our Congress to make extending the child tax credit a priority in upcoming budget reconciliation. The most vulnerable members of our society are depending on it.

– **Danica Berry, *San Francisco***

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/letterstotheeditor/article/Letters-Why-does-Biden-get-blamed-for-17182855.php#>

All children are precious

June 4, 2022

I'm enjoying Herb Benham's capturing of moments with grandchildren and thinking about my own, and sadly, the millions of children living in poverty unnecessarily. ("Enjoying every moment," by Herb Benham, May 22.) Yes, unnecessarily, nearly 4 million were lifted out of poverty by the expanded Child Tax Credit, and when it wasn't renewed back they went.

Congress can change their mind about renewing this tax credit/ladder out of poverty. They most likely will do just that if we use our voices to request they renew and make permanent this lifeline to families.

Every child matters and is precious like Mr. Benham describes his and I feel for mine. As we enter election season, let candidates know that this and other initiatives for children and families matter and our votes depend on it.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-all-children-are-precious/article_23051748-e29d-11ec-a454-739263822a1b.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Housing is a crisis of equity

July 13, 2022

Worrisome time for Californians as evictions are threatening once again ("Tens of thousands of Californians in limbo as eviction protections end," July 4).

Housing is one of America's crises of equity. The loss of the Child Tax Credit hurt millions of families, now too often choosing between paying rent or buying food.

It is time to speak up to our members of Congress and those running to find out their plans to put America on the road to equity by ending the many crises all but the wealthiest Americans face. Then vote accordingly.

– Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-housing-is-a-crisis-of-equity/article_bff9c332-0147-11ed-bcd2-037dc1ffedec.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

The Mercury News

Congress should restore expanded child tax credit

August 24, 2022

As Americans file their taxes, it's important to remember how important the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) has been for children and families.

According to a Brookings Institution study, the 2021 changes to the CTC had a profound impact. Child poverty dropped by 40%. CTC recipients lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education, and were less likely to rely on payday loans. Families spent their CTC payments on rent, food and clothes for their kids — the same costs going up for us all.

But some lawmakers stopped an extension of the CTC payments. As a result, 3.7 million children fell below the poverty line in January. And 1.4 million CTC households have left their jobs because they can no longer afford child care.

I call on Congress to extend the CTC with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments immediately.

– John Oda, *San Francisco*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/08/23/letters-952/>

Reprinted in:

EAST BAY TIMES

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2022/08/23/letters-952/>



Extending the Childhood Tax Credit: Critical for Our Kids and Our Future

Those monthly payments made the American Dream possible for millions of families, including mine.

October 12, 2022

By Maureen Bowling

I like to think I'm an American success story.

I was born into homelessness, grew up in the foster care system, and suffered unthinkable domestic abuse as an adult. Now I'm on track to graduate with a Master's degree in social work next spring.

Revive the expanded monthly Child Tax Credit and make it permanent. Our children deserve nothing less.

But don't mistake my story for the "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" trope that conservative lawmakers like to call the American Dream. That idea is mythical, and my own success story proves it.

I'm one hero of my story, certainly. My children, friends, and community members are, too.

But so are the well-funded foster care services I received growing up in Michigan. And the publicly funded therapy and recovery services that helped me overcome the trauma of my early years spent on the street.

Also essential? The Section 8 federal housing program and public programs in Lexington, Kentucky, where my kids and I now live. Those services kept a roof over my children's heads, put food on the table, and provided child care assistance so I could work and enroll in college as a single parent.

Finally, the big hero that helped me and my children survive the pandemic and thrive through loss of employment, child care, and in-person school was the enhanced monthly Child Tax Credit, passed as a cornerstone of the pandemic relief American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

That credit put monthly payments directly into the bank accounts of nearly every parent and guardian in this country.

Like over 90 percent of all parents who received this benefit, I spent the money on necessities for my family—the first check alone nearly paid off my back rent. I experienced a notable reduction in stress and anxiety, which helped me focus on being a good student and mom.

The Child Tax Credit brought 30 percent of children out of poverty in its very first month. Over its year-long duration, it eventually lifted nearly half of all poor children out of poverty, bringing child poverty to a stunning historic low.

Research connects getting out of poverty to much better health and cognitive development in children, with life-long impacts on educational success, income, and well-being. But despite the overwhelmingly positive effect on nearly all families with children—no matter where we live, our household income, or what we look like—conservative federal lawmakers refused to continue this critical lifeline.

They falsely claimed that helping children out of poverty incentivized their parents not to work. Recent Census data destroys this argument. It shows a large increase in working-age adults' employment for the duration of the 2021 enhanced Child Tax Credit benefits. The rise in employment was virtually the same for adults with and without dependent children.

Similarly, claims that the expanded Child Tax Credit spiked inflation lack evidence. On the contrary, the very necessities that families used the credit to pay for—including heat, housing, and food—are those that have increased in price. Continuing the expanded credit would have eased the effects of inflation on families.

Instead, the expanded Child Tax Credit payments expired at the end of 2021. And child poverty immediately began to shoot back up.

We all want our children to be safe, happy, and healthy. We want to provide the foundation from which they can pursue their dreams. That's the real American Dream, right? But life presents us all with obstacles, from the unpredictable winds of fate to lawmakers who all too predictably vote to destroy the programs that helped families like mine succeed.

Yet if we come together, raise our voices, and exercise our democratic power at the ballot box, we can elect representatives that will vote in favor of supporting our children's dreams, not against them.

Revive the expanded monthly Child Tax Credit and make it permanent. Our children deserve nothing less.

Maureen Bowling is a social worker and mom from Lexington, Kentucky. She shares her experiences living in poverty as an advocate with RESULTS Educational Fund.

<https://www.laprogressive.com/education-reform/extending-the-childhood-tax-credit>

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Proven Solutions

November 13, 2022

"First-time buyers in Sacramento, California can't afford homes," (sacbee.com, Oct. 31)
The housing crisis is hitting first-time home buyers and renters. Across America, 11 million renters pay over 50% of their income for rent, making it impossible to save money for a down payment on a home. Sacramento's situation is a reflection of the country's housing crisis, but there are proven solutions: The expanded child tax credit lifted millions out of poverty and created hope for families now able to pay bills, buy food and begin to save. We can ask our representatives to renew it.

How about a renters' tax credit to give low-income folks a ladder out of poverty? More first-time home buyer programs can be passed. This isn't rocket science!

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/article268602357.html>

The Mercury News

Urge Congress to expand CTC

November 20, 2022

Re. "Smaller turkeys, bigger bills: Average Thanksgiving meal cost up 20% over last year," Nov. 16:

When I received the first deposit from the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in 2021, I did not believe it. I could go to the grocery store and not have to rely only on the pantry down the street to eat and feed my son.

The deposits relieved me of the constant worry about how to provide food and child care for my child, but we weren't the only ones having life changed by the CTC. Child poverty dropped by 46% in 2021, largely due to the expanded credit and monthly payments. I had a stable full-time job and still had no money for food until I received help via CTC payments.

In the spirit of the holiday season and considering current inflation, I urge Reps. Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, and Ro Khanna to expand the CTC to all families like mine, who need it to have a nourishing holiday.

– **Sarah Izabel, *Stanford***

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/11/18/letters-1054/>

Reprinted in:

EAST BAY TIMES

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2022/11/18/letters-1054/>

The Mercury News

Congress must reinstate expanded child tax credit

November 21, 2022

California is in desperate need of solutions to the housing crisis, and it is up to our leaders to make a pivotal change. But this won't happen overnight. In the meantime, immediate assistance is critically important for families who are struggling due to rising rent and food costs.

The expanded child tax credit (CTC) was responsible for lifting [2.9 million](#) children out of poverty in 2021. The CTC provided extra support for food, rent and utilities – all crucial necessities that foster stability for families. When Congress let the expanded CTC expire at the end of 2021, the cushion that helped low- and no-income California families finally make ends meet all but disappeared.

California families can't be expected to do more with less during these times. I call on our local House representatives to support the well-being of families this holiday season by pushing to make the expanded CTC permanent.

- Danica Berry, *San Francisco*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/11/21/letters-1056/amp/>

Reprinted in:

EAST BAY TIMES

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2022/11/21/letters-1056/amp/>

Invest in children

November 22, 2022

In 2021, the expanded Child Tax Credit helped millions of families pay the bills and cut child poverty by more than one-third. The program and its monthly payments have now ended, and according to the Center on Poverty and Social Policy, monthly child poverty has increased by 41%.

Ending the tax credit has also impacted the employment rate. Washington University data has shown that employment too decreased when the expanded credit expired, as it aided employment by providing money for childcare, transportation and stable housing.

The Child Tax Credit works and is necessary for getting families back on their feet.

Congress is expected to move a year-end tax package, and we must ask: What will it support?

Extending an expanded Child Tax Credit for the lowest-income families can and must be included, and it is up to our influential members of congress to make sure this happens. I urge House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to listen.

The best investment to stay healthy and strong as a nation is investing in our children.

– **Matt Parent, *San Francisco***

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/letterstotheeditor/article/Letters-Hospitals-were-at-their-breaking-points-17601349.php>

The Mercury News

Reinstating CTC would alleviate poverty

November 29, 2022

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) has been one of the most effective programs for alleviating childhood poverty. It elevated over 2.9 million children out of poverty in 2021.

Sadly, the CTC expansion has lapsed. It is incumbent upon Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and Reps. Ro Khanna, Zoe Lofgren and Anna Eshoo to push hard during the lame-duck session for reinstating the expansion in the next budget cycle.

There are few federal programs that have this level of “bang for the buck.”

– **Pravin Soni, *Sunnyvale***

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/11/28/letters-1062/>

Reprinted in:

EAST BAY TIMES

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/11/28/letters-1062/>



It's Time to Make the Expanded, Monthly Child Tax Credit Permanent

San Diego families continue to struggle to make ends meet. Congress needs to step up and offer relief by making the expanded, monthly Child Tax Credit permanent.

by Danielle Bautista and Erin Hogeboom

November 30, 2022

With election results now certified, it has become clear that there will be a shift in leadership and decision-making within the halls of the U.S. House of Representatives. We are now in a “lame duck period,” which is defined as the in-between time when an out-going elected official or group continues to hold power, before the inauguration of their successor(s). Often, a lame duck period is understood as a time of inaction, of sitting, and waiting. The problem is ... San Diego families can't afford to wait.

At the start of this year, a report from OJO Labs — a digital home-buying platform — announced that San Diego had surpassed San Francisco as the “nation's least affordable metro” area. That is not surprising with average rent for a family in San Diego is anywhere between \$2,800 and \$5,000, up almost 6 percent from last year. Coupled with a consumer price increase of over 8 percent from September 2021 to September 2022 — higher than the national average — it is no surprise to hear that San Diego families are continuing to struggle to make ends meet.

NBC San Diego recently profiled Kelvin Marshall about his family's participation in the San Diego for Every Child Guaranteed Income Pilot. In a time of increasing income inequality, the pilot offers families reliable cash that is at the discretion of recipients on how to use it. The ‘no strings attached’ cash has not only helped Kelvin provide for his daughters' basics needs, it has also given him peace of mind through trying times. And research shows, his peace of mind correlates to the positive and healthy development of his three daughters.

Every family, every child, should be afforded this same opportunity. Is that not our job as a community and society? We all benefit from every child growing up with financial stability.

And yet, despite report after report after report showing the positive benefits of the American Rescue Plan's expanded, monthly Child Tax Credit — not to mention child poverty falling to a record low — it expired in January 2022. Following this expiration, 16 states looked to help families by sending their own Child Tax Credit checks or providing tax deductions. And while this helped many families, imagine how many more children could benefit from the passage of a federal child allowance.

Nearly 450 economists — including Nobel Prize winners and leading economic voices from our San Diego region — have expressed their support for this policy in terms of “our country's long-term economic prosperity.” And U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen said, “the expansion of the Child Tax Credit was ‘not a significant factor’ and has ‘utterly nothing to do’ with inflation — dispelling recent criticism that the expanded CTC helped fuel it.” Sadly, even with these insights, checks stopped Dec. 15, 2021. Now, report after report shows us the negative impacts children and families are facing.

Without these monthly payments, it is clear that households across the country have “struggled to afford their daily needs, put food on the table, stay current with bills, and maintain savings balances.”

Earlier this month, Representative Pramila Jayapal out of the state of Washington, and Representative Jimmy Gomez out of California, put forth a letter to Democratic Leadership encouraging a line in the sand: no year-end corporate tax cuts without also providing much-needed financial relief to families. We commend our local representative, Congresswoman Sara Jacobs, for being one of the 58 members of Congress to sign that letter.

Now — right now, during this lame duck period — Congress has the responsibility to do what we, the public, elected them to do: to legislate, on our behalf, for the well-being of our children, families, and communities. And critical to that well-being is a meaningful, reliable child allowance that, right now, comes in the form of a permanent, expanded, monthly Child Tax Credit for all children and their families.

DANIELLE BAUTISTA

Danielle is a San Diego resident, RESULTS Fellow, and the Senior Policy Associate of SaverLife, a national fintech and advocacy nonprofit that helps households... More by Danielle Bautista

ERIN HOGEBOOM

Erin Hogeboom is Director of San Diego for Every Child, a regional initiative to cut the experience of child poverty in San Diego County in half by 2030. More by Erin Hogeboom

<https://voiceofsandiego.org/2022/11/30/its-time-to-make-the-expanded-monthly-child-tax-credit-permanent/>

Colorado media



Senator Bennet cares about the children

March 24, 2022

Special thanks to Senator Bennet for caring enough about America's children to call out Congress for not extending the Child Tax Credit (Letters, "Finding a way forward on the Child Tax Credit," March 10, 2022). Once again families across America are choosing between rent and food. How many children must suffer before Congress takes action? Let's put the pressure on by demanding the 51 members of the Senate who ignored children and families to take action. Pass Senator Bennet's letter on to friends in other states and ask them to make sure their senators support this critical initiative for America's future, all children and families will be grateful.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, WA*

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters/letters-3-24-22/>



Ask, listen, vote accordingly

June 16, 2022

Since Dave Anderson's column on guns came out last week, there is indeed hope for some action in the Senate, perhaps in response to the bill that passed the House (The Anderson Files, "Fear, despair, and gun profiteering," June 9, 2022). With elections coming, gun control, reproductive freedom, homelessness, tax fairness and more are driving voters to the polls. Time to ask questions of candidates to see where they stand. For example, do you support renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that lifted 4 million children out of poverty? Ask, listen, vote accordingly. None of the crises in America are beyond answer, the question is who is willing to take action? Find out and then let's elect/re-elect them.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, WA*

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-6-16-22/>



Pass an expanded Child Tax Credit

July 18, 2022

Editor: It is time for the Senate to stop stalling and pass an expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC).

The 2021 CTC expansion with monthly payments was nothing less than extraordinary. After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped by 40 percent, food security increased, and families finally made ends meet. One important reason for this success was that, for the first time, the CTC was fully refundable, making all low-income children eligible for the full CTC. (Previously, families earning less than \$3000/year were excluded, defying any logic.)

The U.S. House extended the new CTC past 2021, but 51 senators blocked it and the payments stopped in January. Child poverty skyrocketed. Sen. Manchin claimed it “disincentivizes work,” although a number of people had to quit their jobs in January because they could no longer afford child care. Now with inflation driving up rent, food, and gas prices, Congress must act. Democratic leaders (especially Sen. Michael Bennet) have pushed for the CTC extension for months. Now, some Republicans may be coming around. Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) has proposed a new “child allowance” similar to the expanded CTC. This is encouraging, but his “allowance” again excludes the lowest-income children.

Families and children need help now. I urge leaders in Congress to put children first and pass a fully refundable Child Tax Credit with monthly payments as soon as possible.

– Martha Karnopp, via letters@sentinelcolorado.com

<https://sentinelcolorado.com/1gridoped/letters-pass-an-expanded-child-tax-credit/>



A model for renters tax credit

September 1, 2022

Keeping renters apprised of their rights is a good preventative measure. (see Unrepentant Tenant, "Resources for Boulder renters" Aug. 25) Equity in housing along with the lack of affordable units to rent are two of the biggest problems. One positive step toward equity was the expanded Child Tax Credit that helped families pay rent AND eat worked quickly make a difference. It is a great model for a renters' tax credit that could help renters not pay 50% and more of their income for housing. In the upcoming elections, make sure your candidates support both of these tax credits that make a major difference for families across America.

- Willie Dickerson/*Snohomish, WA*

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters/letters-9-1-22/>



Support a renters tax credit

October 27, 2022

Programs to help tenants know their rights when faced with eviction are a good idea. ('Help for tenants facing eviction' by Mark Fearer, Boulder Weekly, October 20, 2022) But what about helping tenants and landlords with a refundable renters tax credit? Once proposed by then Senator Harris and Senator Booker, it could be the answer needed. It could be modeled after the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) that Sen. Bennet worked so hard to pass and when it did, 40% of our children were lifted out of poverty. Senator Bennet is doing his best to have the CTC renewed which would help families pay rent as well. With these two tax credits providing ladders out of poverty, tenants and landlords would be able to count on housing stability and rent paid. This would free up courts from dealing with so many evictions and help stop the flow to homelessness. As we get ready to vote in the midterms, let's ask candidates to support these two initiatives and vote based on their answers.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-oct-27-2022/>

THE DENVER POST

“Promote the general welfare” of children

December 5, 2022

Re: “The expanded child tax credit is gone; the battle over it remains,” Nov. 26 news story and “U.S. needs five times as many child psychiatrists,” Nov. 26 commentary

In your Monday paper, you have two stories closely related to each other, although that isn’t obvious at first glance.

On page 13A, the monthly payments of the expanded Child Tax Credit, which Congress passed in 2021, made a significant difference in the lives of children in America. The child poverty rate nationwide was cut nearly in half, relieving many families of some of the stress of providing sufficient food, shelter and clothing. Stopping those payments after seeing the very positive results was an unconscionable thing for Congress to do.

On page 18A is a commentary about the poor mental health of the children of America. The stress and anxiety of living in poverty, with food insecurity, parents working multiple jobs to survive, unstable living situations, etc., are significant factors in causing mental illness. Poor mental health is also a contributing factor to crime, homelessness, lack of civic engagement, and other elements of an unhealthy society.

The preamble to the Constitution calls for Congress to “promote the general welfare.” Child poverty is certainly a starting point for the welfare of all of us, now and in the future. Sen. Michael Bennet has been one of the prime leaders of the Child Tax Credit. Let us support him and urge our other members of Congress to restore and make permanent the expanded Child Tax Credit without delay.

– Martha J. Karnopp, *Aurora*

<https://www.denverpost.com/2022/12/05/letters-our-roads-need-more-officers-and-deputies/>



The Child Tax Credit should be renewed

December 7, 2022

The election is over and members of Congress are back at work, and they have unfinished business to complete — like decisions on extending tax breaks to corporations. They also need to do more to help put food on the table for children living in poverty.

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) of 2021 was made fully refundable to families with children, especially those with very low-income levels. Congress then did not renew it in 2022, despite evidence that CTC helped lift millions of children out of poverty. The U.S. census indicated there was a 46% drop in child poverty while the full refundable CTC was in place.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows 266,000 children under the age of 17 in Colorado are left out of a full tax credit. Of those children, 32,000 are in rural Colorado. The CTC has demonstrated that it puts food on the table of those people that need it most. These CTC payments are not luxuries, they represent food in the mouths of children.

Please contact Rep. Boebert, Sen. Hickenlooper, and Sen. Bennet and ask them to not support a tax break for corporations, unless they include a fully refundable Child Tax Credit.

- Larry Carter, *Grand Junction*

https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/letters/printed-letters-dec-7-2022/article_177df0c6-75bd-11ed-bf33-0f8ee6b6cd80.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Support a renter's tax credit

December 8, 2022

Affordable housing is one of the biggest problems in America (Boulder Weekly, "When no home is affordable, where do you live?" Dec. 1, 2022). The good news is that Colorado voters passed some relief to build more housing and provide mortgage assistance. Another initiative in Congress has been a renters' tax credit, modeled after the Child Tax Credit (championed by Sen. Michael Bennet and hopefully to be renewed this month). Sens. Cory Booker and Kamala Harris have both proposed this kind of legislation for renters. Colorado voters can help by asking those who represent them to pass both of these initiatives, that will not only slow rising homelessness, but provide ladders out of poverty for millions of families.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-dec-8-2022/>

Daily Camera

Housing: Let's make 2023 the year we end homelessness

December 26, 2022

Sad to read about the homeless memorials, reflecting the deaths of individuals passing, often due to the harshness of homelessness ("Boulder County homeless memorials honor lives lost this year," by Dana Cadey, Daily Camera, Dec. 20). Let's take action to make 2023 the year we end homelessness in the world's richest nation. Beyond the many local efforts, Congress could pass a renters' tax credit to stop the flow of homelessness. This critical credit would be modeled after the Child Tax Credit (which needs to be renewed) that reached people immediately with relief, lifting millions out of poverty. If enough of us ask our representatives and senators to pass these two ladders out of poverty, there will be less homelessness and more hope in America's future.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2022/12/26/letters-to-the-editor-with-tweets-downfall-we-need-new-tools-ending-homelessness-in-2023-monitoring-drug-use-in-the-library/>

Connecticut media



Congress must extend Child Tax Credit

March 30, 2022

Anybody renting right now faces hard times. Grocery prices are up. Gasoline is up. And rents average \$1,760 a month in Fairfield County, the highest in the state.

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition reports: in Connecticut, a household must earn \$56,922 annually to afford a two-bedroom apartment, leaving 64 percent of our low-income neighbors “cost burdened” — paying up to half of their income for living indoors.

Shelter insecurity is a cascading disaster for low-income earners. If, “the rent eats first,” other necessities go hungry. Parents experience huge anxiety trying to decide what to pay and what to defer. Children suffer.

In 2021, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit for millions of American families. Families spent this monthly payment on food, utilities, clothing, and rent. But 51 U.S. senators let the payments expire in December. The result — the U.S. child poverty rate jumped by 41 percent in January.

This is an election year. That is no excuse for not getting things done. Poverty, meanwhile, only gets worse. Why is Congress not racing to extend the CTC payments? Pushing children and families into poverty is unacceptable. We must tell Congress we expect them to continue working on solving this problem.

Please call Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, and Representatives Jim Himes, Jahana Hayes, and Rosa DeLauro at 202-224-3121. Urge them to immediately extend the 2021 CTC with permanent full refundability, resume the monthly payments as soon as possible, and include robust funding helping renters, without decreasing other assistance to families in need.

Tom Magill of Trumbull, Evelyn Avoglia of Stamford, Bill Baker of Stamford and Lucinda Winslow of Stamford are volunteers with CT Coastal Chapter of RESULTS.

<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/Letter-Congress-must-extend-Child-Tax-Credit-17038408.php>

Reprinted in:

THE HOUR

<https://www.thehour.com/opinion/article/Letter-Congress-must-extend-Child-Tax-Credit-17038408.php>

ctpost

<https://www.ctpost.com/opinion/article/Letter-Congress-must-extend-Child-Tax-Credit-17038408.php>

newstimes

<https://www.newstimes.com/opinion/article/Letter-Congress-must-extend-Child-Tax-Credit-17038408.php>

NEW HAVEN REGISTER

<https://www.nhregister.com/opinion/article/Letter-Congress-must-extend-Child-Tax-Credit-17038408.php>

THE REGISTER CITIZEN

<https://www.registercitizen.com/opinion/article/Letter-Congress-must-extend-Child-Tax-Credit-17038408.php>

**greenwich
time**

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/opinion/article/Letter-Congress-must-extend-Child-Tax-Credit-17038408.php>



The fallout of not enough affordable housing stock

May 20, 2022

To the editor,

Re: "Consultants say Stamford doesn't have enough affordable housing," a May 12 news story by Veronica Del Valle.

Thank you for your coverage of Stamford's shortage of affordable housing units. It was good to read that every 10 new housing units require the addition of new affordable units in the city's deed-restricted stock — affordable housing for families earning less than half the area's median income. That will help ... but not enough.

Nationally, only one of every four households that qualify for Section 8 housing vouchers receive them, because there is simply not enough affordable housing stock. And qualified households can wait years for vacancies to manifest. So new affordable housing is part of the answer but, again, not enough.

So, what other tools do we have? What other needs are not fulfilled? A common aphorism says, "The rent eats first." While waiting for affordable housing to be created, SNAP and the Child Tax Credit could fill some of the gaps.

Last year, Congress expanded CTC to include all low-income families and allowed the payments to be sent monthly, rather than as a once-a-year tax credit. Families used their CTC payments for food, clothes for the children and, yes, rent. But, at the end of last year, some in Congress stopped the extension of the CTC. In January, 3.7 million children fell below the poverty line, and 1.4 CTC householders left their jobs because they could no longer afford childcare.

So, with affordable housing not so affordable after all, especially with inflation soaring, with children going hungry, and with parents not earning enough to pay for child care needed in order to work, something has to give.

All of us need to tell Congressman Jim Himes and Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy that we will support them, and other members of Congress, who will reauthorize the Child Tax Credit and other legislation to help our neighbors who have fallen on hard times.

*Stamford resident **William Baker** is an advocate for RESULTS, a movement of passionate, committed everyday people who use their voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty.*

<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/Letter-The-fallout-of-not-enough-affordable-17186525.php>

Reprinted in:

THE HOUR

<https://www.thehour.com/opinion/article/Letter-The-fallout-of-not-enough-affordable-17186525.php>

ctpost

<https://www.ctpost.com/opinion/article/Letter-The-fallout-of-not-enough-affordable-17186525.php>

newstimes

<https://www.newstimes.com/opinion/article/Letter-The-fallout-of-not-enough-affordable-17186525.php>

NEW HAVEN REGISTER

<https://www.nhregister.com/opinion/article/Letter-The-fallout-of-not-enough-affordable-17186525.php>

THE REGISTER CITIZEN

<https://www.registercitizen.com/opinion/article/Letter-The-fallout-of-not-enough-affordable-17186525.php>

**greenwich
time**

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/opinion/article/Letter-The-fallout-of-not-enough-affordable-17186525.php>

The Day

Extend child tax credit

November 08, 2022

This appeared in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Lobbyists are lining up to push Congress to approve more corporate tax breaks before Jan. 1, including extending deductions for research and development. Supporters argue that U.S. businesses need such incentives to keep the nation competitive in the world economy.

But nothing boosts the nation's ability to compete as much as a direct investment in the health and security of its children. As members of Congress negotiate a year-end budget package, they should not approve more incentives for big business, without also extending an expanded Child Tax Credit.

Ideally, Congress should make the expanded CTC permanent. At minimum, Congress should extend it for two years, and make it retroactive for this year.

No federal program has been more effective. The expanded CTC benefited 60 million children and helped reduce U.S. child poverty rates by 46%, said Ken Patterson of RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocacy group. Not surprisingly, Columbia University researchers found a 41% increase in child poverty, after expanded monthly Child Tax Credits stopped in January.

Under last year's American Rescue Plan, the maximum Child Tax Credit increased to \$3,000, or \$250 a month, for each child aged 6 to 17; and to \$3,600, or \$300 a month, for younger children. More than 90% of all families with children received an average benefit of \$4,380, reports the Tax Policy Center. The CTC became the largest federal cash-support program for children in 2021. Monthly installments enabled families to

budget for food, utility and housing costs. Some families opened their first bank account.

Any version of the Child Tax Credit approved before Jan. 1 should not include work requirements. Work requirements sound reasonable, but they withhold money from the children who most need it and aggravate racial disparities. They also fail to account for circumstances common in poor families, such as children living with retired grandparents; and interfere with education and training that are essential to making families self-sufficient.

Extending an expanded Child Tax Credit this year is a moral, social and economic imperative.

- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Editorial Board

<https://www.theday.com/editorials/20221108/extend-child-tax/>

Delaware media

Florida media

Orlando Sentinel

Addressing democracy, climate are New Year's resolutions

By Sam Daley-Harris

January 5, 2022

Twenty-eight years ago I wrote a book titled "Reclaiming Our Democracy." Maybe that is why it was so hard to read that 52% of young Americans between 18 and 29 years old believe that our democracy is either "in trouble" or "failing," according to the latest Harvard Youth Poll released in December.

But the young are not alone in feeling despair over the state of our democracy. According to a PBS Newshour/NPR/Marist poll taken before July 4, "67% of all Americans, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and independents, believe American democracy is 'under threat.'"

Hardly good news for action on the climate emergency.

Harvard Institute of Politics Director Mark Gearan tried to soften the blow when he said, "In the 2020 election young Americans proved with their record-shattering turnout that they are a formidable voting bloc and eager to make their voices heard."

That was encouraging, but not the whole story. The youth turnout was unprecedented, jumping from 39% in 2016 to 50% in 2020, according to Tufts University's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement. While that was an impressive increase in youth voting, 50% of youth still stayed home on election day as did 28.5% of those 35 years old and older, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Many of those who got to the polls might have thought that their work was done. But voting is not enough to renew our democracy or address climate change. We must find deeper ways to make our voices heard on issues we care about.

For example, the Harvard Youth Poll found that, “56 percent of young Americans expect climate change to impact their future decisions — and nearly half (45%) already see its local effects.”

In the lead-up to COP26 in Glasgow, climate activist and Drawdown editor Paul Hawken said, “It’s estimated that between 98 and 99% of humanity is disengaged. Your friends might be engaged,” Hawken continued, “but between 98 and 99% of humanity is disengaged. From the Earth’s point of view, there’s no difference between a climate denier and somebody who understands the problem but actually doesn’t do anything.”

Now there’s a wake-up call. So how do we combat the powerlessness and cynicism that tempts us to throw in the towel?

Johns Hopkins University Professor Hahrie Han provides a good place to start with her distinction between transactional advocacy (sign the petition, transaction complete) and transformational advocacy where volunteers — that’s us — are trained and encouraged to succeed at deep, sustained, relational advocacy.

That means meeting with members of Congress, pitching editorials, writing op-eds and letters to the editor, speaking and bringing new people in and, as a result, seeing ourselves as community leaders.

But you can’t engage in transformational advocacy by yourself. You need an organization to help you. Most nonprofits, however, are stuck in a 501c3, tax-deductible ditch that keeps them from encouraging their members in stronger forms of advocacy.

It’s our job to find an organization that’s committed to helping us climb out of that ditch. Groups like Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Foundation for Climate Restoration, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Catholic Relief Services, the anti-poverty lobby RESULTS, and American Promise fulfill that need.

In a climate change conversation with John Kerry at Yale in 2017, former Vice-President Al Gore told the audience, “I want to recruit you ... we can do this. People doubt we have the political will. Just remember that political will is itself a renewable resource. Go out and renew it.”

I know, that conversation was four years ago and not much seems to have changed. But that's all the more reason to finally answer the wake-up call and renew political will for addressing the climate.

Make it your New Year's resolution to build the political will to address climate change. Do it for yourself, for your children and grandchildren, and for our democracy.

Sam Daley-Harris is the founder of the anti-poverty lobby *RESULTS* and of *Civic Courage*.

"The Invading Sea" is the opinion arm of the Florida Climate Reporting Network, a collaborative of news organizations across the state focusing on the threats posed by the warming climate.

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-climate-change-democracy-invading-sea-20220105-qff5c52bmzbrxjrpafb4kk65iu-story.html>



Child poverty

January 18, 2022

In 2021, Congress took an important, life-altering step to reduce child poverty by passing a major expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC), the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in a generation. The impact of these changes has been nothing less than extraordinary.

After the CTC payments began in July, nearly 4 million children were lifted out of poverty. If maintained, Columbia University researchers estimate that the new CTC with the monthly payment could cut child poverty by 45 percent.

The House passed the Build Back Better Act (BBB), which extended the CTC changes for another year. Sadly, the BBB has stalled in the Senate, and CTC payments stopped this month.

Nearly 4 million children under 18 in Florida are estimated to lose out if the CTC is not extended. Another 700,000 are at risk of slipping back below the poverty line or deeper into poverty.

Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott must take bold action now to extend the CTC. Florida's children are counting on them.

– **Betsy Suero Skipp, *Miami***

<https://edition.miamiherald.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=58bcb1b1-f3d2-4ae5-a2cf-1e2105312530>



Senate needs to pass Child Tax Credit

January 29, 2022

Editor:

Nearly one in seven children live in poverty, but 2021 was an exceptional year in the fight against child poverty in America. By expanding the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families and send it out as a monthly payment, over 3 million children were kept from poverty each month from July to December.

Columbia University researchers estimate that the 2021 CTC could reduce child poverty by a stunning 45%. The benefits to their lives and our society from lifting half of all children out of poverty is immeasurable.

But unless the Senate acts soon, it won't happen.

The expanded CTC expired on Dec. 31 and so far the Senate has refused to extend it. Just when children and families face additional financial hardships from the COVID-19 surge, the Senate is turning a blind eye.

It's time to put our children first. I call on our senators to extend the expanded CTC for all low-income children and resume the monthly payments immediately.

- Patricia DeLuca, *Nokomis*

https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-senate-needs-to-pass-child-tax-credit/article_820e0668-7e1c-11ec-8375-2b558d58e43a.html



Senate needs to pass Child Tax Credit

January 29, 2022

Editor:

Nearly one in seven children live in poverty, but 2021 was an exceptional year in the fight against child poverty in America. By expanding the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families and send it out as a monthly payment, over 3 million children were kept from poverty each month from July to December.

Columbia University researchers estimate that the 2021 CTC could reduce child poverty by a stunning 45%. The benefits to their lives and our society from lifting half of all children out of poverty is immeasurable.

But unless the Senate acts soon, it won't happen.

The expanded CTC expired on Dec. 31 and so far the Senate has refused to extend it. Just when children and families face additional financial hardships from the COVID-19 surge, the Senate is turning a blind eye.

It's time to put our children first. I call on our senators to extend the expanded CTC for all low-income children and resume the monthly payments immediately.

– **Patricia DeLuca, *Nokomis***

https://www.yoursun.com/venice/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-senate-needs-to-pass-child-tax-credit/article_820e0668-7e1c-11ec-8375-2b558d58e43a.html



Housing assistance badly needed in US

March 9, 2022

I read recently that half of U.S. states are in dire need of emergency rental assistance, as millions of renters struggle to make ends meet in the ongoing pandemic.

But the pandemic has only exposed the problem hiding in plain sight - we are in an affordable housing crisis. In the U.S. today, a worker must earn three times the prevailing minimum wage to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment. Millions of Americans are only one crisis away from homelessness.

The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program helps low-income renters afford a place to live. But only one in four eligible renters can get housing assistance because of inadequate funding. Expanding HCVs to all eligible renters 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.

I urge our senators and representatives to ensure that multi-year, guaranteed funding for Housing Choice Vouchers in any new spending bill they pass this year.

Patricia DeLuca, *Nokomis*

https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-housing-assistance-badly-needed-in-us/article_f859910a-9a34-11ec-9f98-8b66ea7a99fc.html



Housing assistance badly needed in US

March 9, 2022

I read recently that half of U.S. states are in dire need of emergency rental assistance, as millions of renters struggle to make ends meet in the ongoing pandemic.

But the pandemic has only exposed the problem hiding in plain sight - we are in an affordable housing crisis. In the U.S. today, a worker must earn three times the prevailing minimum wage to afford a modest one-bedroom apartment. Millions of Americans are only one crisis away from homelessness.

The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program helps low-income renters afford a place to live. But only one in four eligible renters can get housing assistance because of inadequate funding. Expanding HCVs to all eligible renters 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.

I urge our senators and representatives to ensure that multi-year, guaranteed funding for Housing Choice Vouchers in any new spending bill they pass this year.

Patricia DeLuca, *Nokomis*

https://www.yoursun.com/venice/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-housing-assistance-badly-needed-in-us/article_f859910a-9a34-11ec-9f98-8b66ea7a99fc.html



Child Tax Credit

June 21, 2022

Thank you for the June 15 op-ed “Restore the Child Tax Credit, so kids know where their next meal is coming from.” What is a greater priority than the well-being of our children?

The COVID relief package, also known as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, included a monthly Child Tax Credit for low-income families. The Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit boosted incomes for basic needs such as housing, utilities, and food. As a result, 3.5 million children were lifted out of poverty.

With the end of these tax credits, child poverty rose by 42 percent in January. As Americans, we cannot tolerate this. We must urge Congress to, at the very least, extend these benefits to those most greatly in need.

– Ellen Kempler Rosen, *Miami*

No online link available



End Child Poverty

November 24, 2022

Giving thanks and giving back go hand in hand. Many local organizations did this through food drives leading up to Thanksgiving, as mentioned in the Miami Herald story "Need some help ahead of Thanksgiving? Here's where you can get a free turkey." But with rising food costs, many families facing financial difficulties may have to wait for the next food drive to afford basic necessities. According to the U.S. Census, more than 37 million Americans live below the poverty line; one in six children are affected, according to the National Hunger and Homelessness Week.

Expanding the Child Tax Credit is an effective way to alleviate the burdens of poverty. In 2021, the CTC monthly payments helped cut child poverty by 46%.

However, since the payments expired in December 2021, child poverty has increased, and global inflation has made it more difficult to make ends meet.

Despite disagreeing about what the CTC expansion should look like, members of Congress have made the CTC expansion their primary policy objective and making the CTC a bipartisan solution to food and housing insecurity.

I urge Sen. Marco Rubio to work with his colleagues to reinstate the monthly payments and make the CTC fully refundable by the end of the year. The CTC has reduced poverty. We can do it again, so that struggling families can thrive.

- Innah Lachica, *Miami*

No online link available

Georgia media

Hawai'i media



Extend child tax credit now

By Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Editorial Board

November 9, 2022

Lobbyists are lining up to push Congress to approve more corporate tax breaks before Jan. 1, including extending deductions for research and development. Supporters argue that U.S. businesses need such incentives to keep the nation competitive in the world economy.

But nothing boosts the nation's ability to compete as much as a direct investment in the health and security of its children. As members of Congress negotiate a year-end budget package, they should not approve more incentives for big business, without also extending an expanded Child Tax Credit.

Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation — including U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey, a Republican, and Bob Casey Jr., a Democrat; as well as U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, an Allegheny County Democrat — ought to make sure an extension of the expanded Child Tax Credit becomes part of any bipartisan year-end budget package. Ideally, Congress should make the expanded CTC permanent. At minimum, Congress should extend it for two years, and make it retroactive for this year.

No federal program has been more effective. The expanded CTC benefited 60 million children and helped reduce U.S. child poverty rates by 46%, said Ken Patterson of RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocacy group. Not surprisingly, Columbia University researchers found a 41% increase in child poverty, after expanded monthly Child Tax Credits stopped in January.

In Pennsylvania, the program helped an estimated 1.4 million families with 2.4 million children. Children in the poorest of those families face hunger, instability and prospects nearly as dim as those of the displaced children of Ukraine. Middle- and working-class families also received the expanded CTC; in fact, they received most of the benefits.

Under last year's American Rescue Plan, the maximum Child Tax Credit increased to \$3,000, or \$250 a month, for each child aged 6 to 17; and to \$3,600, or \$300 a month, for younger children. More than 90% of all families with children received an average benefit of \$4,380, reports the Tax Policy Center. The CTC became the largest federal cash-support program for children in 2021. Monthly installments enabled families to budget for food, utility and housing costs. Some families opened their first bank account.

The former child tax credit program left out millions of poor children whose families did not earn enough to qualify. By making the CTC fully refundable, low-income families received the full benefit.

Expanded monthly CTC payments, however, applied only to 2021. (Families who didn't file taxes for 2021 can still claim a full Child Tax Credit for last year.) Shamefully, the U.S. Senate failed to renew the CTC expansion for 2022, tossing nearly 4 million children back into poverty.

Owing to congressional inaction, 19 million children in the lowest income families no longer get the full value of the CTC, said Meredith Dodson of RESULTS. Galloping inflation rates of roughly 9% this year worsened the economic plight of children and families. Any version of the Child Tax Credit approved before Jan. 1 should not include work requirements. Work requirements sound reasonable, but they withhold money from the children who most need it and aggravate racial disparities. They also fail to account for circumstances common in poor families, such as children living with retired grandparents; and interfere with education and training that are essential to making families self-sufficient.

Idaho media

Illinois media

CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

Expanded child tax credit reduced child poverty, so Congress must renew it

After the election, some politicians in Congress will try to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be outrageous for Congress to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the CTC

September 20, 2022

Last year, the expanded Child Tax Credit monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most, monthly bill time, and allowed families to choose how best to use it. New data proves how well it worked.

The new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) reduced child poverty by 46%. In one year, the expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

But 51 senators let the CTC expansion expire by failing to vote to renew it. This data shows they made a huge mistake.

After the election, some politicians in Congress will try to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be outrageous for Congress to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the CTC for low-income families. I implore our members of Congress to expand the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year.

Paul Haider, *Andersonville*

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/9/19/23357992/federal-child-tax-credit-congress-midterm-election-prostate-cancer-screening-letters>

Indiana media

Reader urges Congress to renew CTC

May 18, 2022

To the Editor:

As families face rising costs, it's important to remember how important the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) has been for children and families.

According to a recent study from the Brookings Institution, the 2021 changes to the CTC, including sending it as a monthly payment, had a profound impact. Child poverty dropped by 40%. CTC recipients lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education and were less likely to rely on payday loans. Families spent their CTC payments on rent, food and clothes for their kids – the same costs going up for us all now.

But some lawmakers stopped an extension of the CTC payments. As a result, 3.7 million children fell below the poverty line in January. And 1.4 million CTC households have left their jobs because they can no longer afford childcare.

Economists say extending the CTC is critical to help families facing rising costs from inflation. How much more evidence do lawmakers need before they do the right thing?

I call on our members of Congress to extend the CTC with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments immediately.

– **Candace Baker, *Camby***

<https://dailyjournal.net/2022/05/18/letter-reader-urges-congress-to-renew-ctc/>

Tightening abortion laws reignite conversation around a permanent Child Tax Credit

By Sydney Dauphinais

November 4, 2022

Maxine Thomas got her first child tax credit payment in the spring of 2021. She was skeptical, like it was too good to be true.

"I really didn't think I was going to get it for some reason," she said.

Thomas is a single mom of five children. She works full time at a local food bank in Indianapolis.

The temporary expansion of child tax credits under the American Rescue Plan made the payments available to low- and no-income families for the first time, and it increased the amount provided. Families could receive monthly payments of \$250 for each child between the ages of 6 and 17, and \$300 for each child under the age of 6.

Since the pandemic had forced schools to close, Thomas' children were home every day, which drove up the costs of food and other bills. Thomas' work schedule got even busier but she still struggled. So the payments came at the right time. Thomas received \$1,000 a month — a \$250 credit for each of her children at home.

"The child tax credit was able to fill a lot of financial gaps," she said. "Just being able to help keep food home, paying on my utility bills that were ever-rising, because we were home full time all the time."

While some were skeptical that the expanded tax credit would disincentivize work, data shows it had the opposite effect. The money helped with things like child care and transportation expenses, allowing more people to invest in their own businesses, work, pay off debt and go back to school.

About 70% of families spent the credit on routine expenses like food and utilities, according to research from the Brookings Institute. The temporary expansion lifted 3.7 million children out of poverty, as of December 2021.

When the expanded child tax credit went away in January of this year, child poverty skyrocketed again.

As many states, including Indiana, take steps to tighten abortion laws, conversations have been reignited about how to best support mothers and babies. And many policy experts point to a permanent child tax credit, made available to low- and no-income families, as one way to do that.

Many families that were helped are struggling again

The child tax credit expansion reduced food insufficiency by 26% in 2021, according to Allison Bovell-Ammon, who has studied the issue.

“Food insecurity not only affects a child’s physical health or physical growth, but also their cognitive development, their ability to focus and do well in school to really reach their highest potential,” said Bovell-Ammon, director of policy and communications with Children’s Healthwatch at Boston Medical Center. “Even brief periods of disruption of access to food can have really lasting impacts on a child’s ability to grow and to be healthy.”

Those disruptions can negatively affect overall life outcomes.

Food insufficiency and insecurity disproportionately burden Black and Latino families, as well as single adult families. Research indicates these same populations were hit hardest by the expiration of the child tax credit payments at the start of this year, Bovell-Ammon said.

For Thomas, the expiration of these payments has made life more difficult. She had to start making sacrifices — like when her sons were going back to school and they needed new clothes.

“It seemed like everybody just sprouted out at the same time,” Thomas said. “I felt it when it was kind of tough, juggling who to go and get new shoes for.”

In the month after the credits expired, 3.7 million more children entered poverty. The child poverty rate rose from 12% in December 2021 to 17% in January 2022 — a 41% increase. Food insufficiency rates increased by approximately 25% among families with children from January to July of this year, according to a study from the Boston University School of Public Health.

That's a big reason why many are advocating to bring the credit back — and make it permanent. Doing so would lift people out of cyclical poverty, said David Plasterer, a senior policy associate with Results, a national advocacy group in support of the child tax credit.

"When you're experiencing poverty, job loss is fairly routine. You get into a job and you think, 'Okay, well, this is going to be the one,' then your car breaks down, or you lose your housing, or a kid gets sick, and you get fired, because you couldn't go into work," Plasterer said.

A permanent child tax credit would help people overcome these obstacles to stable employment.

"It would allow families to get more financial stability and increase their earning capabilities long term," Plasterer said.

Who benefits from the credit

For years, the child tax credit has been available to families that meet income and other requirements.

Without the child tax credit expansion, families earning less than \$2,500 annually are not eligible. People making more than \$2,500 a year are eligible for a few cents on every dollar they make above that — up to \$2,000 per child age 16 and younger for families making at least \$30,000 a year. The credit begins to phase out once a family's income level surpasses \$200,000 a year for single filers, or \$400,000 a year for joint filers.

These income requirements are based on the idea that an eligibility threshold would encourage people to work more and increase their earnings.

The temporary expansion of the child tax credit in 2021 made the full tax credit available to low- and no-income households for the first time. Without the expansion, an estimated 27 million children are excluded from the full child tax credit because their families didn't earn enough money.

This is the opposite of how it should be, Plasterer said. Families with the lowest wages are eligible for the least amount of money, and often none at all.

"There's married couples out there making \$400,000 a year that are getting the full value of the credit," Plasterer said. "And there are single parents that are working part time, making \$15,000 a year," who are eligible for only a fraction of the full credit.

"So you basically have to lift yourself out of poverty before you're eligible for the Child Tax Credit, which makes zero sense," he said.

Plasterer, and many other advocates for a permanent expansion of the child tax credit program, say work and income requirements unfairly hurt children and families.

"There are a lot of people in this country who are supporting children, who are unable to work for a number of reasons," said Bovell-Ammon, a researcher with Children's HealthWatch. "Or they are between jobs or having a hard time working and we really shouldn't be punishing children by leaving them out of this incredible benefit that has been shown to have such profound impacts on abilities for children to have their basic needs met."

In the era of abortion bans, what's being done to support vulnerable families?

Many Indiana lawmakers who voted for the abortion ban have also said they want to increase support for mothers and babies.

State Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica) is a leader in Indiana's efforts to financially support mothers and families. She says this became especially important when the near-total abortion ban, which she supported, was signed into law.

"I don't think you can just outlaw something without making sure all of those other variables are in place. So we tried this last special session, but it's not perfect," she said.

Negele said she will be pushing for more support for mothers and families in the next legislative session, such as making birth control more accessible and child care more affordable. Negele did not say whether she would be in support of a state-sponsored, permanent child tax credit.

"If we want to encourage people to have babies, we need to make it as affordable and as maybe incentivized as much as possible," Negele said. "We know as a society that growing our population base is important. And we just have to make sure that we are giving everybody that proper opportunity."

Outside of her full-time job with the food bank, Maxine Thomas also works with Experts on Poverty, an advocacy group that employs people with firsthand experience navigating federal safety net initiatives like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and tax credit programs. Thomas has spoken about her experience with both lawmakers and community members. She'd like to see lawmakers make the credit permanent without a work or income requirement.

"When we put stipulations on who is deemed eligible or good enough to get these types of credits and refunds, I think it removes the human dynamic of humanity," Thomas said. "I know that [the credit] has lifted families and children out of poverty, and that should be the ultimate goal."

Parents who didn't receive the 2021 child tax credit payments can still claim them online at getctc.org before Nov. 15.

<https://indianapolisrecorder.com/permanent-child-tax-credit-abortion-laws/>

Child tax credit deserving of expansion

November 12, 2022

Lots of politicians again campaigned on the importance of family values. If that's the case, they need to do more to help children and families struggling paycheck to paycheck.

Last year, the expanded child tax credit monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families at bill time. This allowed families to choose how best to use it, which they did for rent, food and child care. And child poverty dropped by 46%, according to the U.S. Census.

The expanded credit is a pro-family policy that works. Some politicians in Congress want to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be scandalous for Congress to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the child tax credit.

If lawmakers truly care about family values, they will expand the child tax credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year.

- Sarah Leone, *Fort Wayne*

https://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/letters/systemic-overhaul-tax-credit-boost-climate-change-real/article_3e4f7d78-555b-11ed-8ef1-8f1557d561e1.html



Want to reduce poverty? Bring back monthly child tax credit payments.

November 29, 2022

By Brendan Bow and Ruhani Sansoya

Picture it: it's mid-November. The election is over, Thanksgiving is abound, and the holidays are just around the corner. While most people are currently searching online for "best green bean casserole" or "how to deep fry turkey SAFE," some families are looking up "local holiday meal distribution free" and "utilities assistance Indiana." Despite all the recent attention on who will control the next Congress, the current Congress can still make history again this year and address these issues by using a method that has been implemented before, is proven to work and is already on the table.

In 2021, the expanded child tax credit (CTC) with monthly payments became available to nearly 65 million children in 40 million families across the United States. This single piece of legislation helped lift 5.3 million Americans out of poverty, including 2.9 million children. The expanded CTC took into account a household's number of children and income from the prior tax year and provided a monthly income boost dispersed throughout the year from half of a family's CTC. In prior years, families had to wait until tax season and would struggle to make ends meet until they could receive the full one-time tax break. According to U.S. census data, child poverty fell by a miraculous 46% in 2021. In fact, this was the largest one-year reduction of child poverty in history. It is important to note, however, that these CTC provisions expired at the end of 2021.

Despite some serious misgivings from some prominent members of government fueled by negative stereotypes, studies have shown that the monthly CTC payments worked as intended. It helped to mitigate financial burdens for low-income families, which often disproportionately harm marginalized communities. The new CTC

provisions helped to accommodate for historic economic injustices: The percentage of children living below the federal poverty line fell to the lowest rates on record for non-Hispanic white (2.7%), Black (8.1%), and Hispanic (8.4%) children. Many parents used this freedom and flexibility to cover things like child care, clothes and transportation costs.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey, 1) 30% of families receiving the CTC spent it on school expenses; 2) about 25% spent it on child care costs; 3) around 40% of households were able to pay down debt; 4) half the participants spent at least some of the CTC on food; and 5) 40% spent it on things like rent, mortgage or utilities. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that in total, over 90% of families making less than \$35,000 used their monthly CTC payments for the most basic of expenses, including food, clothing, shelter, utilities and education.

The fact of the matter is this program worked! It did exactly what it purported to do, and it did it well. So, what's the bad news? Since these provisions expired in December 2021, nearly a year ago, parents are now less able to afford child care, forcing some of them to leave the workforce to care for their children. To top it all off, global inflation has made the most basic necessities (including food and utilities) more expensive — something we're sure you've probably already noticed. The current high cost of living, amplified by inflation, combined with the looming will-they-won't-they threat of a recession and a housing crisis, is not looking to magically improve on its own any time soon.

All of these things are having devastating effects on those already experiencing financial hardship. When comparing the first half of September 2021 (with the expanded CTC in effect) to the first half of October 2022 (without the expanded CTC), the number of adults who reported that they were not working chiefly because they were caring for a child not in school or day care increased from 4.4 million to 4.5 million. In Indiana alone, over 36,000 more families fell into this group after the expanded CTC expired. Furthermore, the number of families with children who reported sometimes or often not having enough to eat increased from 8.7 million to over 11 million nationwide and from approximately 150,000 to over 284,000 just here in Indiana. How's that for a holiday season?

Big business wants Congress to extend tax breaks for wealthy corporations in December. This has bipartisan support, but it would be unconscionable to forget about the tens of millions of American families struggling to make ends meet.

Last year, we achieved a historic reduction in child poverty. We can do it again. This Thanksgiving, let's make a change that will materially help over a million Hoosiers. Sens. Todd Young and Mike Braun, Rep. Andre Caron, and the rest of Indiana's congressional delegation should reject any corporate tax cuts this year unless an expanded, monthly CTC for all low-income families is also included.

Brendan Bow volunteers with RESULTS to advocate against poverty, works as a program analyst at the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy and serves as adjunct faculty at IUPUI. Ruhani Sansoya is a third-year medical student at IU School of Medicine and advocate with RESULTS. RESULTS is an organization committed to ending poverty.

Congress can extend struggling families a lifeline

By Sarah Izabel

December 14, 2022

Right around the time I heard lawmakers were considering a year-end package of tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations, my 12-year-old son's bike broke. It felt like just another thing I couldn't fix for him.

Yet here are our lawmakers "fixing" things for those with the fewest problems. That's unacceptable when there are so many ordinary families who need help.

I know what it's like to pull myself up by my bootstraps – I've had to do it again and again. But I also know how far even a little help can go.

I grew up in Brazil, where my mother instilled in my siblings and me the value of hard work and education. I worked my way into law school, where I met a man from the United States. We fell in love, married and had a child. I moved with him to Virginia to go to college and raise our family.

It felt like I was doing everything right ... but things went wrong. When my husband developed a substance abuse problem and became aggressive, I had to flee with my child to a local YWCA for refuge.

I dropped out of school to get more jobs and scraped together enough to pay for rent, apply for Pell grants and get back into school. But when I got back together with my husband during a period of sobriety for him, we ended up worse off than before. He lost our money and the car, leaving me with car payments and no transportation.

Yet I kept going with classes and work, biking my son to his school. I house-sat, couch-hopped, got a cheap car and worked for DoorDash. I finally graduated and started work as a research fellow in neuroscience.

But the bills kept coming, not least for my \$58,000 in student loans. I still didn't have enough to feed my child properly or buy those little extra things he wanted or needed. I lived in constant fear of any small financial emergency. The food pantry became a saving grace for us.

Then, in 2021, Congress passed an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

Suddenly I had a reliable, monthly infusion of cash that meant we could eat consistently. It meant we didn't face repeated eviction notices. It meant I could put gas in the car, buy my son dress pants for choir and apply to graduate schools. It meant something I could finally count on.

It meant everything. I got into Stanford's doctoral program in neuroscience, where I got child care subsidies on campus, a full-tuition scholarship and campus jobs.

Those payments sent us on our way. But they stopped suddenly a year ago, when all 50 Senate Republicans plus Democrat Joe Manchin refused to extend this program that had cut child poverty in half in just six months.

So, my son's bike is broken and I can't get it fixed. The food pantry is again our lifeline – and we're not alone in that.

The loss of the expanded Child Tax Credit is associated with a 25% rise in food insecurity nationally.

I again live in fear of any emergency. I'm stressed out and my child feels so much guilt that he won't ask for basic things he needs.

This is a policy choice, affecting tens of millions of struggling American families who've done all they can to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. But Congress has a chance to right this grievous wrong by restoring the critical enhancements to the Child Tax Credit.

If lawmakers want to cut taxes for corporations and the rich, then they'd better do the right thing and give ordinary working families a boost, too. A little help makes all the difference in the world.

*Sarah Izabel is a neurosciences doctoral student at the Stanford School of Medicine.
Her op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

https://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/columnists/congress-can-extend-struggling-families-a-lifeline/article_6cd08194-7a2a-11ed-8e37-cbd9bab4a112.html

lowa media

Why are we torching our best tool to end child poverty?

My daughter and I were on the verge of homelessness before the Child Tax Credit. What's going to happen to vulnerable families?

January 31, 2022

CLARA MOORE, Contributing Writer

Ada Mae's beautiful blonde curls are wild on this sunny, mild winter afternoon.

I've just picked her up from the homeschool co-op that supplements the first-grade lessons we've been doing at home, and we're hanging out at the park. This is my favorite time of the week, watching her play with other kids.

But I'm also remembering my own childhood — cold Missouri winters without boots, hats, or mittens. The grind of poverty was tough on my family, and that trauma pursued me into adulthood.

I would do anything to keep my child from that fate, but we've had our close calls.

We were nearly homeless when the pandemic struck. I'd tried to pull myself out of poverty so many times by then — I'd even just finished graduate school. But trying to enter the job market as COVID-19 shut down the economy proved difficult. There wasn't going to be enough money for rent.

Fortunately, the COVID-19 relief programs Congress passed — like the stimulus checks and those monthly Child Tax Credit payments — helped me keep our apartment.

With this help, I could look for work while homeschooling my daughter. I was even able to put a few dollars into a savings account for the first time in my life, which was a huge relief. My family wasn't just surviving — we were on our way to thriving.

That's exactly what a safety net is for. But now what's going to happen?

The credit expired last December because Republicans, plus Democrat Joe Manchin, have stalled efforts to extend this tax relief to working families. Millions of families like mine missed our check in January — and we won't get another unless they're renewed.

Those monthly Child Tax Credits allowed Ada Mae to attend her beloved homeschool co-op, so necessary for her social well-being. They provided financial stability that helped me be more present with her, when I wasn't worrying about how the next bill would be paid. And they gave me space to look for — and get — better-paying work in the field in which I'm now qualified.

There are lots of stories like ours. A Columbia study found that the December payments alone kept 3.7 million children out of poverty, reducing the monthly child poverty rate by about 30 percent.

But in the first month without payments, Columbia experts project that the monthly child poverty rate may rise from the current 12 percent to over 17 percent — the highest it's been in over a year.

As these numbers show, parents weren't squandering these payments on luxuries. They used them to live less precariously.

A quarter of parents used the credit on child care so they could return to work. A third of the payments went to essential school expenses. And at least 90 percent of families were using the credits on necessities for their families.

Perhaps most dramatically, new research has found that cash payments to low-income families significantly improve infant brain development and learning later in life.

This is the sort of lifeline that changes children's lives. So why are we taking a torch to it? Why would we lift children out of poverty only to slam them back into it a few months later?

The failure to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit isn't just cruel and short-sighted — it's economically unsound. For the economy to fully recover, workers and families

must be able to survive inflation and other pandemic-related hardships. The enhanced Child Tax Credit was arguably our best tool for that.

It certainly was for me and my beautiful, confident Ada Mae

All of our children deserve the best chance in life, free from the brutal precariousness of poverty. The enhanced Child Tax Credit is that best chance. Let's not miss it.

Clara Moore is a researcher and mom who lives in Newark, New Jersey. She shares her experiences in poverty as an advocate with RESULTS Educational Fund.

This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

<https://www.timesrepublican.com/uncategorized/2022/01/why-are-we-torching-our-best-tool-to-end-child-poverty/>

Our Senators need to keep up fight against child poverty

March 1, 2022

2021 was an exceptional year for progress against child poverty in America. The 2021 expansion of Child Tax Credit to all low-income families and new monthly payment option kept over 3 million children from poverty each month the payments went out (go to www.childtaxcredit.org to see if you qualify for the 2021 CTC).

This tax season, millions of low-wage workers previously taxed into poverty will get a break because of the 2021 expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

But the 2021 CTC and EITC changes have expired and, so far, a slim majority of senators has refused to extend them. Just when Americans face additional financial hardships from higher costs and pandemic disruptions, half the Senate is turning a blind eye. Lifting millions of children and workers out of poverty creates immeasurable benefits for them and society as whole. It's also the right thing to do.

I urge our members of Congress to immediately extend the 2021 EITC provisions for low-wage workers and the 2021 CTC provisions for children, including permanent full refundability and resumption of the monthly payments.

- Marcelina Cenicerros, *Iowa City*

<https://www.press-citizen.com/story/opinion/2022/03/01/iowa-city-press-citizen-letters-fight-against-child-poverty-public-schools/6917754001/>



Extend 2021 EITC provisions

March 1, 2022

2021 was an exceptional year for progress against child poverty in America. The 2021 expansion of Child Tax Credit to all low-income families and new monthly payment option kept over 3 million children from poverty each month the payments went out.

And this tax season, millions of low-wage workers previously taxed into poverty will get a break because of the 2021 expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

But the 2021 CTC and EITC changes have expired and so far, a slim majority of senators has refused to extend it. Just when Americans face additional financial hardships from higher costs and pandemic disruptions, half the Senate is turning a blind eye. Lifting millions of children and workers out of poverty creates immeasurable benefits for them and society as whole. It's also the right thing to do.

I urge our members of Congress to immediately extend the 2021 EITC provisions for low-wage workers and the 2021 CTC provisions for children, including permanent full refundability and resumption of the monthly payments.

– Marcelina Cenicerros, *Iowa City*

https://muscatinejournal.com/muscatine/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-extend-2021-eitc-provisions/article_0f792f77-53d0-58f5-bffd-b34f73c2ecdc.html

Kansas media

Kentucky media

Broaden Tax Credit

February 3, 2022

Nearly one in seven children live in poverty, but 2021 was an exceptional year in the fight against child poverty in the United States. By expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to all low-income families and sending it out as a monthly payment, over three million children were kept from poverty each month from July to December.

Columbia University researchers estimate that the 2021 CTC could reduce child poverty by a stunning 45 percent, while an estimated 929,000 children in Kentucky would benefit from a CTC expansion. Lifting children out of poverty would have an immeasurable ripple effect throughout both their lives and our communities.

But unless the U.S. Senate acts soon, it won't happen.

The expanded CTC expired on December 31, and so far the Senate has refused to extend it. Just when children and families face additional financial hardships from the COVID-19 surge, the Senate is turning a blind eye.

Given that a CTC expansion would help 92% of children under 18 in Kentucky, it's time for Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul to put our children first. I call on our senators to extend the expanded CTC for all low-income children and resume the monthly payments immediately.

- Abigail Prang, *Lexington*

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article257992808.html>

Child poverty

March 18, 2022

Ask Congress to extend the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC). After congress expanded the CTC to all low-income children and sent the money as a monthly payment, 3 to 4 million children in the US were kept from poverty each month. In Kentucky, 66,000 children under 18 were lifted above the poverty line. In December, 51 Senators let these changes expire. In Kentucky, 929,000 children under 18 would benefit if the expansion were put back in place. We are all feeling the effects of rising food, rent and gas prices. I am sure this has caused more Kentucky families to have even greater difficulty making ends meet. We need to ask our Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, and Rep. Andy Barr to reinstate CTC. Reducing poverty has been shown to benefit future health and educational attainment. Reducing child poverty is a smart investment we can make as a country.

- Rita Egan, *Lexington*

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article259532599.html>

Tell Congress to ensure every child is fed

June 27, 2022

Dear editor,

If anything, the pandemic is teaching us how to fight poverty. Despite lush meadows and bountiful farms, Kentucky is among the top three states for child hunger. But in 2021, we witnessed the expanded Child Tax Credit and other safety nets lift millions out of poverty. When those ended, poverty rose sharply again, indicating that such programs had been working. Another crucial program, the bipartisan Keep Kids Fed Act, expanded access to free meals (including summer meals), helping alleviate child hunger nationwide.

With soaring costs, children desperately need the Keep Kids Fed Act to continue. If Congress doesn't move quickly, it will also expire. Considering Kentucky's high rate of child hunger, it would make sense for our senators to support the Keep Kids Fed Act. Yet, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is blocking it — a bill that literally feeds Kentucky children.

If "fiscal responsibility" seems to justify taking food from hungry children, consider this: addressing the effects of child hunger in the U.S. costs billions annually and contributes to economic decline. If starving children isn't enough motivation, the numbers don't lie. As responsible members of society, we must tell members of Congress that Kentuckians care about ensuring that every child is fed.

– Abigail Prang, *Lexington*

https://www.state-journal.com/opinion/letter-tell-congress-to-ensure-every-child-is-fed/article_36540ec2-f60b-11ec-9c81-5fa9b531bda9.html

The Child Tax Credit saved my family, we must bring it back and make it permanent: Opinion

Those monthly payments made the American Dream possible for millions of families, including mine.

By Maureen Bowling, *Opinion Contributor*

I like to think I'm an American success story.

I was born into homelessness, grew up in the foster care system and suffered unthinkable domestic abuse as an adult. Now I'm on track to graduate with a Master's degree in social work next spring.

But don't mistake my story for the "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" trope that conservative lawmakers like to call the American Dream. That idea is mythical, and my own success story proves it.

I'm one hero of my story, certainly. My children, friends and community members are, too.

But so are the well-funded foster care services I received growing up in Michigan. And the publicly funded therapy and recovery services that helped me overcome the trauma of my early years spent on the street.

Also essential? The Section 8 federal housing program and public programs in Lexington, Kentucky, where my kids and I now live. Those services kept a roof over my children's heads, put food on the table and provided child care assistance so I could work and enroll in college as a single parent.

Finally, the big hero that helped me and my children survive the pandemic and thrive through loss of employment, child care and in-person school was the enhanced monthly Child Tax Credit, passed as a cornerstone of the pandemic relief American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Statewide, over one in five children are growing up in poverty, meaning they live in a household that earns \$25,926 or less for a family of four. According to the 2021 Kentucky Kids Count County Data Book

Safeguarded against poverty

That credit put monthly payments directly into the bank accounts of nearly every parent and guardian in this country.

Like over 90 % of all parents who received this benefit, I spent the money on necessities for my family — the first check alone nearly paid off my back rent. I experienced a notable reduction in stress and anxiety, which helped me focus on being a good student and mom.

The Child Tax Credit brought 30% of children out of poverty in its very first month. Over its year-long duration, it eventually lifted nearly half of all poor children out of poverty, bringing child poverty to a stunning historic low.

Research connects getting out of poverty to much better health and cognitive development in children, with life-long impacts on educational success, income and well-being. But despite the overwhelmingly positive effect on nearly all families with children — no matter where we live, our household income or what we look like — conservative federal lawmakers refused to continue this critical lifeline.

Parents were working

They falsely claimed that helping children out of poverty incentivized their parents not to work. Recent Census data destroys this argument. It shows a large increase in working-age adults' employment for the duration of the 2021 enhanced Child Tax Credit benefits. The rise in employment was virtually the same for adults with and without dependent children.

Similarly, claims that the expanded Child Tax Credit spiked inflation lack evidence. On the contrary, the very necessities that families used the credit to pay for — including heat, housing and food — are those that have increased in price. Continuing the expanded credit would have eased the effects of inflation on families.

Instead, the expanded Child Tax Credit payments expired at the end of 2021. And child poverty immediately began to shoot back up.

We all want our children to be safe, happy and healthy. We want to provide the foundation from which they can pursue their dreams. That's the real American Dream, right? But life presents us all with obstacles, from the unpredictable winds of fate to lawmakers who all too predictably vote to destroy the programs that helped families like mine succeed.

Yet if we come together, raise our voices and exercise our democratic power at the ballot box, we can elect representatives that will vote in favor of supporting our children's dreams, not against them.

Revive the expanded monthly Child Tax Credit and make it permanent. Our children deserve nothing less.

Maureen Bowling is a social worker and mom from Lexington, Kentucky. She shares her experiences living in poverty as an advocate with RESULTS Educational Fund. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2022/10/11/why-the-child-tax-credit-must-be-reinstated-to-help-families-children/69552855007/>

Louisiana media

Maine media

**Maryland/
Washington, DC
media**

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Congress must renew expired child tax credit

January 21, 2022

The Baltimore Sun has run two articles about the child tax credit in recent days. One amplifies the hardships families face without the tax credit which expired on Dec. 31 ("Expiration of child tax credits, a 'godsend' for many families, hits home," Jan. 14). The other is a Bloomberg Opinion piece that argues it is the wrong policy altogether ("Bigger child tax credit isn't a viable poverty solution," Jan. 13).

In arguing its weaknesses, Bloomberg's Allison Schrager mentions an oft-used and incorrect claim. She says a flat rate credit discourages the parents of children from returning to work. Late in 2021, results of a Social Policy Institute at Washington University study came out. The researchers studied U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey data and found the opposite of Ms. Schrager's argument: "There were no differences in employment trends between parents and non-parents after monthly CTC payments were issued ... CTC support is encouraging lower income parents to start new businesses." This was especially true among the lowest income group (earning under \$50,000 per year).

The articles remind us of U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin's worries about inflation. I worry about inflation, too, and don't we all? Yet Scott Sartens of Humanity Forward has argued that the child tax credit offers protection against higher inflation. Since child care costs so much, the tax credit helps parents pay for it and continue working. In some cases, it enables parents to stay home with infants and still spend money. Spots they would otherwise compete for in child care centers are not needed, thus avoiding overwhelming demand and avoiding further child care cost increases. While those parents are not working, jobs they would otherwise have are now open for childless adults.

The child tax credit helps every family who receives it, and none more than those families closest to the bottom. For those earning the least, those extra dollars make an enormous difference. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, in Maryland, 93% of low income (less than \$35,000 annually) households used those

dollars for food, rent, utilities or education. One local friend says the program helped her a lot last year, but now she has no food budget at all!

Let's trust our neighbors who qualify for the tax credit to use that money wisely, as they are doing. Let's enable them to participate in our economy. In the long run, this helps us all because those children will grow up healthier and more prepared to run this world once we are gone. U.S. Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin, the time to extend the child tax credit and make it permanent is now.

- Jan Kleinman, *Baltimore*

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-tax-credit-letter-20220121-x4b4dfk26rchxknmrwrykl77ya-story.html>

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Baltimore mayor's guaranteed income pilot will help 200; a restored Child Tax Credit can help the rest

April 29, 2022

Mayor Brandon Scott recently announced his guaranteed income pilot program ("Baltimore to provide monthly income of \$1000 for 200 young parents through pilot program," April 20). He calls it an "innovative solution" to our city's tragic number of struggling, low-income families. The Baltimore Sun's article covering the story explains that \$1000 will be paid monthly to 200 young parents. It appears all those parents have to do is earn at or below 300% of the federal poverty level, have at least one child, apply, and get selected by lottery.

But doesn't this sound familiar? Back in 2021, just a few months ago, every American family who earned at or below a certain threshold qualified for the Child Tax Credit! Those payments, paid monthly, provided critical relief to low-income families. They "improved the quality of life" for many, as the mayor says. Columbia University's Center for Poverty and Social Policy reports that nearly 4 million children were lifted out of poverty during the life of the Child Tax Credit. That is wonderful news that we taxpayers should feel proud of!

Now, however, the Child Tax Credit payments have ended. Most of those children have fallen back into poverty. On top of that, inflation is costing the average American family \$296 per month. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that the Child Tax Credit does not cause inflation. Rather, it could help families face inflation. The average CTC payment last year was \$444 monthly, offering a critical cushion to struggling families.

Mayor Scott's guaranteed income pilot will help 200 families and is a fine idea, but what about all the other families who are still struggling? Maryland Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, Congressmen Kweisi Mfume, Paul Sarbanes and Dutch Ruppersberger, please put on your most persuasive suits and use your most impassioned voices to convince your leadership to restore Child Tax Credit.

– Jan Kleinman, *Baltimore*

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-0502-reader-roundup-20220429-mfsqplopaferbdhecjcfjsu7ei-story.html>

THE BALTIMORE SUN

U.S. needs an expanded child tax credit

August 21, 2022

A recent article in The Baltimore Sun explained the Inflation Reduction Act that makes progress for seniors on drug costs and Medicare out-of-pocket expenses. It also helps uninsured Americans by subsidizing health care insurance, and there is a benefit to all Americans by increasing funding for the Internal Revenue Service. And it makes progress for all humans by spending on solar panels, on emissions mitigation and on home energy efficiency ("A look at what's in the big Biden bill as health and climate goals become law," Aug. 16).

What it does not do is make progress for children. Where is the Child Tax Credit?

The 2021 Child Tax Credit expansion with monthly payments was nothing less than extraordinary. After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped by 40% while food security increased and families finally made ends meet. But Congress let the expanded tax credit expire at the end of last year.

Recently, I visited a friend, a young mother with a 2-year-old daughter. She scrapes every penny to pay her rent. Her refrigerator? Empty! Had she a monthly payment, her finances would be less dire.

U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes and Maryland's entire House delegation: Child poverty is again on the rise and families still struggle with higher costs for rent and food. Talk to your colleagues and leadership and pass an expanded Child Tax Credit that reaches the lowest-income families and includes monthly payments.

Please remember the kids! They after all are our heirs and our future.

– Jan Kleinman, *Baltimore*

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-tax-credit-letter-20220821-al4nncia3rdargb44zij5kj2ka-story.html>

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Expand federal tax credit to help lift kids from poverty

December 6, 2022

The Baltimore Sun recently highlighted the pending change in congressional leadership starting in January ("Hakeem Jeffries elected next House Democratic leader," Nov. 30). But our current Congress is still in office and still can take meaningful, impactful action before Christmas, and that would be to reinstate the expanded child tax credit.

The expanded child tax credit reduced child poverty substantially in the United States, yet when the increase expired, over 3 million children fell back into poverty. One young mother I know worries that after paying her rent and getting gas to go to work, she won't have enough money for holiday gifts for her child. Were she to receive a monthly child tax credit payment, she could pay rent and buy gas, and still have enough for a gift.

A return of the expanded child tax credit would be the best Christmas present she could get.

As it currently stands, only working families receive the full benefits of the tax credit. In Maryland, 249,000 children under age 17 do not benefit from the full child tax credit because their family income is too low. You read that right! The poorest children do not currently receive the full benefit.

U.S. Reps. John Sarbanes, Dutch Ruppersberger, Kweisi Mfume, and all of our Maryland delegation, including U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, you know the expanded child tax credit is a good idea. Tell your leadership how crucial it is. Reinstate it, with monthly payments, for all low- and no-income families. I urge you to act before Christmas!

- Jan Kleinman, *Baltimore*

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-tax-credit-letter-20221206-4dysuh3bsbdhllugg2vy4sdvjm-story.html>

Massachusetts media

Boston Herald

Building Back Better

January 4, 2022

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 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.

The next CTC payment went out to American families on Dec. 15. If the Senate does not pass BBB, it will be the last, putting millions of children at 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. Our senators must pass the Build Back Better Act now.

— **William Deignan, Medford**

<https://www.bostonherald.com/2022/01/04/letters-to-the-editor-314/>

The Berkshire Eagle

Extend the child tax credit now

March 11, 2022

To the editor: When Congress expanded the child tax credit for millions of American families and sent it as monthly payments, the rate of child poverty dropped by almost half.

Surveys showed that this money enabled families to pay for rent, utilities, food, clothing and school supplies. But in December, 51 U.S. senators let the payments expire. As a result, 3.7 million children fell into poverty in January — a 41 percent increase — because the CTC payments stopped.

Pushing children and families back into poverty is unconscionable. Our children succeed when they are well-nourished, housed and educated. Expanding the CTC was remarkably and quickly successful. But Congress has pulled the rug out from under and made the challenges facing families that much greater. Adding this on top of an historic and devastating pandemic is irresponsible.

I urge our members of Congress to immediately extend the CTC with permanent full refundability and to resume the monthly payments as soon as possible. And we can pay for it by having the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

Note: If you qualified for CTC monthly payments last year, go to childtaxcredit.gov to learn how to claim the rest of your credit. You must file a tax return to get either the remaining credit or the entire credit if you did not get advance payments. And you must file a 2021 tax return to get the expanded CTC and the earned income tax credit. You can learn more and get free filing assistance at GetYourRefund.org.

– **Leslye Heilig, *Great Barrington***

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-extend-the-child-tax-credit-now/article_0cf8ab6c-9fcd-11ec-a53c-2f2a354356b8.html

Women forced to bear children will need more support — reinstate Child Tax Credit payments

July 12, 2022

To the editor: I am writing to urge all Americans and members of Congress to support continuation of the expanded, fully refundable child tax credit and to resume monthly payments of the credit.

Sometimes called the “child allowance,” it is an effective tool for reducing child poverty.

States banning abortion claim they will provide more support for women who are forced to have more children, yet they have not supported reinstatement of the fully refundable child tax credit for all low-income families. Both research and common sense tell us that people need money in order to work — to fix their car, pay for phone service or buy a month’s supply of diapers for the daycare center.

In 2021, the expanded child tax credit was a financial lifeline for children and families. Data shows that the expanded CTC reduced child poverty by almost half (41 percent). Recipients continued to work, lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education and were less likely to use payday loans. Families spent their CTC payments on rent, food and clothes for their kids.

Then last December, 51 U.S. senators let the payments expire and 3.7 million children fell back into poverty within a month.

I commend our entire Massachusetts delegation (especially Rep. Richard Neal and Sens. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren) for their strong support of the expanded CTC and I hope more members will choose to support lifting children out of poverty.

It seems clear that passing the expansion of the CTC and continuing the monthly credit payments would help millions of children. This is not only the right thing to do, but it should lead to a physically and mentally healthier society, from which we all

benefit. As more and more women are forced to bear children they cannot afford to care for, the need for child tax credits and financial support will surely grow.

- Linda Baxter, *Great Barrington*

The writer is a retired nurse-midwife and member of RESULTS-MA and Together Women Rise.

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-women-forced-to-bear-children-will-need-more-support-reinstate-child-tax-credit-payments/article_350af018-012c-11ed-82e8-9b88d7436b76.html

We have to make our voices heard

October 19, 2022

Kudos to Kim Janey, president and CEO of Economic Mobility Pathways and former acting mayor of Boston, for her op-ed “Direct cash assistance is a proven way to support struggling families.” Many analyses have demonstrated the efficacy of this form of assistance. But nothing demonstrates that fact as clearly as the dramatic reduction in child poverty when the enhanced Child Tax Credit existed and its immediate reversal within a month of its discontinuance. Millions of children were brought out of poverty, only to be plunged back into it when Congress failed to act.

Janey’s willingness to share her lived experience of poverty is commendable. At Results.org, an organization committed to the elimination of poverty by supporting people to use their voices to influence political decisions, the power of constituency is paramount. Our members of Congress need to hear from us, their constituents, and listen to our stories. We must raise our voices and tell Congress that allowing children, in this incredibly rich country, to go to bed hungry at night or to live in an unsafe home is unacceptable. We can and must do better. For starters, we must reinstate an expanded Child Tax Credit now.

– Dr. Leslye Heilig, *Great Barrington*

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/10/19/opinion/moment-there-we-made-inroads-child-poverty/>

Michigan media

Detroit Free Press

Tell our lawmakers to pass new child tax credit proposals

January 30, 2022

Thousands of Michigan children are at risk of falling back into poverty this year. That's because the U.S Senate has failed to pass the Build Back Better Act, which would have extended the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) and its monthly payment option. These provisions have now expired, which means that there are no more monthly payments and 27 low-income American children will no longer get the full CTC, putting them and their families at risk of falling back into poverty this year.

Columbia University researchers estimate that the 2021 CTC could reduce child poverty by a stunning 45%. The benefits to their lives and our society from lifting almost half of all children out of poverty is immeasurable. But unless the Senate acts soon, it won't happen.

It is time to put our children first. I want to thank Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters for all of their support of these expansion to the child tax credit in the Build Back Better Act. Please contact them and ask them to fight to include these provisions in whatever legislation passes this year. Our kids need this to propel them through life.

– Yvonne Wyborny, *Westland*

https://freep-mi.newsmemory.com/?token=6d5ef37abce836e0ba9d26dbf34b996c&cnum=b95e11b1-eae9-e411-aadc-90b11c341ce0&fod=1111111STD-0&selDate=20220130&licenseType=paid_subscriber&

Detroit Free Press

Bring back expanded child tax credit

August 21, 2022

I am pleased that the Inflation Reduction Act will help Americans by reducing health care costs and making corporations pay a fair share of taxes.

But there is one big thing missing from the bill: the expanded Child Tax Credit.

The 2021 CTC expansion with monthly payments was nothing less than extraordinary. After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped 40%, food security increased, and families made ends meet. But Congress let the expanded CTC expire at the end of last year. With child poverty again on the rise and families still struggling with higher costs for rent and food, Congress must bring it back.

Congress is expected to pass a bipartisan tax bill at the end of this year, which will include a tax break for corporations. That bill must prioritize children and families first. I urge our Michigan members of Congress to pass an expanded Child Tax Credit that reaches the lowest-income families and includes monthly payments in any tax legislation this year.

– Sylvia Lewis, *Rochester*

No online link

Detroit Free Press

Extend the child tax credit to poorest families

December 18, 2022

As Christmas approaches we are shopping for Christmas presents for our kids and looking forward to a fun time with the family. We can afford these presents partially because we receive a child tax credit when we file our taxes.

However, for the poorest of kids, the federal government will only offer a lump of coal to them since the parents of those kids do not receive any child tax credit. Let's be clear, the children who are most needy for this tax break on their behalf are shut out of the child tax credit. Those families can barely afford to pay rent, put food on the table and heat their homes, let alone afford Christmas presents, but they receive a cold shoulder from the federal government.

As an act of kindness, please reach out to your elected officials and demand that the child tax credit be extended to the poorest kids.

- Lester Wyborny, *Ann Arbor*

https://freep-mi.newsmemory.com/?publink=1e7574d31_1348746

Minnesota media



Time getting tight to address poverty

Now is the time to turn this around by passing legislation that renews the Child Tax Credit and that deals with the housing crisis.

February 14, 2022

While the news focuses on talks between the president and one senator, 50 other senators stand by and watch one in seven American children suffer in poverty. ("White House retools strategy toward Sen. Manchin, with Biden agenda on the line," Feb. 1).

The opportunity for our country to take a great step forward in battling hunger and poverty is rapidly fading. Now is the time to turn this around by passing legislation that renews the Child Tax Credit and that deals with the housing crisis. It could be called the Family Act instead of Build Back Better.

Ask your senators to step up and pass legislation that secures a better future for children, families, and our country.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-time-getting-tight-to-address-poverty>



Stop accepting the status quo of poverty

Our calls to those who represent us in Congress can help build the political will to end these inequitable parts of the status quo.

March 22, 2022

This is the perfect time to change the status quo in many areas, including unequal pay for women (Labor Leader's View: " Stop accepting the status quo of unequal pay for women ," March 15).

The pandemic shined a spotlight on this and other inequities, like health care, tax breaks, housing, and more. The increase to the Child Tax Credit proved we can cut child poverty; it did by nearly 40%. And 90% of families with children received this benefit that moved millions back from the edge of hunger, eviction, and child care unaffordability. Sadly, this increase was not extended, as 51 senators stood in the way.

It's time to raise our voices to call for legislation that ends the status quo of poverty for families in the world's richest country. Our calls to those who represent us in Congress can help build the political will to end these inequitable parts of the status quo.

– Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-stop-accepting-the-status-quo-of-poverty>



Alternative option to the filibuster

How about the “listen, buster,” when we call on our members of Congress at 202-224-3121 to work together to pass proven initiatives like the Child Tax Credit that lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty.

May 02, 2022

Is there an alternative to the filibuster? (Re: Columns on the filibuster in the News Tribune, April 25) How about the “listen, buster,” when we call on our members of Congress at 202-224-3121 to work together to pass proven initiatives like the Child Tax Credit that lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty. Remind your members that children matter, as do families, millions once again choosing between paying rent and buying food.

Tax fairness is not rocket science. Congress can do this, and deal with the housing/homelessness and childcare crises in the process.

It will be our voices and votes that make the difference, especially in an election year.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-alternative-option-to-the-filibuster>



Working together is the key to progress

Candidates or incumbents not willing to move forward working together to take this kind of positive action don't deserve our votes.

June 20, 2022

Darby Neustel's piece on a positive way of dealing with climate change together is a model for all of America's current crises (" In Duluth, elsewhere, a just enegy transition has to start slow " by Darby Neustel, Duluth News Tribune, June 8).

Whether health care, housing, homelessness, hunger or climate change — working together is a positive way is the key to progress. This time of approaching elections is perfect for asking candidates if they are willing to work together to solve these problems. One specific example: Will you work to extend the expanded Child Tax Credit that lifted 4 million children out of poverty? (As soon as it expired these children fell back into poverty.) Now is the time to ask questions like this and vote accordingly. Candidates or incumbents not willing to move forward working together to take this kind of positive action don't deserve our votes.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-working-together-is-the-key-to-progress>



Use our votes to strengthen democracy

It's time to ask candidates and incumbents the hard questions and to vote for those who pledge to end the family struggles of affordable housing, enough food, health care for all, and the climate crisis that threatens us all.

July 27, 2022

Let's use our voices in the playbook of democracy to put our country on the path of equity. (This is in response to the July 21 "Local View" column, headlined, "Voters, reject those following the 'playbook of dictators' .")

It's time to ask candidates and incumbents the hard questions and to vote for those who pledge to end the family struggles of affordable housing, enough food, health care for all, and the climate crisis that threatens us all. Our votes are powerful. We must use them, strengthening democracy in the process.

- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, *Washington*

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-use-our-votes-to-strengthen-democracy>



This is how a successful democracy works

While voting is our most powerful action, asking questions first and following up afterwards is just as important.

October 8, 2022

It's great news to read that young people are registering to vote in greater numbers and are planning to vote in November (National View: "Young people more energized to vote than ever before," Oct. 2).

While voting is our most powerful action, asking questions first and following up afterwards is just as important. That is exactly what the nonprofit Results (results.org) teaches people of all ages: how to do that effectively in our democracy. There is even a special fellowship for young people 20-35.

So, ask the candidates questions, like, Will you support and work to pass a renewal of the expanded Child Tax Credit that lifted millions out of poverty? Then follow up with an informed vote and communicate with those candidates elected to make sure they follow through.

That is how a successful democracy works.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-this-is-how-a-successful-democracy-works>

Extend tax credits for kids

Congress should recognize the program as a moral, social and economic imperative.

By the Editorial Board of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

November 8, 2022

Lobbyists are lining up to push Congress to approve more corporate tax breaks before Jan. 1, including extending deductions for research and development. Supporters argue that U.S. businesses need such incentives to keep the nation competitive in the world economy.

But nothing boosts the nation's ability to compete as much as a direct investment in the health and security of its children. As members of Congress negotiate a year-end budget package, they should not approve more incentives for big business without also extending an expanded Child Tax Credit.

Ideally, Congress should make the expanded CTC permanent. At minimum, Congress should extend it for two years, and make it retroactive for this year.

No federal program has been more effective. The expanded CTC benefited 60 million children and helped reduce U.S. child poverty rates by 46%, said Ken Patterson of RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocacy group. Not surprisingly, Columbia University researchers found a 41% increase in child poverty, after expanded monthly credits stopped in January.

In Pennsylvania, the program helped an estimated 1.4 million families with 2.4 million children. Children in the poorest of those families face hunger, instability and prospects nearly as dim as those of the displaced children of Ukraine. Middle- and working-class families also received the expanded CTC; in fact, they received most of the benefits.

Under last year's American Rescue Plan, the maximum Child Tax Credit increased to \$3,000, or \$250 a month, for each child aged 6 to 17; and to \$3,600, or \$300 a month, for younger children. More than 90% of all families with children received an average benefit of \$4,380, reports the Tax Policy Center. The CTC became the largest federal cash-support program for children in 2021. Monthly installments enabled families to budget for food, utility and housing costs. Some families opened their first bank accounts.

The former child tax credit program left out millions of poor children whose families did not earn enough to qualify. By making the CTC fully refundable, low-income families received the full benefit.

Expanded monthly CTC payments, however, applied only to 2021. (Families who didn't file taxes for 2021 can still claim a full Child Tax Credit for last year.) Shamefully, the U.S. Senate failed to renew the CTC expansion for 2022, tossing nearly 4 million children back into poverty.

Owing to congressional inaction, 19 million children in the lowest income families no longer get the full value of the CTC, said Meredith Dodson of RESULTS. Galloping inflation rates of roughly 9% this year worsened the economic plight of children and families.

Any version of the Child Tax Credit approved before Jan. 1 should not include work requirements. Work requirements sound reasonable, but they withhold money from the children who most need it and aggravate racial disparities. They also fail to account for circumstances common in poor families, such as children living with retired grandparents; and interfere with education and training that are essential to making families self-sufficient.

Extending an expanded Child Tax Credit this year is a moral, social and economic imperative. Historically, nearly 20% of U.S. children live in poverty, a figure close to Mexico's rate, reports the international Organization for Economic Development. The attendant impacts of poverty on a child's development, health and safety are formidable: They influence how the body and mind develop, widen academic achievement gaps, undermine health, reduce access to educational resources, and put children in proximity to crime, violence and environmental toxins.

Extending the expanded Child Tax Credit would alleviate all of those problems for the key to the nation's future — its children. Shame on members of Congress if they adjourn for the holidays without first taking care of their most important priority.

<https://www.startribune.com/extend-tax-credits-for-kids/600223419/?refresh=true>

Mississippi media

Missouri media



Working families need the Build Back Better Senate vote

January 9, 2022

Regarding the editorial "'Build Back Better' falters under its own weight. Dividing it could save it." (Dec. 23): I am thrilled the House passed the Build Back Better Act in November. It will help 300,000 new low-income renter households finally get assistance. 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. Sens. Josh Hawley and Roy Blunt should vote to pass the Build Back Better Act now in the Senate.

– Sarah Miller, *University City*

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-working-families-need-the-build-back-better-senate-vote/article_b8094412-76cc-5c60-ae1f-3c3f3722eb23.html

Greatest Needs

January 16, 2022

COVID-19 is on the rise again in Missouri and elsewhere, and it is a tough time for working families. Cold weather and staying at home add to the stress for all families and put an added strain on their budgets.

In 2021, Congress passed a major expansion of the Child Tax Credit. This change made the full CTC available for the first time to 27 million of the lowest-income children, giving families a monthly payment. But this new CTC expired Dec. 31, putting millions of children and families at risk just as the new COVID-19 surge threatens them with additional financial hardships.

The House included its extension for another year in the Build Back Better bill, but the Senate has failed to act. Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley must pass a CTC extension with permanent full refundability for all low-income families and the monthly payment option in early 2022.

– **Sarah Miller, *University City, Missouri***

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article257291692.html>



Congress must help hardworking families

January 26, 2022

The recent article “Empty Bowls event raises \$2,000 for Pittsburg food banks” (Globe, Jan. 23) reminds all of us how many hardworking Americans are struggling to put food on the table and maintain a roof over their heads.

Food banks, however, are not a permanent solution for those who are struggling. We need our government to put down partisan politics and for hardworking Americans to have access for meeting basic needs. Unfortunately, the child tax credit passed by Congress in 2021 expired Dec. 31, putting millions of children and families at risk just as the new COVID-19 and cold weather threatens our hardworking Americans with additional financial hardships.

The House has extended it another year as part of the Build Back Better bill, but the Senate has not done so. I call on U.S. Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley to pass a child tax credit extension with permanent full refundability for all low-income families and the monthly payment option as soon as possible, before even more people are in need of food bank help.

– Sarah Miller, *University City*

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-must-help-hardworking-families/article_e5cadafe-7c79-11ec-ac7b-9fdf1c003658.html

Senators must pass CTC extension

January 27, 2022

It is a hard time for our hard-working families. We have a lot that has put our budgets to the test, both quarantines (time away from work) and cold weather. We have to do something to help millions of Americans right now.

Unfortunately the CTC passed by Congress in 2021 expired on December 31, 2021, putting millions of children and families at risk just as the new COVID-19 and cold weather threaten our hard-working Americans with additional financial hardships.

The House has extended it another year as part of the Build Back Better bill, but the Senate has not done so.

I call on all of my senators across the country to put aside partisan politics to pass a CTC extension with permanent full refundability for all low-income families and the monthly payment option in early 2022.

– Sarah Miller, *University City*

https://www.stlamerican.com/news/letters_to_the_editor/senators-must-pass-ctc-extension/article_b9a87a44-7efe-11ec-b5b1-3fa12af710d5.html

Make Child Tax Credit permanent to help parents with child care

January 30, 2022

The recent article, "Springfield Public Schools closed Monday, switching to virtual learning Tuesday to Friday," reminds all of us how important it is to provide safety nets for hard-working Americans right now. If schools are closed, parents might have to take time to help with child care. That could lead to loss of wages for those who do not have paid sick leave.

For millions of Americans, those wages can make or break a family. That is why it is important for Congress to provide programs like the Child Tax Credit and make them permanent. Congress passed an expansion in 2021 but it has expired.

I call on our senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley to pass a CTC extension with permanent full refundability for all low-income families and the monthly payment option. This will help students have a safe, warm place to learn when there are school closures and go towards assisting parents who lose wages when providing child care.

- Sarah Miller

<https://www.news-leader.com/story/opinion/readers/2022/01/30/letters-january-30-tax-credits-omicron-and-jan-6/9230031002/>

Congress should put children first

February 10, 2022

I agree with Sarah Miller's letter asking the Senate to renew the Child Tax Credit (CTC) extension. ("Senators must pass CTC extension," January 25, 2022) Unfortunately, Senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley didn't listen to her.

Last year, expansions to the CTC kept over three million children out of poverty every month from July to December. Payments sent out as monthly allowed families the flexibility to spend the aid on expenses they needed most. But just when children and families faced additional financial troubles from the COVID-19 Omicron surge, the Senate failed them when they did not extend the payments in the Build Back Better plan.

We need to put our children first. I call on our senators as well as Reps. Clay Wagner, and Luetkemeyer to find a new way to extend the expanded CTC for all low-income children and resume the monthly payments as soon as possible.

- Cynthia Levin, *Town and Country*

https://www.stlamerican.com/news/letters_to_the_editor/congress-should-put-children-first/article_9a515612-89fc-11ec-8bf1-eb05f927c4ad.html



Moms must pay attention to the child tax credit

By Cynthia Changyit Levin

March 10, 2022

Nothing good ever happens when moms aren't paying attention.

That was true when I was a kid. It was true in my house when I became a mother. It's especially true with Congress in 2022.

Let's face it. Moms have had a lot on their minds over the past two years. It has been overwhelming to provide for our families' needs, look out for the mental health of our kids and track ever-changing COVID-19 policies. With all that going on, it's hard to be attentive to everything happening in Congress affecting the well-being of our children and other parents around us.

However, when we're not looking, needed support tends to disappear and families across the country suffer. We need to sound the alarm, so we can band together and protect effective programs that help families struggling in poverty, like the vanishing child tax credit expansions.

You're not alone if tax policy slid down your list of priorities as we grappled with a COVID-19 surge in December and January. So, let me get you up to speed.

The American Rescue Plan, enacted in March 2021, provided an exceptional tool for decreasing child poverty and food insecurity in America. By increasing the child tax credit, it made the full credit available to all low-income children for the first time and distributed the credit monthly from July through December. Those regular payments reduced monthly child poverty by close to 30% and gave families flexibility to spend the aid on their most basic needs.

Yet just when families faced additional financial troubles from the omicron surge, our government failed them. The Senate, including Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley,

rejected the House-approved “Build Back Better” plan, which would have extended the expansions to the child tax credit for another year.

In December, the child tax credit payments lifted 3.7 million children above the poverty line. Payments have now stopped.

Alarming, the Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy reported that the monthly child poverty rate from increased by 41% after losing just one payment in January. Millions of kids are falling back into poverty, putting moms on edge.

Low-income tax credits don’t attract much attention from everyday Americans as a tool to fight poverty even though they are highly effective. But here’s why this tax policy is important to real people.

U.S. Census Bureau data collected last year found that families who received the child tax credit payments overwhelmingly spent them on immediate necessities such as food, rent, utilities, clothing and car payments. A crisis like a pandemic hits every family differently, so the regular influx of \$250-\$300 per child every month was a godsend. It could take the sting off lost income from a positive COVID-19 test. It was great for kids who needed help right away and good for local economies in need of consumers, too.

When we realize tax credits equate to car repairs to help parents get to work, replacements for kids’ outgrown shoes, respite from eviction and food on the table, suddenly tax policy becomes a parenting issue.

If Sens. Blunt and Hawley felt they couldn’t support the entire “Build Back Better” plan, then they should find a new way to save the expanded child tax credit. Also, Reps. Bush, Wagner and Luetkemeyer should come together to save the child tax credit — traditionally a bipartisan issue — which has already done so much to reduce childhood hunger and poverty.

I’m asking my fellow mothers to use all our mom-skills of reminding, chiding, coaxing and demanding to tell Congress they must do something when people need help. Let’s challenge them to do better for our children.

Cynthia Changyit Levin, of Town and Country, is the author of "From Changing Diapers to Changing the World: Why Moms Make Great Advocates and How to Get Started."

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/guest_commentaries/moms-must-pay-attention-to-the-child-tax-credit/article_e6d8c93c-a06a-11ec-b878-cbbb4362acbb.html



Congress should pass Child Tax Credit to help families out of poverty

March 21, 2022

I agree with Cynthia Changyit Levin's op-ed "Moms must pay attention to the child tax credit," published March 10.

Our country needs to prioritize passing an extension to the child tax credit to protect our nation's kids. With the rising costs of gas and other goods, it is even more imperative that Congress take action.

We have a huge group of children who are in great danger of falling into poverty because the child tax credit expired and has not been renewed. In 2021, it lifted nearly 3 million children out of poverty, but now those kids are beginning to fall back into poverty. These kids have parents who are working full time but cannot make ends meet, especially with rising costs.

I call on Rep. Vicky Hartzler, as well as Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, to work to pass a renewal of the child tax credit for 2022.

Sarah Miller is a teacher in St. Louis.

- Sarah Miller

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/congress-should-pass-child-tax-credit-to-help-families-out-of-poverty/article_3da58a8c-a91e-11ec-bee5-ef765877b5f8.html



We need to extend 2021 child tax credit

March 31, 2022

President Joe Biden released his new budget proposal this week, pushing for policies that will help lower costs for families. One of these policies is extending the child tax credit expansion from 2021. Why Missouri U.S. Sens. Josh Hawley and Roy Blunt are not sprinting to do this is beyond me.

Moody's noted that due to inflation, families are paying about \$300 more for food, gas, rent and other necessities this year. When the child tax credit monthly payments went out last year, they averaged about \$444 per month per household. That's pretty simple math.

If Congress wants to help families weather rising costs, extend the 2021 child tax credit. It's that easy.

And since the Treasury Department already has the system in place, monthly payments could resume quickly and provide relief to families within a matter of weeks.

Politicians are quick to assign blame for rising costs (spoiler: the pandemic did it), but they offer few solutions. With the child tax credit, the solution is right in front of them. If Hawley and Blunt care about helping Missouri families, they should extend the 2021 child tax credit and resume the monthly payments immediately.

– Jos Linn, *Kansas City, Mo.*

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-we-need-to-extend-2021-child-tax-credit/article_fb2e90be-b02e-11ec-b73c-873873a264ef.html



Prioritize federal funding for rental assistance

April 6, 2022

From toddlers getting Barbie Dreamhouses for their birthdays to President Joe Biden in his State of the Union address, most people can agree that housing is incredibly important.

Yet, in the U.S. it takes three times the current minimum wage for a worker to afford a one-bedroom apartment, and as rent prices continue to increase rapidly, many Americans are facing the prospect of eviction.

As a second semester junior in high school, right now I'm worried about many things, from my SAT score to college essays to prom. However, these are things I'm lucky to be worried about because I know the roof over my head will be there. There are thousands of Americans, some of them my age, without such luck. They must deal with the current and ongoing housing crisis much before they can find a prom dress.

However, Congress can do something about this. Millions of low-income renters could afford better, stable places to live with federal rental assistance, but because of inadequate funding, only one in four of those eligible can receive this assistance. By making large corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, rental assistance could be expanded to all who are eligible, virtually ending homelessness, reducing racial inequity and saving lives.

Every junior should be able to focus on the stress of being 16 years old, not the stress of impending homelessness. I urge U.S. Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley to prioritize funding for rental assistance in upcoming legislation.

- Stella Linn, *Kansas City*

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-prioritize-federal-funding-for-rental-assistance/article_7596cc9a-b412-11ec-a3ec-573fde985459.html

Roofs over heads

April 10, 2022

From toddlers playing with dollhouses to President Joe Biden delivering his State of the Union address, people agree that housing is important. Yet, in the U.S, the average one-bedroom apartment costs much more than someone working full time at the federal minimum wage makes. And as rent prices increase, many Americans face the prospect of eviction.

As a high school junior, I'm worried about many things: the SAT, college essays and prom. However, these are things I'm lucky to worry about because the roof over my head is secure. There are thousands of Americans, many my age, without such luck. They must deal with the housing crisis much before they can find a prom dress.

Congress can fix this. Millions of low-income renters could afford better, stable homes with federal rental assistance. But because of inadequate funding, only 1 in 4 of those eligible can receive this help. By making large corporations and the wealthy pay their share of taxes, rental assistance could be expanded to all who are eligible, virtually ending homelessness.

Every junior should get to focus on being 16, not impending homelessness. I urge Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley and Rep. Emanuel Cleaver to prioritize funding for rental assistance in legislation this year.

– **Stella Linn, *Kansas City***

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article260190940.html>



Renewing the Child Tax Credit would lift up all of society

April 13, 2022

Regarding “Missouri senators eye teacher pay as they get their turn to write state budget” (April 7): I fully agree that teacher salaries should be boosted. Many teachers have to have multiple jobs to make ends meet. However, as a teacher myself, I believe our government should be helping all hard-working Americans be able to afford basic needs, without working multiple jobs.

One way to do that is through the Child Tax Credit. We passed one in 2021, and millions of kids were lifted out of poverty as a result. However, our government has failed to pass one for 2022, and those kids are sinking back into poverty. As inflation rates rise, this hurts even more.

Our government should not sit back and neglect those struggling right now. Lifting millions of children and workers out of poverty creates immeasurable benefits for our society as a whole — and it’s also the right thing to do. I hope that Congress will address this growing problem very soon.

Sarah Miller, *University City*

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-renewing-the-child-tax-credit-would-lift-up-all-of-society/article_b6738709-c9b5-56c8-8b54-d037c274dd8a.html



Urges Congress To Extend “Critical” Child Tax Credit

April 18, 2022

As an educator, I know recent taxes that passed, as in the article “Shrewsbury Voters Give Nod To Major Tax Hike, Use Tax,” are important. However, I am someone who also thinks about hard-working American families who can be priced out of their homes with huge tax increases. Instead of having to choose between a tax increase to support key services, I wish our federal government would step in and help families be able to stay in their homes.

In 2021, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) helped millions of families pay the bills and cut child poverty nearly in half. Now, as families are facing higher costs for rent, food and fuel, the CTC monthly payments have ended and over three million children have fallen back below the poverty line.

The 2021 CTC expansion is the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in a generation. After the monthly payments started in July 2021, nearly four million children were kept from poverty each month. Families used their CTC payments to buy food, pay the rent and cover utilities.

Economists say the CTC is critical now to help families meet basic needs, but Congress has rejected efforts to continue the monthly CTC payments just as inflation is creating greater hardship for families.

I urge our members of Congress to extend the expanded CTC with permanent, full refundability in economic recovery legislation this year and resume the CTC monthly payments immediately.

– Sarah Miller, *St. Louis*

https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/urges-congress-to-extend-critical-child-tax-credit/article_54ed5c82-bbfd-11ec-a6a1-7fae7817d6fd.html



Restore Child Tax Credit

April 25, 2022

As I sign our family's tax forms this year, I'm reminded that this is the fourth month that families are missing monthly Child Tax Credit (CTC) checks because Senate Republicans and Sen. Joe Manchin blocked the extension of this critical program late last year. The CTC is an anti-poverty program that funnels money into our local economies and lifts up struggling families. Its absence is especially notable when costs for goods and gas are rising.

Let's all use this time to remind Senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley that it is a form of assistance that could be up and running immediately if Congress takes action. I urge them to rethink their position and find a way to restore this help for Missouri families in need.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, *Town and Country*

https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/restore-child-tax-credit/article_4e664c4a-c178-11ec-a362-afb634ff2526.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share



Take care of the Earth, and human needs, too

Apr 27, 2022

On Earth Day, we made pledges to help the Earth and celebrate the environment.

We can all agree that our Earth is in need of taking care of, and I believe all humans are in need of our attention, too.

Last year, because of changes to the Child Tax Credit (CTC), nearly 4 million were lifted out of poverty. Frustratingly, Congress allowed the 2021 CTC and Earned Income Tax Credit provisions to expire in December, eliminating the gains we make in reducing child poverty and supporting workers.

Hard-working Americans are struggling even more right now due to inflation, and Congress has done nothing to help them. We still have time to make this right.

I strongly urge our members of Congress to pass an economic package as soon as possible that extends the EITC and CTC provisions, including making full refundability of the CTC permanent, and address housing insecurity by including funding for new Housing Choice Vouchers. It will help our whole society and it's the right thing to do.

- Sarah Miller, *St. Louis*

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-take-care-of-the-earth-and-human-needs-too/article_d721d39c-c2a9-11ec-a1cf-c3ec26281a77.html

Child Poverty

May 18, 2022

In 2021, the expanded federal Child Tax Credit, or CTC, helped millions of families around the country pay the bills and cut child poverty nearly in half. Sadly, the CTC monthly payments have ended, and more than 3 million children have fallen back below the poverty line.

The CTC expansion was the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in a generation. After the monthly payments started in July 2021, nearly 4 million children were kept from poverty each month. Families used their CTC payments to buy food, pay rent and cover utilities.

Missouri has taken steps to combat child poverty, but it still ranks 30th in child poverty rates. Congress has continued to reject efforts to continue the monthly CTC payments as inflation is creating greater hardship for families.

Congress must extend the expanded Child Tax Credit with permanent full refundability for all low-income families and the monthly payment option in order to lower child poverty rates in Missouri and all over the country. I call on Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley to support the reimplementation of the CTC to show support for Missourians.

- Marta Richenburg, *Kansas City*

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article261503082.html>



Child tax credit must be extended

May 21, 2022

Missouri has committed to take the necessary steps to end child poverty in Missouri. In 2021, the expanded child tax credit (CTC) helped millions of families pay the bills and cut child poverty nearly in half.

Sadly, the CTC monthly payments have ended, and over 3 million children have fallen back below the poverty line. With inflation increasing and the effects of COVID-19 still weighing on Americans, these CTC payments are needed more than ever.

The 2021 CTC expansion is the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in a generation. After the monthly payments started in July 2021, nearly 4 million children were kept from poverty each month. Families used their CTC payments to buy food, pay the rent and cover utilities. Each of these allowed families to continue to support their children even through economic hardships.

Missouri has taken steps to combat child poverty, but Missouri still ranks 30th in child poverty rates. This is unacceptable, while Congress has rejected efforts to continue the monthly CTC payments as inflation is creating greater hardship for families.

Congress must extend the expanded CTC with permanent full refundability for all low-income families and the monthly payment option in order to lower child poverty rates in Missouri and all over the country. I call on Sens. Josh Hawley and Roy Blunt to support the implementation of CTC to show support for Missourians.

- Marta Richenburg, *Kansas City*

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/your-view-child-tax-credit-must-be-extended/article_aa4a9f94-d6d5-11ec-b726-b35cc1897bdc.html

Extend child tax credits to keep kids out of poverty

May 22, 2022

Missouri has committed to take the necessary steps to end child poverty in the state. In 2021, the expanded child tax credit helped millions of families pay the bills and cut child poverty nearly in half.

Sadly, these monthly payments have ended, and over 3 million children have fallen back below the poverty line. With inflation increasing, and the effects of the pandemic still weighing on Americans, these payments are needed more than ever.

Families have used their child tax credit payments to buy food, pay the rent and cover utilities. Missouri has taken steps to combat child poverty, but it still ranks 30th in child poverty rates. This is unacceptable, while Congress has rejected efforts to continue the monthly tax-credit payments as inflation is creating greater hardship for families.

I think Congress should extend the expanded tax credits with permanent full refundability for all low-income families in order to lower child poverty rates in Missouri and all over the country.

– Marta Richenburg, *Kansas City*

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-extend-child-tax-credits-to-keep-kids-out-of-poverty/article_302ed931-c4b5-5607-a4d9-74cf1d47e8b2.html

Author/advocate sets inspiring example

June 9, 2022

In response to “Advocacy leaders work inspires others to become activists” (May 4, 2022) about Cynthia Changyit Levin: Like many people, I wanted to “do something” about global health but was paralyzed into inaction because every effort seemed too small. I joined Results in 7th grade because I was friends with Levin’s daughter but did not become an active member until March 2020.

Levin has been so supportive as she helped me draft emails to representatives and op-eds. Because of her, I have learned so much about health policy on the national and international level.

One of Results’ goals right now is to convince lawmakers to extend the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. These pieces of legislation provide qualifying low-income families with tax breaks and help front line workers access affordable housing. As a result of these policies in 2021, child poverty sank to record lows and many workers could make ends meet. I have been making phone calls to the offices of Senators Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley asking them to extend these provisions. In the past, my friends and I have also gotten together to write members of congress emails and handwritten notes- In some cases we have even received replies from their offices.

My favorite Results memory is sitting in Congresswoman Ann Wagner’s office talking about maternal and child health bills. She was patient and responsive, listening to each of us as we presented the cause before she agreed to sign onto it. It is conversations like these that make me continue advocacy, because I feel that I can influence the priorities of my representatives.

I think that more and more people are turning to advocacy organizations because we believe policy changes are the most effective solution to issues like climate change,

wealth inequality and the spread of disease. If you are interested in joining Results, you can find instructions on how to get involved at <https://results.org>

We would love to see any new members at one of our meetings.

- Arushi Katyal, *Chesterfield*

<https://stljewishlight.org/opinion/letters-to-editor/letters-to-the-editor-june-8-2021/>



Congress can act to alleviate child poverty

July 7, 2022

When I read stories like "Erasing the stigma: Organizations work to support growing number of homeless students" (Missourian, June 10), I realize how lucky I am to have graduated from high school without worrying about where my next meal was coming from or not having a place to sleep.

It gives me so much hope to read about all these organizations coming together to support high school students who need it. However, I hope our government does their part in ensuring that these teenagers are never in this situation in the first place.

One important step we can take to ensure that teenagers have housing is to extend the child tax credit and earned income tax credit.

These pieces of legislation provide qualifying low-income families with tax breaks and help front-line workers access affordable housing.

As a result of these policies, child poverty sank to record lows and many workers could make ends meet in 2021.

After these payments ended, however, child poverty increased by 41%. Especially as inflation and record-high gas prices make costs of living skyrocket, more and more people depend on these payments to survive.

I hope we can count on our Congress to extend the CTC and invest in our communities in the way local charities and initiatives do.

Arushi Katyal of St. Louis is a rising freshman at Boston College.

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/letter-to-the-editor-congress-can-act-to-alleviate-child-poverty/article_a6e80892-fd8a-11ec-8b7d-fbccfe46b9d6.html



Inflation Reduction Act sadly missing Child Tax Credit

August 12, 2022

Regarding "Democrats' big package: What remains in and what's out?" (Aug. 5): While it is exciting to have the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, I am deeply disappointed that it does not include any provisions to extend the Child Tax Credit. The Child Tax Credit kept around 4 million kids out of poverty in 2021 and those children have sunk back into poverty without the expansion. I am glad that Congress is doing something to address the issues around rising costs for our most vulnerable, but it is not enough. I call on our members of Congress to continue to push for an expansion on the Child Tax Credit in any end-of-year legislation.

– Sarah Miller, *University City*

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-inflation-reduction-act-sadly-missing-child-tax-credit/article_cefcf543-9a69-5147-b55e-a3d2f877afd8.html



Pushing a stroller while advocating for change: St. Louis author says moms can do both

By Jane Henderson

August 14, 2022

Cynthia Changyit Levin prepared her 4-year-old to meet a congresswoman, dressing the child nicely and bringing along paper and markers to keep her occupied.

While Levin presented her message, she realized the quiet girl was up to something: coloring her hand with a red marker that also threatened to stain unsuspecting objects. Oops.

The bemused legislator, aides, parent and child all headed to a restroom sink to avert a mess. “I never brought markers again,” Levin says with a laugh. But those kinds of meetings can be memorable for parent and legislator alike, she notes.

Juggling motherhood and activism has been part of Levin’s family life for 15 years. A mechanical engineer and former project manager, she’s now written “From Changing Diapers to Changing the World,” a book encouraging other mothers who want to work for a better future for themselves and their children.

In plain, easy-to-understand language, Levin writes about simple ways to get started making phone calls or writing letters for important causes and how to build toward what she says is a “gold standard” of advocacy — cultivating relationships with federal legislators from her state.

In the book’s introduction, she writes:

“Although there are many dad-advocates I respect and admire, I’m writing this book for mothers for two reasons. First, motherhood is my own personal experience and the one I know best. Second, I want to promote a new path for moms who have trouble seeing their own potential to influence.

“I encounter a distressingly high number of mothers who wrestle with power and self-identity issues as they navigate shifting expectations in professional and domestic roles. While this can be frustrating, motherhood also enables women to redefine our roles in life and create new visions of ourselves.”

Levin, now 50, has long been concerned about hunger and poverty issues. Although most of her non-partisan activism has been as a volunteer, she was employed for several years by RESULTS, which works to end poverty. She writes about tactics using respect, about hard-fought successes and about how her two children were involved (one, a freshman at Johns Hopkins University this fall, plans to major in global health).

With her book, the Town and Country resident says she wants to inspire women to do what they can: “The more moms I can get involved, the better.”

She talked in person and answered questions by email.

Q • Why is activism appealing to moms?

A • I think there are two main reasons. First, moms are naturally deeply driven to protect their children. They’re quick to act when they see something that threatens kids such as gun violence in schools or lack of health insurance that would cover something their own child needs.

Second, they want their kids to have bright futures, so even an issue like climate change that might seem like a less immediate threat is troublesome since the worst effects of it will happen to our children long after we are gone if we don’t act in the present.

Q • You became interested in activism because of poverty and hunger issues, right? But nobody is really for hunger. Does that make it an easy thing to advocate for?

A • No member of Congress campaigns on a pro-hunger platform, but unfortunately there are elected officials who are against increased funding for poverty and nutrition programs or those who simply assume that someone else will take care of it. Unlike a COVID-19 variant or war in the Ukraine, hunger and poor nutrition aren’t flashy new disasters to talk about, even though they are directly related to those recent crises. It

can be tough to get the attention of members on new ways to think about fighting hunger — like protecting food systems (the whole process of how we get food from farm to fork) — in addition to providing direct shipments of food.

Q • Have you become involved in other issues?

A • I do advocate for other causes because so many issues are interrelated. My general area of advocacy is poverty, but that regularly intersects with climate, education, reproductive justice and gun violence, so it makes sense for me to speak out on those issues as well.

Q • I imagine that many mothers may now be interested in abortion/contraception in light of the Supreme Court ruling. Have you talked to any?

A • Sometimes these days, I feel like we talk about little else in my circle of mothers! Now that the Missouri primary elections are over, I expect we'll be talking about it more and more between now and November. I recently held a Zoom book discussion to talk about "A Complicated Choice" by abortion activist Katey Zeh to help us process our feelings about it.

I find older moms my age are personally worried about our reproductive freedom because an unexpected pregnancy would be a danger to health and mean raising a child as a senior citizen. We also worry about the rights of our high school and college-aged children. I hear younger mothers worrying about being able to get the health care they need for a miscarriage or wanting to keep their plans and dreams intact even if they experience an unexpected pregnancy. I feel like all moms across many ages and demographics are waking up to how abortion procedures are a part of health care necessary to protecting the physical and mental health of mothers.

Q • What other issues are mothers particularly interested in?

A • Top issues on the minds of moms reaching out to me in the last year have been gun violence, climate, education and COVID safety. Some workplace justice issues concerning working moms in particular include equal pay, paid family and medical leave, paid sick leave and breastfeeding rights.

Q • What are your goals now?

A • My goals used to focus on learning effective advocacy strategies and tools to grow the influence I could have as a regular person outside of the political machine. Yet it became clear to me that there are far too many needed actions on many different issues even for the very capable activists who are already volunteering.

My goal now is to reach out to as many mothers as possible and help grow the movement of people working toward a better future for us and our children. Publishing my book was a big step in that direction.

Q • Have you heard from more people since publishing your book?

A • Yes! I love it when moms reach out asking me to speak to their groups about how to be more engaged in advocacy. I was thrilled when a mom with a group of activists asked me to do a workshop on how to write letters to the editor. They are accustomed to making phone calls and meetings with state legislators but want to learn to take a next step. Also, I've been able to speak to PTA groups in Illinois and Wisconsin that would not have been available to me before the book was released.

Q • Your book's third part is about easy ways to become an activist. What are a couple of things to do without experience?

A • Phone calls to elected officials and writing handwritten letters are the easiest actions I recommend to novice activists. When you have a script from a reputable advocacy organization to follow, it can be both easy and empowering. Even as an experienced advocate, I still call Congress when I want a quick confidence boost. When everything else in my day is spinning out of control, I find it empowering to make a phone call to my representative. I can hang up the phone after leaving my 10-second message and think: "There. I did that. I helped." Other things might still go wrong, but after I've made that call, no one can take that feeling away from me.

Q • You write about meeting congressmen and women. Where on the scale does that fall in effective activism? Also, what are a couple of the most effective things one can do?

A • To me, meeting regularly with members of Congress to the point where you build a relationship is the gold standard of activism. Not everyone has the time to cultivate that kind of access, but if you can actually become a resource for your members of Congress and their aides, you know you're having great impact.

The first time I got a call from a congressional staffer asking for more information on an issue, I practically fell out of my chair in surprise! Now, I feel that kind of working relationship is what I'm always working toward.

https://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/books-and-literature/pushing-a-stroller-while-advocating-for-change-st-louis-author-says-moms-can-do-both/article_c9dd9656-12bd-5f0f-a1d1-28eb612de356.html



We need to expand the Child Tax Credit

September 19, 2022

The child tax credit has been a staple of American tax deductions for years for people with dependents under 17 years old.

In 2021, the Biden administration put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most by providing the credit each month instead of in a tax return. For many parents, instead of choosing between food or rent during COVID-19, they were able to provide both to their children.

Not only did the monthly tax credit give parents the leverage they needed to stay on track, the new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the 2021 child tax credit also worked to reduced child poverty by 46%. Unfortunately, 51 senators let the CTC expansion expire last December. We cannot let those families fall back into poverty.

I implore U.S. Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley to support the lives and health of Missouri children and expand the child tax credit to all low-income families in this year's tax legislation.

- Helena Webb, *Ballwin*

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-we-need-to-expand-the-child-tax-credit/article_1023a7ec-3816-11ed-9a3d-63ecdcd11a8d.html



Congress should find a way to make child tax credit permanent

September 30, 2022

The article "Biden on ending hunger in the US: 'I know we can do this,'" shared optimism at the White House Conference on Hunger.

Biden boldly claimed the goal of ending hunger in the U.S. by the end of the decade is ambitious but doable. Chef Jose Andres agreed saying, "We need to invest in our nation's school kitchens so that every school can prepare nutritious and tasty meals. And universal free breakfast and lunch for all children."

This kind of vision is desperately needed in Washington and Missouri. People are accustomed to things being desperate for so long that they can't imagine a world without a starving class, much less how to create it.

Fortunately, there are some easy programs that can give aid right away. Last year, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) cut child poverty in half. It was a success that helped families while pumping dollars into our communities when they bought food, goods and services their kids needed.

Sens. (Roy) Blunt and (Josh) Hawley, Congresswoman (Vicky) Hartlzer and Congressman (Blaine) Luetkemeyer should find a way to make the CTC permanent before the end of the year. Don't hand out more corporate tax credits without assisting hungry Americans.

– Cynthia Changyit Levin is a St. Louis resident.

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/congress-should-find-a-way-to-make-child-tax-credit-permanent/article_7abc77b8-4109-11ed-ad05-bf3f145aa9f4.html

Senate should make child tax credit permanent law

October 7, 2022

The article "Biden on ending hunger in US: 'I know we can do this'" (Sept. 28) shared the optimistic tone for the White House Conference on Hunger. From the podium, President Joe Biden said, "The goal of ending hunger in the U.S. by the end of the decade is ambitious but doable." Chef Jose Andres went further saying, "We need to invest in our nation's school kitchens so that every school can prepare nutritious and tasty meals." He called for "universal free breakfast and lunch for all children."

These kinds of visionary statements are desperately needed from leadership. People are accustomed to things being so bad for so long they can't imagine a world without a starving class, much less how to achieve it.

Fortunately, there are some easy programs that can give aid right away. Last year, the Child Tax Credit helped cut child poverty in half. It was a clear success that helped families while pumping dollars back into our communities as they bought food, goods, and services their kids desperately needed.

Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley should find a way to make the child tax credit permanent before the end of year. They shouldn't hand out more corporate tax credits without addressing the needs of hungry Americans.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, *Town and Country*

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-senate-should-make-child-tax-credit-permanent-law/article_caf5430a-6d44-526d-a709-e6830198bc3f.html



In favor of the Child Tax Credit

October 7, 2022

To the Editor:

The Child Tax Credit has been a staple of American tax deductions for year for people with dependents under 17 years old.

In 2021, the Biden Administration put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most by providing the credit each month instead of in a tax return. For many parents, instead of choosing between food or rent during COVID, they were able to provide both to their children.

Not only did the monthly tax credit give parents the leverage they needed to stay on track, the new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the 2021 Child Tax Credit also worked to reduce child poverty by 46%. Unfortunately, 51 senators let the CTC expansion expire last December. We cannot let those families fall back into poverty.

I implore Sen. Blunt, Sen. Hawley, and Congressman Ann Wager to support the lives and health of Missouri children and expand the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families in this year's tax legislation.

- Helena Webb

No online link

Renew the Child Tax Credit to stave off hunger, poverty

November 15, 2022

Regarding "U.S. child hunger spiked in weeks after child tax credits repealed" (Oct. 24): Now that the election is over, perhaps Congress can get back to business by taking bipartisan action to address the plight of childhood poverty. Fortunately, a roadmap exists for doing so.

The recently expired revisions to the Child Tax Credit achieved dramatic results in this regard. Passed as part of the American Rescue Plan, the expanded Child Tax Credit provided payments of up to \$3,600 annually, broken down into monthly installments, which were paid even to families that did not owe taxes. Before its elimination last December, it had reduced child poverty by 30% and food insecurity by 26%. When it ended, some 4 million children returned to poverty.

The Child Tax Credit's reinstatement would substantially reduce childhood poverty and hunger, which is something for Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley and Rep. Ann Wagner to think about as the lame-duck session of Congress gets underway.

– Greg Campbell, *Creve Coeur*

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-renew-the-child-tax-credit-to-stave-off-hunger-poverty/article_2cd2d77c-15f1-55f3-b032-172911e9cf10.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



No corporate tax breaks unless child tax credit passes

November 27, 2022

Thank you for running the Missouri Independent article “Nearly 350,000 Missouri children are too poor to receive full child tax credit” (Globe, Nov. 21).

I knew that last year, the U.S. achieved a historic reduction in child poverty — a drop of 46% — but it’s painful to see how quickly those gains were lost when Congress failed to renew a successful program. In 2021, the expanded Child Tax Credit with monthly payments gave parents the freedom and flexibility to cover rent, food and utilities when they needed it most — monthly bill time.

Since payments expired last December, low-income parents found they couldn’t work because they couldn’t afford childcare. Plus, global inflation made basic necessities more expensive.

Now, I hear Congress wants to extend tax breaks for wealthy corporations in December. It would be unconscionable for Congress to do that while ignoring American families struggling to make ends meet.

Despite all the attention on the next Congress, our current Congress can still have a huge impact on American poverty. I urge U.S. Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley, and U.S. Rep. Billy Long to reject any corporate tax cuts this year unless an expanded, monthly Child Tax Credit for all low-income families is also included.

– Cynthia Levin, *Town And Country*

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-no-corporate-tax-breaks-unless-child-tax-credit-passes/article_e10ae962-6a69-11ed-8c28-3f2301a1a49d.html

Before retiring, Blunt should back the child tax credit

December 10, 2022

I appreciate retiring Sen. Roy Blunt's comments about bipartisanship in his final Senate address. ("Roy Blunt stresses the importance of bipartisanship in farewell speech to US Senate," Dec. 7) I'm grateful for all the years he worked with both Republicans and Democrats on programs to fight infectious diseases worldwide. But there are still two significant nonpartisan pieces of legislation he can support to help people struggling in poverty.

First, he can restore an expanded Child Tax Credit to help parents provide necessities for families. Second, he can sign onto the End Tuberculosis Now Act, a bill directing the U.S. Agency for International Development to set bold targets to reach and treat the most vulnerable populations for all forms of tuberculosis.

In these last weeks of 2022, Sens. Blunt and Josh Hawley should act quickly to support these two pieces of legislation.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, *Town and Country*

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-before-retiring-blunt-should-back-the-child-tax-credit/article_6e156e5a-7dcb-57d6-ab99-2e6b31efe2ed.html

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Thanks, Sen. Blunt

December 11, 2022

I appreciate Sen. Roy Blunt's comments about bipartisanship. (Dec. 8, 1A, "Blunt stresses importance of bipartisanship in farewell") I'm grateful for all the years he worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support programs to fight global infectious diseases.

Blunt said goodbye on the Senate floor, yet there are still two significant ways he can still support people struggling in poverty. First, he can help restore an expanded child tax credit so parents can provide necessities for families. A recent Washington University study reported the most common uses of child tax credit payments among Missouri families were buying food, purchasing clothing and paying bills.

Second, he can sign onto the End TB Now Act, S.3386/H.R.8654, directing the U.S. Agency for International Development to set bold targets to reach and treat the most vulnerable populations for all forms of tuberculosis.

In the remaining weeks of 2022, Blunt and Sen. Josh Hawley should include an expanded, monthly CTC for all low-income families in an end-of-year tax bill and co-sign the End TB Now Act.

- Cynthia Changyit Levin, *Town and Country, Missouri*

<https://amp.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article269777522.html>



Pass expansion of Child Tax Credit

Dec 12, 2022

In reply to the letter, “No corporate tax breaks unless child tax credit passes” (Globe, Nov 28), I agree with Cindy Levin.

The average hard-working American should also be taken care of by our government. Every American family deserves a life where they can afford to put food on the table and a roof over their head. Inflation continues to rise and it is imperative that Congress act to pass legislation that lifts people out of poverty rather than lets more sink into it.

The Child Tax Credit lifted 4 million kids last year out of poverty. But it has expired and now those kids, along with their families, are struggling even more. I urge our U.S. Sens. Josh Hawley and Roy Blunt to come together with other leadership to pass an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

– Sarah Miller, *St. Louis*

https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-pass-expansion-of-child-tax-credit/article_4b510dbe-7a24-11ed-9abf-af30c73d9429.html



Congress should act now to extend child tax credits for families

December 15, 2022

The recent article “Food prices remain stubbornly high as inflation cools. Here’s why” reminds us that many hard-working Americans are struggling right now to make ends meet.

Food is a basic necessity, but for millions of Americans, it is a huge hardship on top of paying for rent and other expenses. That is why Congress needs to pass an expansion to the Child Tax Credit.

In 2021, the expanded Child Tax Credit with monthly payments helped cut child poverty by 46% last year — the largest one-year reduction in history. Since the payments expired last December, child poverty has increased, parents can’t work because they can’t afford childcare, and global inflation has made basic necessities more expensive.

Congress wants to extend tax breaks for wealthy corporations, and it is unconscionable for Congress to do that while ignoring millions of American families struggling to make ends meet.

I urge our members of Congress, such as Sens. Josh Hawley and Roy Blunt to give a huge gift this season and include an expanded, monthly Child Tax Credit for all low-income families in any omnibus bill.

– Sarah Miller is a teacher in St. Louis.

https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/congress-should-act-now-to-extend-child-tax-credits-for-families/article_49040276-7c10-11ed-9c75-a3d2190f4246.html

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Blunt's legacy

December 16, 2022

I agree with the author of a Dec. 11 letter to the editor (19A) who praised retiring Sen. Roy Blunt, who has supported people in poverty throughout his political career. I have always appreciated that about him.

He was a teacher, as I am now. He knows the value of investing in our children as the future of our country. One way he could do that is to leave one final legacy by passing an extension of the child tax credit. The new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the 2021 child tax credit reduced child poverty by 46%. In one year, the expanded credit pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

This accomplishment can be repeated if Blunt joins other senators to make the child tax credit permanent. In a year when inflation is hurting everyone, it would be the perfect finale to such a distinguished career.

– Sarah Miller, *University City, Missouri*

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article269950057.html>

Montana media



Expand Child Tax Credit payments

April 14, 2022

In the article, "Homes on the streets: Missoula officials, cops, RVS residents discuss urban camping" by David Erickson (Missoulian, April 10) it was mentioned that housing prices are going up so high that some people find RVs to be one of the only options for living. This reminds us how dire the situation is for hard-working Americans across America. It is not just single people who are a concern, but also our families. As families are facing higher costs for rent, food, and fuel, the Child Tax Credit monthly payments have ended and over 3 million children have fallen back below the poverty line.

The 2021 CTC expansion is the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in a generation. After the monthly payments started in July 2021, nearly 4 million children were kept from poverty each month. Families used their CTC payments to buy food, pay the rent, and cover utilities.

I urge our members of Congress to extend the expanded CTC with permanent full refundability in economic recovery legislation this year, and resume the CTC monthly payments immediately.

- Sarah Miller, *University City, Missouri*

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-expand-child-tax-credit-payments/article_10005ea4-82f6-5315-b221-e6cb1624e306.html

Daily **Montanan**

Revive the Child Tax Credit — our children deserve nothing less

By Maureen Bowling

November 16, 2022

I like to think I'm an American success story.

I was born into homelessness, grew up in the foster care system, and suffered unthinkable domestic abuse as an adult. Now I'm on track to graduate with a Master's degree in social work next spring.

But don't mistake my story for the "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" trope that conservative lawmakers like to call the "American Dream." That idea is mythical, and my own success story proves it.

I'm one hero of my story, certainly. My children, friends and community members are, too.

But so are the well-funded foster care services I received growing up in Michigan. And the publicly funded therapy and recovery services that helped me overcome the trauma of my early years spent on the street.

Also essential? The Section 8 federal housing program and public programs in Lexington, Kentucky, where my kids and I now live. Those services kept a roof over my children's heads, put food on the table, and provided child care assistance so I could work and enroll in college as a single parent.

Finally, the big hero that helped me and my children survive the pandemic and thrive through loss of employment, child care, and in-person school was the enhanced monthly Child Tax Credit, passed as a cornerstone of the pandemic relief American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

That credit put monthly payments directly into the bank accounts of nearly every parent and guardian in this country.

Like over 90 percent of all parents who received this benefit, I spent the money on necessities for my family — the first check alone nearly paid off my back rent. I experienced a notable reduction in stress and anxiety, which helped me focus on being a good student and mom.

The Child Tax Credit brought 30 percent of children out of poverty in its very first month. During its year-long duration, it eventually lifted nearly half of all poor children out of poverty, bringing child poverty to a stunning historic low.

Research connects getting out of poverty to much better health and cognitive development in children, with life-long impacts on educational success, income, and well-being. But despite the overwhelmingly positive effect on nearly all families with children — no matter where we live, our household income, or what we look like — conservative federal lawmakers refused to continue this critical lifeline.

They falsely claimed that helping children out of poverty incentivized their parents not to work. Recent Census data destroys this argument. It shows a large increase in working-age adults' employment for the duration of the 2021 enhanced Child Tax Credit benefits. The rise in employment was virtually the same for adults with and without dependent children.

Similarly, claims that the expanded Child Tax Credit spiked inflation lack evidence. On the contrary, the very necessities that families used the credit to pay for — including heat, housing, and food — are those that have increased in price. Continuing the expanded credit would have eased the effects of inflation on families.

Instead, the expanded Child Tax Credit payments expired at the end of 2021. And child poverty immediately began to shoot back up.

We all want our children to be safe, happy, and healthy. We want to provide the foundation from which they can pursue their dreams. That's the real American Dream, right? But life presents us all with obstacles, from the unpredictable winds of fate to lawmakers who all too predictably vote to destroy the programs that helped families like mine succeed.

Yet if we come together, raise our voices, and exercise our democratic power at the ballot box, we can elect representatives that will vote in favor of supporting our children's dreams, not against them.

Revive the expanded monthly Child Tax Credit and make it permanent. Our children deserve nothing less.

<https://dailymontanan.com/2022/11/16/revive-the-child-tax-credit-our-children-deserve-nothing-less/>



Pass an expansion to the Child Tax Credit

December 19, 2022

In response to the article "Montana DOJ seeks more agents and prosecutors as crime rate rises" (Dec. 15). I would like to point out that perhaps a better way to fight crime is through policies instead of extra law enforcement. In 2021, an expanded Child Tax Credit with monthly payments helped cut child poverty by 46 percent. Now those payments have ended and with inflation the way it is, even more Americans are left behind. People are having a hard time affording basic necessities like food, shelter, and childcare so they can go to work. It is not surprising that some people feel like there is no choice but to commit crimes to feed their family or pay rent. Congress has an opportunity to address this in the current omnibus bill and pass an expansion to the Child Tax Credit. This could have the effect of helping the future generation and also reducing crime. I call on all of our senators to include legislation on the Child Tax Credit in this omnibus bill.

– Sarah Miller, St. Louis, Missouri

https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-pass-an-expansion-to-the-child-tax-credit/article_be39c212-ba00-50b7-a40b-c8c26fba8cad.html

Reprinted in:



https://billingsgazette.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-pass-an-expansion-to-the-child-tax-credit/article_6d8976a6-7d75-11ed-b5f2-ffa6613c9b8f.html

Nebraska media



Child Tax Credit making difference

April 23, 2022

Tax season may be behind us, but it's important to remember how important the expanded Child Tax Credit has been for children and families.

According to a new study from the Brookings Institution, the 2021 changes to the credit, including sending it as a monthly payment, had a profound impact. Child poverty dropped by 40%. Tax credit recipients lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education and were less likely to rely on payday loans. Families spent their payments on rent, food and clothes for their kids -- the same costs going up for us all now.

But some lawmakers stopped an extension of the tax credit payments. As a result, 3.7 million children fell below the poverty line in January. And 1.4 million households who had received the tax credit before have left their jobs because they can no longer afford childcare.

Economists say extending the Child Tax Credit is critical to help families facing rising costs from inflation. How much more evidence do lawmakers need before they do the right thing?

I call on our members of Congress to extend the Child Tax Credit with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments immediately.

- Ann Marie Sinica, *Lincoln*

https://journalstar.com/opinion/letters/letter-child-tax-credit-making-difference/article_a34c4ea4-b223-514e-b192-956f8a2162c8.html



Smart tax cuts help children

April 25, 2022

Thank you for publishing the article "Tax cuts don't help poorest" (April 10). It's discouraging to hear about another "benefit" for Nebraskans that will leave out those who are struggling most. The median household income in Nebraska is \$63,000, well below the threshold to qualify for the tax cuts. We also can't ignore struggles experienced by single moms and households with one earner because cost of childcare is too high for both parent to work.

There are ways to use tax policy to support low income Nebraska families; specifically, continuing the expanded Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. The CTC put money back in people's pockets each month ensuring they had money to cover necessary expenses. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, nine out of 10 families with incomes lower than \$35,000 spent their Child Tax Credit payments on basic household expenses — food, clothing, housing and utilities — or education.

Sens. Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse should support these considering that 94% of children in rural areas and 89% of children in metro areas benefit from them. Keeping all Nebraska families out of poverty is not partisan. Our senators should be actively pushing and prioritizing these benefits.

- Annie Butler, Omaha

https://journalstar.com/opinion/letters/letter-smart-tax-cuts-help-children/article_f27a4d7a-0cc4-539a-9960-cfbe4aa6d2e9.html#tncms-source=login

Nevada media



Ease the burden on working class

March 16, 2022

I agree with the March 12 letter "Grocery prices getting scary" that we need to remember Americans who are struggling to make ends meet.

We have possibilities to help people like the letter writer and the other millions of hard-working Americans who need assistance. In 2021, Congress passed an extension to the child tax credit to help kids who are being taken care of by those not earning enough to make ends meet.

That bill helped with basic needs such as food, rent and other essential needs. As inflation goes up, this is even more crucial.

The tax credit in 2021 lifted nearly 3 million children out of poverty. With a failure of Congress to extend it, those kids are now falling back into poverty. We need Congress to take action immediately to pass an extension of the child tax credit.

Lifting millions of children and workers out of poverty creates immeasurable benefits for them and society as whole. It's also the right thing to do. I hope Congress will address this growing problem very soon.

- Sarah Miller, *St. Louis, Mo.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/mar/16/ease-the-burden-on-working-class/>



Child tax credit helped families

March 18, 2022

President Joe Biden has called on Congress to extend the child tax credit. I wholeheartedly agree. And kudos to Rep. Steven Horsford , D-Nev., for speaking out and standing up to reinstate the tax credit.

In 2021, Congress expanded the child tax credit for millions of American families and sent it to them in monthly payments. Surveys show that people spent this money on food, utilities, clothing and rent.

But 51 senators let the payments expire in December. As a result, the child poverty rate jumped by 41% in January.

Pushing children and families into poverty is unacceptable. And with all of us feeling the pinch at the grocery store, the gas pump and in our utility bills, why is Congress not racing to extend the tax credit payments?

I urge our members of Congress to immediately extend the tax credit with permanent full refundability and to resume the monthly payments as soon as possible. Pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

Those who qualified for tax credit's monthly payments last year can go to childtaxcredit.gov to learn how to claim the rest of their credit.

- Kathleen Close, *Las Vegas*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/mar/18/child-tax-credit-helped-families/>



We've proven we can fight hunger

April 22, 2022

With the war, the pandemic, climate change, hunger and systemic racism still plaguing us, no wonder it seems like the world is burning, as the April 13 letter "We're fiddling as the world burns" suggests.

But there is no need to fiddle around. We can speak up to help our members of Congress create a better country for all by passing positive initiatives like renewing the child tax credit. This tax credit lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty and helped families buy food and pay rent. Sadly, it has not been renewed, and the tide of hunger and poverty has risen once again.

Our calls and letters can make sure Congress doesn't fiddle around, but passes this proven ladder out of poverty for millions of families.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/apr/22/weve-proven-we-can-fight-hunger/>



Child tax credit would help moms

May 22, 2022

Thank you for publishing Sunday's guest column by Latoya Guishard Welch, "Hot to help working moms post-Mother's Day."

America's mothers are the foundation of families and molders of our future. While sharing their burdens in the home is one part of helping moms, another option is encouraging Congress to take initiative.

The expanded child tax credit last year lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty, giving their mothers hope. Then, the Senate failed to extend this critical tax credit, and boom: 4 million children back in poverty and a return to maternal stress.

So, ask your members of Congress to extend the expanded child tax credit; after all, it was proven to relieve poverty and moms' burden. As elections approach, question candidates about what they will do about this issue, then vote and follow up accordingly.

Moms and children deserve this boost and our voices can help ensure its passing.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/may/22/child-tax-credit-would-help-moms/>



Bring back the child tax credit

June 22, 2022

As inflation continues to hurt American families, why is Congress not racing to extend the expanded child tax credit?

In 2021, the expanded tax credit was a financial lifeline for children and families. Recent data show that it reduced child poverty by 40%. Credit recipients continued to work, lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education and were less likely to use payday loans. Families spent their payments on rent, food and clothes for their kids.

But some lawmakers stopped an extension of the payments. As a result, child poverty jumped 41% . Also, many parents had to leave their jobs because they could no longer afford child care.

Instead of complaining about inflation, politicians should do something about it. Congress should extend the child tax credit with permanent full refundability and resume monthly payments immediately.

- Kathleen Close, *Las Vegas*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/jun/22/bring-back-the-child-tax-credit/#.YrMf9hQ9yJY.mailto>



Elect leaders with compassion

August 12, 2022

We should support candidates who work together and support those in need, regardless of what political party they come from.

I am excited that some members of Congress are looking out for people struggling to make ends meet by passing the Inflation Reduction Act. I hope it's the start of more legislation that supports those in need.

Congress did it in 2021 when it passed the expansion of the child tax credit, which helped 4 million kids get out of poverty. However, that expansion has expired.

I hope members of Congress will make the tax credit their next priority. That is the measure of a strong candidate and those worthy of our support.

– Sarah Miller, *St. Louis, Mo.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/aug/12/elect-leaders-with-compassion/#.YvadIWpb79Y.mailto>



Renew the fight against poverty

September 20, 2022

Last year, the expanded child tax credit put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most, monthly bill time, and allowed families to choose how best to use it. New data proves how well it worked.

The 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the tax credit reduced child poverty by 46%. In one year, the expanded credit pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

But 51 senators let its expansion expire last December. This data shows they made a huge mistake.

After the election, some members of Congress will try to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be outrageous to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the child tax credit for low-income families. I implore our members of Congress to expand the credit, with a monthly payment option, this year.

- Kathleen Close, *Las Vegas*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/sep/20/renew-the-fight-against-poverty/#.YyqTL0mROKM.mailto>



Find out who supports kids

October 16, 2022

Clarence Page makes critical points about the future of child poverty in his column "Child poverty missing in campaign issues," published Oct. 7 in the Sun.

It is up to we the people to bring this issue to the forefront.

There are champions of the child tax credit in the House, such as Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., and in the Senate, such as Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., but they need the support of our voices.

Ask candidates if they support a renewal of the child tax credit and other anti-poverty initiatives. The credit brought immediate help for 90% of American families with children. It's time for those families to speak up for the difference it made. An overwhelming number of voices will motivate Congress to action. Use yours; call your representative or senator.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/oct/16/find-out-who-supports-kids/>



Don't waste last month of control

December 3, 2022

While much of the media's attention is focused on the Georgia Senate runoff, Congress is about to go back into session with much work to do.

Before the Christmas break is the best time for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the current Congress to get some work done, like renewing the expanded child tax credit that nearly cut child poverty in half and helped 90% of families with children to pay rent, buy food and pay bills.

Take a minute during the busy holidays to ask your members of the House and Senate to pass this ladder out of poverty that provides families hope for the future. Remember, America's children are the future and our voices can help it be brighter.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/dec/03/dont-waste-last-month-of-control/#.Y4vnjdkz-Xc.mailto>



Reengage in fight against poverty

December 10, 2022

Despite all the attention on the next Congress, the current Congress can make history again this year. In 2021, the expanded child tax credit with monthly payments helped cut child poverty by 46% — the largest one-year reduction in history. The monthly payments gave parents the freedom and flexibility to cover rent, food and utilities when they needed it most — monthly bill time.

Since the payments expired last December, child poverty has increased and global inflation has made basic necessities more expensive.

Congress wants to extend tax breaks for wealthy corporations this month. It would be unconscionable to do that while ignoring millions of American families struggling to make ends meet and just put food on the table.

Last year, we achieved a historic reduction in child poverty. We can do it again. I urge our members of Congress to reject any corporate tax cuts this year unless an expanded, monthly child tax credit for all low-income families is also included.

- Kathleen Close, *Las Vegas*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/dec/10/reengage-in-fight-against-poverty/#.Y5U2OnOYZaE.mailto>



Aid for children aids entire nation

December 17, 2022

In the recent omnibus bill, Congress proposed tax cuts for corporations.

Corporations help our economy run. However, children are the future of our country and they deserve to be in the bill. Also, if families do not have purchasing power, our consumer-based economy will still struggle.

Those are all solid reasons why it is best for our country if Congress ensures that an expansion to the child tax credit is included in the omnibus bill. Plus, Congress has the opportunity to add a bit of cheer to families across America who are struggling. It is the season of giving, and that can include Congress giving to families in need.

– Sarah Miller, *St. Louis, Mo.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2022/dec/17/aid-for-children-aids-entire-nation/>

New Hampshire media

Real relief for working families

August 23, 2022

I celebrate our NH Congressional delegation, Sens. Hassan and Shaheen, and Reps. Kuster and Pappas, for voting for the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. It will reduce prescription drug costs, bring down energy costs, combat climate change, ease the deficit, and cool inflation. And it now goes to the president to become law. Senator Hassan worked to include a provision in the bill doubling the R&D tax credit for small businesses and start-ups, to equip businesses to stay at the forefront of innovation. All good. However, families are struggling as food and fuel costs skyrocket.

Feeding America reports that in 2020, there were almost 100,000 food-insecure people in NH. Sure, gas prices are coming down, but my budget contract for home heating oil is up 40% for next year. Rents are skyrocketing. And I'm horrified every time I shop for groceries. I can't think what it's like for families living paycheck to paycheck. Last year the Child Tax Credit lifted 36 million out of poverty. Families used the refundable credit for rent, school supplies, and food. Now, without this benefit, they are fast falling behind. They need a meaningful response from Congress. I urge Sens. Hassan and Shaheen, and Reps. Kuster and Pappas to make sure that in any end-of-year tax legislation there are no R&D tax credit extensions without providing real relief for struggling working families. Yes, bring down the deficit and inflation, but also help struggling families and children as well. They're our friends and neighbors.

- Lucinda Winslow, *Antrim*

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/-47619073>

New Jersey media

Federal Child Tax Credit needs to be restored to help prevent child poverty

December 15, 2022

The good news is that the child poverty rate in Mercer County has been gradually declining over the last several years. Your recent articles about the work of Housing initiatives of Princeton, the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness, and the HomeFront panel discussion at Labyrinth Books, showcase what they have been doing to provide housing and other supportive services that reduce poverty for children and families. In addition to their efforts and those of governmental and private groups locally and throughout New Jersey, 2021 saw an even more dramatic drop in the child poverty rate. What led to this significant change was a short-term expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC).

With increased allotments, wider coverage, and payments distributed each month, the CTC helped cover such basic monthly expenses as food, rent, and utilities. As a result, it raised an estimated 89,000 New Jersey children from poverty and cut child poverty rates nationwide by over 40%.

When the expanded CTC expired a year ago, however, child poverty again rose. The watch words of HomeFront are “helping families break the cycle of poverty.” In order to do that, we need the collaborative efforts of the federal and state government, local municipalities, and the private sector.

The expanded CTC needs to be restored. There is still an opportunity before the end of this year. If Congress tries to extend tax breaks for wealthy corporations, New Jersey members of Congress should follow the lead of Representatives Bonnie Watson-Coleman (D-12) and Andy Kim (D-3) to reject corporate tax cuts unless an expanded, monthly CTC is included. With such proven results to lift our children out of poverty, how can they do no less.

– Sam Daley-Harris, *Lawrenceville*

– **Wilma Solomon, *Princeton***

– **Marc Tolo, *Princeton***

The trio are part of Results, an organization for ending poverty.

<https://centraljersey.com/2022/10/28/solutions-our-changed-and-changing-world/>



Expanded Child Tax Credit Needs to Be Restored to Reduce Poverty Rate

December 14, 2022

To the Editor:

The good news is that the child poverty rate in Mercer County has been gradually declining over the last several years. A recent HomeFront presentation at Labyrinth Books showcased what they have been doing to provide housing and other supportive services that reduce poverty for children and families in Mercer County. In addition to their efforts and those of governmental and private groups locally and throughout the county, 2021 saw an even more dramatic drop in the child poverty rate. What led to this significant change was a short-term expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC).

With increased allotments, wider coverage, and payments distributed each month, the CTC helped cover such basic monthly expenses as food, rent, and utilities. As a result, it raised an estimated 89,000 New Jersey children from poverty and cut child poverty rates nationwide by over 40 percent.

When the expanded CTC expired a year ago, however, child poverty again rose. The watch words of HomeFront are "helping families break the cycle of poverty." In order to do that we need the collaborative efforts of the federal and state governments, local municipalities, and the private sector.

The expanded CTC needs to be restored. There is still an opportunity before the end of this year. If Congress tries to extend tax breaks for wealthy corporations, New Jersey members of Congress should follow the lead of Representatives Watson-Coleman and Kim to reject corporate tax cuts unless an expanded, monthly CTC is

included. With such proven results to lift our children out of poverty, how can they do no less?

– **Wilma Solomon, Tee-Ar Place**

– **Marc Tolo, Viburnum Court, Lawrenceville**

The writers are volunteers with RESULTS (results.org), an advocacy group that has been committed to ending poverty for over 40 years.

<https://www.towntopics.com/wordpress/2022/12/14/expanded-child-tax-credit-needs-to-be-restored-to-reduce-poverty-rate/#more-66774>

**New Mexico
media**

Families deserve expanded tax credit

March 22, 2022

The victory for kids and families celebrated on July 15 with the expansion of the Child Tax Credit for most New Mexican and American families with children under 17 has been wiped out as of Jan. 15. The ending of the expanded Child Tax Credit impacted 252,000 New Mexico families with 420,000 children. Before its demise, this expansion — part of the American Rescue Plan — gave these families \$250 or \$300 monthly payments to help with basic expenses of housing, utilities, food, child care and education.

During the six months the expansion was in effect, child poverty fell, and parent participation in the workforce increased. But now the 2022 monthly payments have stopped, and worse, progress in Congress to pass again the expanded Child Tax Credit has stalled. One bit of good news is that families who were receiving monthly Child Tax Credit payments can claim the remaining half of the 2021 Child Tax Credit by filing a tax return (deadline April 18). This only mitigates, not negates, the harm. Now is the time to tell Sens. Martin Heinrich (202-224-5521), Ben Ray Luján (202-224-6621) and Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (202-225-6190) that Congress must act to restore the expanded Child Tax Credit monthly payments. For our New Mexico families with children, this request is urgent.

Lydia Pendley, *co-group leader, RESULTS-Santa Fe*

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/families-deserve-expanded-tax-credit/article_dedc1c4a-a9f5-11ec-85a0-a3420701970e.html



Congress must pass CTC, EITC lifelines

May 31, 2022

THE JOURNAL covered water shortages that are currently impacting farmers living along the Rio Grande due to the drought (May 20) .

Across the nation, housing shortages impact people across all levels of the economy.

Another dire shortage, made worse by current inflation rates, is the income shortage of millions of impoverished families, which hinders their ability to provide for the health of their children. Shortages, droughts and famines all devastate the ability of many people to care for their basic needs.

The income shortage can be addressed more directly than the others. In 2020, Congress passed a huge reconciliation package to assist American citizens whose income had been further reduced as a result of the pandemic. Included in this package was the Child Tax Credit. The Child Tax Credit payments that lifted 3-4 million out of poverty last year have ended, along with an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit focused on helping low-wage workers make ends meet. Those payments were used to help pay expenses like food, childcare and rent. With millions of families facing hardship and struggling to keep a roof over their heads, Congress is resuming negotiations on an economic package. I urge our legislators in Congress to prioritize passing legislation that extends the EITC and CTC.

Addressing the life-threatening shortages we face as a country is crucial. Getting money directly to the people who need it most is an effective step that we can take immediately and that benefits us all in the long run. We must not be shortsighted at such a crucial time.

- Louisa Barkalow, *Albuquerque*

No online link



Ask reps to restore the extended CTC

December 1, 2022

Christmas comes in many forms. For many low-income New Mexico families, Christmas comes in March or April when the yearly child tax credit (CTC) refund arrives. A person I know says that was when the kids in his family got their one pair of shoes for the year, more of a “Christmas” than they got in December. Some families aren’t so lucky, because they earn too little to qualify for the refund.

(Think about that for a minute.

You must have a certain amount of income to receive help for children living in poverty.)

The CTC was temporarily made monthly and extended to almost all lower- and middleincome families in 2021, achieving a more than 40% reduction in child poverty.

Those provisions expired in January 2022, monthly payments became lump sum payments in the spring and child poverty rose this year.

“Christmas” was postponed for many families.

Now, Congress has a chance to restore the child tax credit expansion before the end of the year and make it permanent.

I agree with your recent guest column (Catherine Rampell, Nov. 22, 2022), that, yes, the CTC should be on both parties’ lame duck agenda. Republicans are asking for tax cuts for research; Democrats are focusing on immediately restoring the fully refundable, monthly CTC. Tying them together can be seen as a reasonable

compromise. Both innovation and strong, creative young people are essential to our future.

Let our members of Congress and senators know that children are a top priority for us New Mexicans by calling the Congressional switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Ask them to take a stand for no tax cuts without making the expanded, monthly CTC permanent. Christmas should be available to all New Mexico kids in December.

- Roxanne Allen, *Albuquerque*

https://abqjournal-nm.newsmemory.com/?publink=3ddc8d8f6_1348735

Renew child tax credit

December 3, 2022

Thank you to Aurora Black for her letter to the editor (“Life harder without child tax credit,” Nov. 2) describing the importance of the child tax credit in helping her, as sole provider, care for her grandchild. She is asking Congress to restore the expanded child tax credit benefits that passed in March 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan. The expansion included increasing the benefit amount, making the credit fully refundable so families with no or very low incomes would get the full amount for the first time in history, and delivering payments monthly instead of as a lump sum so families could cover bills and essential needs from food to transportation to child care.

These changes to the child tax credit helped slash child poverty in the U.S. almost in half in 2021, lifting 5.3 million people, including 2.9 million children, out of poverty. But Congress allowed these expansions to expire at the end of 2021, causing many families to face scarcity again. Along with Aurora, we all need to urge Sen. Martin Heinrich, Sen. Ben Ray Luján and U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández to speak out now in Congress to get expanded child tax credit legislation passed before Congress adjourns this year.

- Lydia Pendley, *co-group leader, RESULTS-Santa Fe*

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/midtown-plans-should-include-community-art-school/article_c8c1df40-71d1-11ed-8f63-a3d048a777a1.html

New York media

Vote them out

May 29, 2022

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, an editorial cartoon must be worth millions (Bramhall's World, May 20). The question of what planet Congress is on is easily answered: ours. We put them in Congress. Of course, in this election period, we can ask questions and demand answers. For example: Why wasn't the expanded Child Tax Credit made permanent when it helped millions of families pay rent and buy food, and cut child poverty nearly in half? What are you going to do about it? Listen to the answers, vote accordingly and follow up. Elections are about who is really serving the will of the people and who is serving the will of other pressures. Let's surprise Congress and vote out the ones who aren't listening, not just vote against whoever is currently holding office. And keep those million-word editorial cartoons coming, Mr. Bramhall!

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-letter-may-29-20220529-cvw7ne3hjreuxipzhju4bvzdm-story.html>

Congress must expand an effective Child Tax Credit

September 15, 2022

Last year, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families, many in the Buffalo area, when they needed it most, monthly bill time, and allowed families to choose how best to use it. New data proves how well it worked.

The new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report, released on Sept. 13, shows that the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) reduced child poverty by 46%. In one year, the expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

But 51 senators let the CTC expansion expire last December. This data shows they made a huge mistake.

After the election, some politicians in Congress will try to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be outrageous for Congress to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the CTC for low-income families. I implore our members of Congress to expand the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year and urge you to let Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, along with Reps. Brian Higgins and Chris Jacobs, to do the same.

- Bruce Davidson, *East Amherst*

https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-must-expand-an-effective-child-tax-credit/article_8e6b1968-3457-11ed-86d3-835230c75ac4.html

Protect homes

September 11, 2022

Such a sad situation the Bravo family faces — eviction leading to possible homelessness (“City families are on edge as the pandemic eviction pause ends,” Sept. 4). There are thousands of families in New York and millions in America dealing with the affordable housing crisis, forced to choose between paying for food, rent, gas and other necessities. The expanded Child Tax Credit provided a ladder out of poverty for millions of families. Although this refundable tax credit has not been renewed yet, it provides a proven example of how to bring immediate relief to families. A refundable renters’ tax credit modeled after the Child Tax Credit could insure that families would pay affordable rent and not be evicted or swell the rising tide of homelessness. With the elections upon us, let’s vote for candidates who support both the renewal of the Child Tax Credit and legislating a new renters’ tax credit.

– **Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.***

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-letter-sept-11-20220911-tokzeuktm5gcdeyx6zwztvqei-story.html>

The Post-Journal

Expand Child Tax Credit To All Low-Income Families

September 19, 2022

To The Reader's Forum:

Last year, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most, monthly bill time, and allowed families to choose how best to use it. New data proves how well it worked.

The new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) reduced child poverty by 46 percent! In one year, the expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

But 51 senators let the CTC expansion expire last December. This data shows they made a huge mistake.

After the election, some politicians in Congress will try to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be outrageous for Congress to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the CTC for low-income families. I implore our members of Congress to expand the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year.

- Thomas Pintagro, *Jamestown*

<https://www.post-journal.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2022/09/expand-child-tax-credit-to-all-low-income-families/>

DAILY NEWS

Vote responsibly

October 15, 2022

Re “When a lying politician tells a bigger truth” (op-ed, Oct. 9): Lyndon Johnson’s words from 1964 ring true today: “It is time for all of us to have a little trust and a little faith in each other.” As elections approach, let’s choose family-friendly candidates who support initiatives like the Child Tax Credit and initiatives that ease the housing crisis. This is our time to rise up and vote for those willing to make a difference.

– **Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.***

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-letter-oct-15-20221015-itollfhuafczngyo2zflgaazmu-story.html>

Rent help

November 18, 2022

The affordable housing crisis is contributing to homelessness across America. City mayors like New York's Adams are struggling to make a difference ("[Adams rent-aid retool falls short, advocates say](#)," Nov. 15). The national solution of the expanded Child Tax Credit made a big difference by slashing child poverty by 40% and helping families pay bills and rent and buy food. Sadly, it wasn't renewed. Mayors across America can lobby their members of Congress to renew this ladder out of poverty and pass a similar tax credit for renters, like what was proposed by Sen. Cory Booker and then-Sen. Kamala Harris, would end 11 million Americans paying 50% or more of their income for rent. These solutions can provide immediate relief for families across the country.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-letter-nov-18-20221118-da36ke6syzgxbuytqu7zrsweyu-story.html>

Congress must permanently expand the Child Tax Credit

November 30, 2022

We say children are the future. But if we don't have the support that is required for our youth to thrive, any plans for what lies ahead look bleak. And the data speaks for itself.

There are over 60,000 children under the age of 18 in Buffalo. More than half are living below the poverty line. Our kids are going to school hungry and coming back to an uncertain home environment. Imagine trying to focus on the teacher when your stomach is empty and you have no idea if the power is on at home.

We have the chance to right this wrong, with an expanded Child Tax Credit. In 2021, we witnessed its true greatness when Congress made it fully refundable, raised the maximum amount and issued it in month-ly increments rather than one lump sum. This change alone impacted 3,513,000 children in New York State and decreased national childhood poverty by 46%, according to the U.S. Census.

And while some believe that issuing a monthly CTC will make people quit their jobs, in actuality, a study from Washington University in St. Louis has shown that it helped people maintain employment because they could finally afford child care.

In addition, I want to thank Rep. Brian Higgins for his support of the Child Tax Credit in the past and I request that he support implementing a permanent expansion and urge his colleagues in Congress to do the same. His future involvement could help thousands of Buffalonians.

– **Sarah Bargnesi, *Buffalo***

https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-must-permanently-expand-the-child-tax-credit/article_56086d62-66c2-11ed-a786-9f107464f4de.html

North Carolina media



Progress made, but more needed, in fight against poverty

January 14, 2022

Poverty continues to be an issue globally, nationally and right here in the streets of Asheville. New York Times writer Jason DeParle recently reported, 'The country has never cut poverty so much in such a short period of time, and while poverty has fallen most among children, it has dropped among Americans across states, racial groups and age groups.' This is largely due to the Biden Administration's implementation of COVID relief, the Child Tax Credit, eviction/foreclosure moratoriums, et al. The Child Tax Credit expansion enacted in March 2021 was estimated to be worth \$110 billion in 2021 alone with the capacity to cut child poverty by over one-third.

New nutrition investments are estimated at more than \$200 billion over the next decade. If the House's Build Back Better housing provisions were to be enacted, new funding for housing would surpass \$217 billion, including what would be the largest ever public investment in affordable housing. These are great achievements, yet much more is needed if we are to assist those living in poverty, and to ensure the children in poverty a realistic path to a sustainable middle class life with education and job skills.

It is time to lobby our Senators Burr and Tillis, and Representatives Cawthorn, McHenry, Alma Adams, Virginia Fox, Dan Bishop or others to get behind these measures in the proposed Build Back Better legislation to eradicate poverty in North Carolina.

- Howard Berkowitz, *Candler*

https://ashevillecizientimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0287bb051_13482f6

NC parents are hurting. Expand the Child Tax Credit.

January 25, 2022

The writer is an activist for equality and equity with many community organizations, including RESULTS, which advocates for U.S. and global poverty solutions.

For the past six months, millions of families in the U.S. who qualified had been receiving monthly Child Tax Credit payments of between \$250 and \$300 per child through the American Rescue Plan. Nationwide, these payments cut childhood poverty by a third, almost immediately, and allowed many low-income and working families to afford basic necessities.

After an especially hard two years caused by the COVID pandemic, the child tax credit credit brought relief to families in distress.

I just had a baby a few months ago and have quickly learned how extra parenting and child care expenses add up. I got a knot in my stomach when our daycare said the rates increased.

On one hand, I was happy because I want the people caring for my child to be well compensated with worthy wages for worthy work. On the other hand, the daycare cost is almost twice our mortgage. That's ridiculous and unreasonable.

Meanwhile, there's a diaper and formula shortage and we're all dealing with the effects of inflation and economic strife, through a pandemic. Times are tough. That means many people are still struggling to get back on their feet and desperately need balance and some peace of mind.

That regularly refundable tax credit was parents' peace of mind. In North Carolina, payments were projected to lift an estimated 140,000 children out of poverty, including six in 10 Native American children, more than half of Black children and nearly half of all Latinx children. This is tremendous help in addressing child poverty, along with gender and racial wealth gaps.

On Jan. 15, families did not receive their monthly child tax credit payments. That's because, even while the U.S. House has passed the Build Back Better Act, including the expanded child tax credit, the U.S. Senate has failed to act.

Some senators say they want to add a work requirement to the child tax credit, but parenting and caregiving is work. It's hard, exhausting, valuable and incredibly meaningful work that impacts all of us. This tired new mama urges North Carolina's U.S. Senators, Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, to support this vital family-friendly initiative.

- Lindsay K. Saunders, *Raleigh*

The writer is an activist for equality and equity with many community organizations, including RESULTS, which advocates for U.S. and global poverty solutions.

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/article257512794.html>

Senate should expand CTC for all low-income children

February 3, 2022

In Enka/Candler as well as the rest of Buncombe, Henderson, Haywood and Madison Counties, poverty can be seen everywhere. Worst of all are the children trapped in the cycle of poverty. Nearly one in seven children nationwide live in poverty, but 2021 was an exceptional year in the fight against child poverty in America. By expanding the Child Tax Credit over 3 million children were kept from poverty each month July-December.

A Columbia University study estimates that the 2021 CTC could reduce child poverty by a stunning 45 percent. The benefits to their lives and our society from lifting half of all children out of poverty is immeasurable. Imagine our current generation of children getting day care, pediatric care, early education and proper nutrition. They would have the tools to pull themselves out of poverty as they reach adulthood.

Unless the Senate acts, it won't happen. The expanded CTC expired on Dec. 31 and to date the Senate has refused to extend it voting almost exclusively along party lines. With children and families facing additional financial hardships from the COVID-19 surge, the Senate, including North Carolina's Senators Burr and Tillis, have failed to invest in the future of our children. It's time to demand Senators Burr and Tillis respond to the needs of their constituents and extend the expanded CTC for all low-income children.

- Howard Berkowitz, *Candler*

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=157f5bc11_134834f



Housing Choice Vouchers help families keep a roof over their head

February 19, 2022

In Asheville, North Carolina and the rest of the United States, low income families, especially those of color, and workers earning minimum wage (even two-income families) can't afford a two bedroom apartment, let alone think about home ownership. When COVID-19

hit, millions of Americans were one crisis away from eviction and homelessness. To avoid these evictions the U.S. government provided short-term rental relief in COVID-19 recovery legislation.

However, federal housing assistance programs are still grossly underfunded, leaving three out of four eligible renters struggling. None of the current COVID-19 recovery proposals addressed the expansion of this critical program at a scale needed to meet the demand. Low-income households who need help now to afford their rent are stuck on waiting lists for months and years because funding has not increased with actual need. Housing Choice Vouchers help ensure millions of low-income families can keep a roof over their head. HCVs lift millions of American families out of poverty and improve their health and education outcomes.

Congress needs to make rental assistance available to all eligible households by including guaranteed, multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers. By fully funding rental assistance, Congress can shrink the racial wealth divide and help relieve the inequity and injustice of the housing crisis in the United States. Contact your members of Congress to demand they take action on this critical issue.

- Howard Berkowitz, *Candler*

No online link

What is our Congressperson doing for his constituents?

February 25, 2022

Suppose you are a recipient or follower of Madison Cawthorn's newsletters and tweets. In that case, you become aware of his opinions on liberal media, his reelection candidacy, and you can see there's a good deal of love going out to Donald Trump and friends but where is the love for his constituents? What is he doing for Western North Carolinians? How has he demonstrated growth and change for the district that voted him into office? Madison Cawthorn has an opportunity to use his voice and position to lift persons in our community who are struggling financially.

I'm asking as someone hoping for tangible, bold actions. One impactful measure Cawthorn could take would be showing his support in making the Child Tax Credit expansion permanent. In 2021, the Child Tax Credit was expanded to include low-income children and families who were previously excluded from the total value of the credit. Additionally, the CTC included a distribution as a monthly payment for the first time. The impact this had on U.S. poverty was astounding. The 2021 measure resulted in over 3 million children in low-income families being kept out of poverty by the CTC each month. In North Carolina, 135,000 children under the age of 18 were lifted above the poverty line with this expansion.

Congressman Cawthorn, will you show your support in extending the 2021 CTC provisions for children, including permanent full refundability and resumption of the monthly payments?

– **Gina Gylys, *Fairview***

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0439ae85f_1348365



Solution needed for rising housing costs

March 3, 2022

In Asheville, as in much of the United States, the cost of housing is getting unaffordable for much of the population. In the Feb. 22 Citizen Times are two stories discuss housing costs: 'Rents in the US reach 'insane' levels' and the front page story on Buncombe County property taxes. We all need to stand up and take notice of the rapidly rising costs of putting a roof over our heads.

With rent stretching beyond what the low and middle wage earner can afford, and property taxes unfairly skewed causing lower income families to foot a disproportionately large burden of this county revenue, something needs to be done here in Asheville and across the country.

Locally we need to support the Buncombe County Ad Hoc Reappraisal Committee's efforts to produce either a fairer way to levy taxes on real estate and/or a method to lessen this tax burden on lower wage earners owning all inexpensive properties by some other means. Nationally we need to encourage our members of Congress to support the creation of a Renters Tax Credit and to expand the Housing Choice Voucher program to meet the demand of qualified applicants.

- Howard Berkowitz, *Candler*

https://ashevillescitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=24892a7c8_13483b3

We missed a chance

March 4, 2022

When all the Senate Republicans plus Joe Manchin refused to extend the enhanced Child Tax Credit of the American Rescue Plan, we missed an opportunity to reduce poverty by 30%. Families, including those too poor to pay taxes, could claim as much as \$300/mo. per child. Why not extend the CTC?

One reason, we have forever worried about the cost of societal welfare rather than focus on the benefits. The CTC, for example, was estimated to cost \$225 billion per year, about a quarter of the cost of Social Security, according to the Tax Policy Center. However, the financial and moral benefits of keeping children out of poverty include improving educational outcomes, diminishing health problems, lowering crime, and boosting earnings and tax revenues as measured over the length of a child's life.

We also have a twisted view of fairness, always assuming Federal grants are a disincentive to work. As for work, however, 97% of working parents who received the increased government payments actually continued working, more able to care for their kids.

Curiously, the U.S. seems to prefer the 'unproductive' elderly (like me) over children. Ah, but of course, children don't vote. Uglier still, could it be that the elderly in our country are 77% white but children are less than 50% white? Our generosity has traditionally flowed less to an immigrant and a minority population, despite needs being greater among these groups.

We need to love these kids and invest in them, too.

– Gerard Stamm, *Candler*

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=1bd98527d_13483b4

Child tax credit

March 18, 2022

In his State of the Union address President Biden asked lawmakers to bring back the child tax credit program that provides monthly payments to families with young children. That program expired at the end of 2021 and child poverty went from a rate of 12% to 17% in January, affecting an estimated 3.7 million children.

March 15 marked the third month without a child tax credit payment. Because of the situation in Ukraine, I waited to address this ongoing issue, but when the U.S. Senate found the time to address Daylight Saving Time last week I realized they could tackle anything they had a mind to fix.

It's time to bring back the child tax credit. It works and mechanisms are in place to get payments out quickly. Congress just needs to act. Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis must make the time to lift children out of poverty.

– **Patti Maxwell, Cary**

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article259384639.html>



Time to take action and reinstate Child Tax Credit

March 21, 2022

In Western North Carolina, as in the rest the United States, despite all the bright spots in the economy (record job growth and higher wages) too many families fight a constant battle to keep up with the costs of rent, fuel and food. Low income families are especially hard hit in this period of inflation. It is critical for Congress to act now to invest more to help workers, families and children thrive.

During the pandemic the Child Tax Credit and rental assistance programs helped raise a record 8 million families above the poverty line. These families with stable housing and nutrition are far more likely to produce children that are able to break generational cycles of poverty. Congress must act to reinstate the expanded Child Tax Credit payments. The termination of these tax credits dropped 3.7 million children back into poverty.

In addition, they must legislate expanded access to rental assistance to all who are eligible by providing the required level of funding. We can choose to complain about poverty and do nothing, or we can take action that will lead to reductions and potentially the end to poverty in our community and country.

Howard Berkowitz, *Candler*



Child Tax Credit needs to be made permanent

April 3, 2022

Eliminating poverty sounds unreachable. But taking steps towards eliminating poverty is more approachable than you'd think.

Living under the poverty line has become a pervasive issue that likely impacts someone you love and it permeates all aspects of life. Poverty takes a toll academically, socially, physically, and emotionally. In reflecting on how we can approach efforts to address poverty in Western North Carolina, consider urging Congress to make the Child Tax Credit permanent.

In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC for millions of American families and sent it to them in monthly payments. Many folks living in poverty directly received financial assistance for their families. Surveys show that these families spent this money on food, utilities, clothing, and rent. These payments resulted in 3-4 million children being kept from poverty each month the payments went out. How terrific that Congress found a solution that works!

Sadly, this monumental step towards lessening the burden of poverty ended. The payments expired in December and, as a result, the child poverty rate jumped in January. Families that were once receiving much-needed aid were pushed back below the poverty line. Driving children and families back into poverty is unacceptable. Considering the livelihood of our loved ones struggling to get by, why is Congress not racing to extend the CTC payments?

I urge our members of Congress to extend the 2021 CTC with permanent full refundability immediately and to resume the monthly payments as soon as possible.

- Gina Gylys, *Fairview*

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0dae59d5e_1348417



The folly of Congress

April 6, 2022

COVID has been hard on everyone but it has also forced us to be creative. For example, knowing that families were struggling, Congress created a great solution to child poverty by revising the Child Tax Credit. Families got a bit more money per child, low-income families got the full amount of the credit, and families could choose to receive the CTC in the form of monthly payments starting last July.

The improved CTC did exactly what it was projected to do—it lowered child poverty by nearly 40 percent! Low-income families used it for food, gas, rent, and school supplies. Congress did some smart work.

But the improved CTC was allowed to expire in December and Congress has, so far, failed to make these improvements permanent. The consequences have been swift—between December and January, child poverty increased by 41% in our country.

This is the folly of Congress—we conduct a very successful experiment and find a policy that really works for our children, then we allow it to expire. Why?

Congress must fix this and put the improved CTC back in place. It will take both parties to make this happen, so anyone who cares about children should be contacting Senators Tillis and Burr on this as well as our Representative.

Note: If you qualified for CTC monthly payments last year, visit www.childtaxcredit.gov to learn how to claim the rest of your credit.

– Ken Patterson, *Asheville*

No online link



Don't let families slip into poverty

April 6, 2022

President Biden has called on Congress to extend the child tax credit. I wholeheartedly agree.

In 2021, Congress expanded the child tax credit for millions of American families and sent it to them in monthly payments. Thanks to all who voted in favor. The result was a significant decrease in the number of children in poverty. Some figures noted a 40% decrease or more.

Survey have shown that the families spent this money on food, utilities, clothing, and rent. But 51 U.S. senators let the payments expire in December. As a result, the child poverty rate jumped by 41% in January. In North Carolina, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that over 300,000 children (and their families) will slip back into poverty.

Pushing children and families into poverty is unacceptable. With all of us feeling the pinch at the grocery store, the gas pump and our utility bills, why is Congress not racing to extend the child tax credit payments?

I urge our members of Congress to immediately extend the 2021 CTC with permanent full refundability and to resume the monthly payments as soon as possible. This can be paid for by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

- Ron Katz, Asheville

https://issuu.com/mountainx/docs/04.06.22_mx_opt/6



Child poverty is up by 41 percent; extend the child tax credit now

April 10, 2022

While pumping gas or buying food at the grocery store, all of us in North Carolina have felt the burden from inflation. And adding to financial stress, the child tax credit payments expired, causing 3.7 million children to fall into poverty in January.

Research shows families with low incomes spent the child tax credit on basic needs like food, utilities, and housing costs. As the price of these costs have increased, assistance to provide these resources has decreased.

Families are struggling to pay for basic human needs because Congress allowed these resources to expire. Child poverty went down during the pandemic with the expansion of the credit, so we know it helps.

Will Congressman Patrick McHenry, Senator Thom Tillis and Senator Richard Burr build upon the child tax credit foundation, to get children out of poverty, by using political will? Make a lasting mark on our future generation, as the credit expansion benefits 90% of children in NC and lifts 135,000 children in NC out of poverty, by extending the 2021 child tax credit with permanent full refundability and resuming the monthly payments as soon as possible. Inaction is still action and your lack of action affects others.

— **Emily Bird, *Mooreville***

<https://www.salisburypost.com/2022/04/10/letter-child-poverty-is-up-by-41-percent-extend-the-child-tax-credit-now/>

Child Tax Credit

May 11, 2022

As tax season ends it's a perfect time to remember how many could get much-needed help if Congress extended the Child Tax Credit.

A core component of President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan, the CTC cut childhood poverty by an astonishing 30%. Unfortunately, it expired in December and if Congress doesn't reinstate it, nearly 4 million children could slide back into poverty.

More than 1.2 million N.C. families, including more than 2 million children, stand to benefit if the CTC is expanded or made permanent.

For nearly the exact same cost as President Trump's tax overhaul, which largely benefited the wealthiest Americans, Congress could vote to extend much-needed relief to families across the country. Surely Congress can make this happen.

- Brady Blackburn, *Durham*

<https://www.newsobserver.com/article261129137.html>

Child Tax Credit would help reduce poverty

May 18, 2022

It continues to boggle my mind that the Child Tax Credit remains canceled. After the payments were initiated, child poverty dropped 30 percent. Data indicates that parents spent their CTC on food, rent and utilities and they continued to work. The need is greater today than last year, as inflation is high, baby formula is scarce, and the across the board increased prices have driven many of our fellow Americans back into poverty.

The CTC is a tool that helps families struggling with higher costs. It's time for the Senate to put the needs of their constituents above their party politics and get the CTC passed this month utilizing a budget reconciliation.

Democrats complain that it is Joe Manchin that is blocking CTC approval. Well, what about the 50 Republican Senators whose constituents need this relief as much as any child in poverty. There are countless proposals of modifying the tax code to remove provisions paid for by PACs ensuring their beneficiaries pay little or no taxes - that will cover the cost of the CTC and then some. It's time for Senators Burr and Tillis to stand up and provide some relief for North Carolina's children mired in poverty.

- Howard Berkowitz, *Candler*

No link available



Medicaid expansion is needed

June 22, 2022

I love living in Western North Carolina and I am lucky enough to be in good health, have better than adequate health insurance, with a sustainable retirement income. I can't say the same for my brother-in-law Ron, who is currently fighting what may prove to be a losing battle with stage 4 colon cancer. He would like to move to WNC near his sister to spend his last years, but financially he is unable to move from a state with Medicaid expansion to one that does not. Ron is no longer mobile after having a stroke several years ago, so he depends on the expanded Medicaid for a home health aide and transportation to doctor appointments and chemotherapy.

North Carolina currently is not able to help Ron or some 600,000 North Carolinian retirees, children, working poor, indigent, and others subsisting in poverty that require additional health care services to allow them to work themselves out of their current circumstances. The NC General Assembly has a unique opportunity to expand medicaid for 600,000 North Carolinians, and receive \$2 billion in federal funds to help pay for it. Imagine the difference this health care will mean to the 600,000 'Rons' of North Carolina and their families. Please urge your State legislators to vote for Medicaid expansion.

- Howard Berkowitz, *Candler*

https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0c3f6eba1_13484f2



Back to School Blues

August 16, 2022

Clicking “add to cart” is harder this year. Before the first bell rings, back to school brings so much stress. Back to school lists, teacher wish lists, school lunches, activity fees, transportation, before/after school care, clubs, and events are all fighting for your attention and paycheck. Families are expected to uphold a certain standard and appearance while sacrificing financially to help their teacher’s classroom. It’s even more challenging for those living paycheck to paycheck.

Last year the Child Tax Credit offered some relief with monthly payments and full benefits for the lowest income families. Why did Congress allow the expanded Child Tax Credit to expire? Now families have to wait until tax season to receive the Child Tax Credit when they need it now.

Talks involving the Child Tax Credit are circulating by our own Senator Richard Burr. Though it does give larger payments, there’s an income requirement leaving out families who need the credit arguably the most, those with no income, like a disabled parent or grandparents living off social security who are raising children. While we struggle to get everything ready in time for back to school, Congress sure is taking their time to expand the Child Tax Credit. Families need to be a priority, not just a political agenda. Inaction is still action — remember that in November.

– **Emily Bird, *Mooreville***

<https://www.salisburypost.com/2022/08/16/letters-to-the-editor-aug-16/>



Time to expand the Child Tax Credit

August 16, 2022

Editor,

Clicking “add to cart” is harder this year. Before the first bell rings, back to school brings so much stress. Families are expected to uphold a certain standard and appearance while sacrificing financially to help their teacher’s classroom. It’s even more challenging for those living paycheck to paycheck.

Last year the Child Tax Credit offered some relief with monthly payments and full benefits for the lowest income families. Data from Columbia University show the Child Tax Credit was used by low-income families for education, clothing, and other basic needs. Why did Congress allow the expanded Child Tax Credit to expire? Now families have to wait until tax season to receive the Child Tax Credit when they need it now.

Senator Richard Burr is working on the CTC incorporating larger payments, however his income requirement leaves out families who need the credit arguably the most, those with no income, like a disabled parent or grandparents living off social security who are raising children.

While we struggle to get everything ready in time for back to school, Congress sure is taking their time to expand the Child Tax Credit. Families need to be a priority, not just a political agenda. Inaction is still action—remember that in November.

– Emily Bird, Mooresville

https://independenttribune.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-poll-site-campaigning-child-tax-credits-and-tv-week/article_f5c43dfa-1d7e-11ed-8b22-3f3c91b94700.html

Hickory Daily Record

Monthly Child Tax Credit payments were lifeline for families

August 19, 2022

Clicking “add to cart” is harder this year. From the anticipation of starting, to the fear of failure, getting ready for the school year is an emotional experience. Before the first bell rings, back to school brings so much stress. Back-to-school lists, teacher wish lists, school lunches, activity fees, transportation, before/after school care, clubs, and events are all fighting for your attention and paycheck. Trying to find and afford everything on the supply list for some is a wish in and of itself.

Families are expected to uphold a certain standard and appearance while sacrificing financially to help their teacher’s classroom. Broken backpacks, stained shirts, soiled shoes are all uncomfortable outcomes. It’s even more challenging for those living paycheck to paycheck.

Last year the Child Tax Credit offered some relief with monthly payments and full benefits for the lowest income families. Data from Columbia University show the Child Tax Credit was used by low-income families for education, clothing, and other basic needs. Why did Congress allow the expanded Child Tax Credit to expire? Now families have to wait until tax season to receive the Child Tax Credit when they need it now.

Talks involving the Child Tax Credit are circulating by our own Senator Richard Burr. Though it does give larger payments, there’s an income requirement leaving out families who need the credit arguably the most, those with no income, like a disabled parent or grandparents living off social security who are raising children.

While we struggle to get everything ready in time for back to school, Congress sure is taking their time to expand the Child Tax Credit. Families need to be a priority, not just a political agenda. Inaction is still action. Remember that in November.

– **Emily Bird, *Mooreville***

https://hickoryrecord.com/opinion/letters/letter-monthly-child-tax-credit-payments-were-lifeline-for-families/article_fc2e13d2-1ce3-11ed-b28b-

[4be93faf1458.html?fbclid=IwAR2W6hDDxXT56e3xde0FTxCsFw5pto1vDNmBVuJp0pdeXv3_-papxSg1xnM](https://www.facebook.com/4be93faf1458.html?fbclid=IwAR2W6hDDxXT56e3xde0FTxCsFw5pto1vDNmBVuJp0pdeXv3_-papxSg1xnM)

Bring back CTC

September 25, 2022

It is so good to see that reinstating the child tax credit is back in the public dialogue after new data from the U.S. Census Bureau showed a 46% decline in child poverty. 46%! In 2021, monthly payments to eligible families kept 5.3 million people, including 2 million children, above the poverty line.

In a Sept. 13 statement, U.S. Sens. Cory Booker, Michael Bennet, Sherrod Brown and Reps. Rosa DeLauro, Suzan DelBene, and Ritchie Torres said: "We should have never allowed this critical program to lapse, and we should not extend corporate tax breaks at the end of this year with also extending the expanded Child Tax Credit."

I completely agree.

– **Patti Maxwell, Cary**

No online link



Let's address childhood poverty

October 12, 2022

Last year, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most.

New data proves how well it worked. The new 2021 U.S. Census reported that the 2021 CTC reduced child poverty by 46 percent and lifted over 5 million out of poverty in the U.S.

In one year, the expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured. But 51 senators let the CTC expansion expire last December.

This data shows they made a huge mistake by allowing millions of these families to fall right back into poverty.

In Haywood County, almost 8,500 individuals live in poverty. We have limited and overstretched community resources because Congress didn't act last year. Congress is discussing now whether to extend tax credits for wealthy corporations after the November election.

It would be outrageous for these credits to pass without expanding the CTC for low-income families. I implore Senator Burr and Senator Tillis to expand the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year.

- Belinda Heldreth, *Waynesville*

https://www.themountaineer.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-oct-12/article_7bcbbfac-457c-11ed-af77-1ff4d5d13a41.html



Expand the CTC

October 23, 2022

According to new data from the U.S. Census, in 2021 Congress lifted 5.3 million people, including 2.9 million children, above the federal poverty line with the expanded child tax credit. This translates to a 46% reduction in child poverty between 2020 and 2021. In one year, the expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

Unfortunately, Congress then pushed those same children and families back into poverty by letting the expanded child tax credit expire at the end of 2021.

Shame on Congress for allowing that to happen in the first place, but even more shameful? Many lawmakers are pushing for corporate tax cuts to be included in a year-end tax deal, similar to those tax cuts seen during the Trump administration in 2017.

While most would agree that we want our economy to thrive, can we really allow big businesses to prosper while the average family continues to suffer? It is not a question of one or the other, Congress can include both corporate tax cuts and the expanded child tax credit in the end-of-year tax deal.

Normal people deserve to have their voices heard and needs met, just as much as the big corporations. Reach out to your member of Congress and let him or her know we cannot pass more tax cuts for the wealthy without also expanding the CTC for children and families.

- Danielle Shamel, *Winston-Salem*

https://journalnow.com/opinion/letters/the-readers-forum-monday-letters/article_a9ccbdee-516a-11ed-bea9-1b338dc2f9d9.html

The News&Observer

Child Tax Credit

December 25, 2022

I am disappointed that Congress did not include an extension of the Child Tax Credit in the stopgap spending bill. When the issue comes up again next year, I urge U.S. Rep. Deborah Ross and Sens. Thom Tillis and Ted Budd to support extending the CTC and reinstating monthly payments in 2023. We saw how effective the payments were in 2021 when over 40% of families were lifted above the poverty level. It's time to bring them back and make the CTC fully refundable so those with lower wages can claim the full amount of credit.

– **Patti Maxwell, Cary**

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article270208307.html>

North Dakota media



Support expansion of Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit programs

Congress allowed the 2021 CTC and EITC provisions to expire in December, putting the gains we made in reducing child poverty, supporting workers and promoting racial justice at risk of disappearing.

February 16, 2022

North Dakota was allocated \$352 million in pandemic rent support, only to return \$149 million of it, because of a faulty distribution system. (Grand Forks Herald editorial, 1/12/2022). Not enough effort was made to get the money to those who needed it most.

On the national level, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act (BBB) last November. This bill would have continued policies that lifted 3 to 4 million out of poverty last year by expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and helping low-wage workers to make ends meet through the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). It also made critical investments to help families find stable, affordable housing through additional Housing Choice Vouchers.

Congress allowed the 2021 CTC and EITC provisions to expire in December, putting the gains we made in reducing child poverty, supporting workers and promoting racial justice at risk of disappearing. In addition, funding for 300,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers was lost. As we know, the BBB stalled in the Senate. Negotiators are now working on passing a new version of BBB. It is essential that core policies that help children, workers and renters are part of any deal.

Out of concern for the fate of our nation's children, over the past few years, scholars at the Brookings Institution and the American Enterprise Institute combined efforts to identify policies which would improve the lives of our children. Although these experts

reflect differing positions on how to address the needs, they are united in their agreement that our government needs to rebalance our investments toward children. (Rebalancing: Children First, A Report of the AEI-Brookings Working Group on Childhood in the United States). In other words, experts on both sides of the political aisle are urging us to take heed and provide the resources necessary to insure a bright future for the next generation, acknowledging that we are failing to do that.

Our congressional delegation, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, are in a position to make a crucial difference. Let's ask them to support the expansion of the CTC and EITC and funding for new Housing Choice Vouchers. The future of our children is at stake.

- Kathleen Ness, *Grand Forks*

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-support-expansion-of-child-tax-credit-and-earned-income-tax-credit-programs>



Act now to keep kids out of poverty

However, our kids will not be ready for the military or be productive members of the workforce if they grow up without adequate nutrition and housing.

February 22, 2022

I agree with Kathleen Ness' letter (Herald, Feb. 16: "Support expansion of Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit programs"). This country's future is our kids and our congresspeople are always worried about our ability to compete on a global level. However, our kids will not be ready for the military or be productive members of the workforce if they grow up without adequate nutrition and housing.

Just when Americans face additional financial hardships from higher costs and pandemic disruptions, half the Senate is turning a blind eye. I call on all of Congress to put aside partisan politics to do something right now to keep our kids out of poverty.

– Sarah Miller, *St. Louis, Missouri*

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-act-now-to-keep-kids-out-of-poverty>



Child Tax Credit must be extended

All too often, children are suffering because their environment lacks the support they need to thrive. For example, four million children have been thrust back into poverty because Congress allowed the 2021 Child Tax Credit provision to expire in December, reversing the gains we made in reducing child poverty.

April 6, 2022

If the condition of a nation's youngest generation can be considered a measure of the health of a society, America needs a trip to the emergency room. Organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics have declared a national state of emergency in children's mental health, resulting from the strain of the effects of the pandemic. The American Psychological Association reports that mental health crises are on the rise among children from ages 5 to 17. Mental-health related emergency visits increased in 2020 by as much as 31% for adolescents from the previous year. Consequently, they recommend that mental health services for children in school should be increased. Such intervention is necessary, but shouldn't we also do whatever is required to prevent such distress?

All too often, children are suffering because their environment lacks the support they need to thrive. For example, four million children have been thrust back into poverty because Congress allowed the 2021 Child Tax Credit provision to expire in December, reversing the gains we made in reducing child poverty. If continued, the 2021 CTC with permanent full refundability, that is, including families with low or no reported income, would cut poverty for Black and Hispanic children nearly in half. But Congress has chosen to disregard the basic needs of these children. Another attempt at addressing the needs of children is The Child Poverty Reduction Act, which has been introduced in the last few Congresses. It sets a goal of cutting child poverty in the U.S. by 50% in ten years, and it tasks the National Academy of Sciences to produce a

strategic plan to reach that goal. Ironically, if the CTC had been extended, we likely would have come close to reaching that goal in one year, not ten.

I ask my members of Congress, Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to address this unprecedented crisis facing our children with the full measure of their influence and authority. Kids can't vote, so please find the political will to act on their behalf. Please support the extension of the Child Tax Credit and allow permanent full refundability for the CTC.

– **Kathleen Ness, *Grand Forks***

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-child-tax-credit-must-be-extended>



Congress must work to expand child tax credit

The expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) needs to be restored. Research on the spending habits of those who received payments indicates that the money went for necessities, like food and childcare.

May 21, 2022

The May 7 issue of the Grand Forks Herald highlighted two basic needs affecting families within our larger community: food and childcare. One article featured local letter carriers who are doing their 30th annual food drive to gather donations for five local food banks. Another article addressed the high cost of childcare for working families in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks and the resulting exodus of young parents from the workforce. It is heartening to witness local efforts to address these issues. At the same time, it is heart-breaking that our leaders in Congress haven't done more.

The situation is dire not only here, but across the country. Last year our national leadership dropped the ball by failing to renew the expansion of the Child Tax Credit which gave families monthly checks of between \$250 and \$300 per child each month, assisting 36 million families across the country. A study from Columbia University noted that December payments alone kept 3.7 million children out of poverty. Now that those monthly CTC payments have stopped and the price of food is rising, 2 million more people with children have reported sometimes or often not having enough to eat, compared to last summer. Conditions have worsened for families, and so far, Congress has responded by looking the other way.

The expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) needs to be restored. Research on the spending habits of those who received payments indicates that the money went for necessities, like food and childcare. I ask North Dakota's congressional delegation, Senators John

Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to support the restoration of the CTC expansion through their influence and their votes.

– **Kathleen Ness, *Grand Forks***

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-must-work-to-expand-child-tax-credit>



Congress, work now to expand Child Tax Credit

When the CTC payments started in July of 2021, food insecurity for families with children dropped by 26% (after just one payment!). Over the following six months, child poverty dropped by 40 percent. Families ate healthier and the use of payday loans dropped.

July 27, 2022

In 2021, Congress enacted historic legislation that cut child poverty by 40%. Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) by increasing the credit for low- and moderate-income families and sending it as monthly payments. Importantly, for the first time the CTC was fully refundable so that 27 million children in families with no- or low-income got the full value of the credit.

As a result, millions of families were able to make ends meet. When the CTC payments started in July of 2021, food insecurity for families with children dropped by 26% (after just one payment!). Over the following six months, child poverty dropped by 40 percent. Families ate healthier and the use of payday loans dropped.

But the Senate refused to extend the changes past one year. As a result, the child poverty rate increased 41 percent the month after the payments ended. Now with inflation driving up the cost of food, gas, and housing, the situation is worse.

We see evidence of hardship here in North Dakota. As a front-page article in the Grand Forks Herald explains, demand for food at food shelves has risen, while supplies have fallen. Executive Director Stacie Loegering of the Emergency Food Pantry in Fargo reports that she has to place orders for food three months in advance. "Is it a crisis?", she asks. "It could be," she said, adding that hunger affects one in six North Dakotans. (7/20/22)

It is likely that Congress will pursue a bipartisan tax bill at the end of this year. Let's ask our members of Congress to support a new expansion of the Child Tax Credit and reduce child poverty once again. The CTC effectively lifted millions out of poverty when it was in effect. I ask Sen. John Hoeven, Sen. Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong to support the CTC so families in North Dakota and throughout our nation can afford to feed their children.

– Kathleen Ness, *Grand Forks*

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-work-now-to-expand-child-tax-credit>



Expansion of Child Tax Credit is essential

An example of legislation addressing children's needs, which has a long history of bipartisan support, is the Child Tax Credit (CTC), first enacted in 1997. Expanding the CTC is again gaining consideration because it answers many concerns on both sides of the political aisle.

September 30, 2022

No matter what our political perspective, we probably all can agree that children in our nation should receive proper care. An example of legislation addressing children's needs, which has a long history of bipartisan support, is the Child Tax Credit (CTC), first enacted in 1997. Expanding the CTC is again gaining consideration because it answers many concerns on both sides of the political aisle.

The CTC expansion is a perfect opportunity to show commitment to American families. It proved effective during the height of the pandemic, and it should be continued. Right now, there is growing bipartisan support for expanding it, as evidenced by Senators Romney (R-UT), Burr (R-NC), and Daines (R-MT) releasing the Family Security Act and Representative Pete Meijer (R-MI) leading a Dear Colleague letter supporting an expanded CTC in the House. Patrick Brown, a researcher at the conservative think tank Ethics and Public Policy Center, wrote recently that conservatives' "pro-family rhetoric will need to be backed up with policy proposals that match".

Robert Orr, a conservative policy analyst, noted that monthly CTC payments increase educational attainment, lead to higher wages when children grow up, improve maternal health, reduce child maltreatment, and increase economic self-sufficiency among women. In North Dakota, families in need experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity, according to data from the Census Household Pulse survey. But Congress allowed the expanded CTC to expire at the end of 2021,

and the child poverty rate climbed from 12.1% in December 2021, to 17%, in January 2022, according to Columbia University's Center for Poverty and Social Policy. Millions of children were thrust back into poverty because Congress lacked the will to maintain their commitment to them.

Expanding the CTC so all low-income families can benefit, regardless of employment status, should be a priority – whether it is in the short term through an end of year tax plan, or in the long-term when a new Congress takes office in 2023. Please join me in asking our members of Congress, Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Representative Kelly Armstrong, to support the expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

– Kathleen Ness, *Grand Forks*

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-expansion-of-child-tax-credit-is-essential>



Moorhead grad pens book encouraging mothers to become advocates

Cynthia Changyit Levin became global poverty advocate while raising two young children

By Danielle A. Teigen

October 19, 2022

When Cynthia Changyit Levin became a mother 18 years ago, she had a serious identity crisis after leaving her job as an engineer to stay home and raise her child.

"I had a journey of 2-3 years where I was floundering about, thinking that I didn't know what I was doing now that I'd given up my career," she explained.

As a new mother, Levin felt such sadness knowing mothers in underprivileged countries couldn't feed or care for their children, and she wanted to do something.

But what?

She wrote a letter to the editor about global poverty initiatives with her child on her lap. She started attending meetings to learn more about advocating for work that could reduce global poverty. She met her U.S. Representative to talk about sponsoring a bill with her child in tow.

Today, Levin is a known global poverty advocate whose work has taken her to Uganda, Washington, D.C., and more .

She writes about her experiences and how other mothers can become advocates in her book, " From Changing Diapers to Changing the World: Why Moms Make Great Advocates and How to Get Started ."

She offers practical advice and tips for busy moms who see a need and want to fill that need, even when they seem to be short on time and energy.

"I want to take moms from seeing motherhood as a limitation to seeing it as a wonderful and unique asset," she said. "I want moms to start thinking, 'I can change the world because I'm a mom.'"

Levin graduated from Moorhead High School in 1989, and her mom worked in the Clay County Health Department during the peak of the AIDS crisis. She recalls thinking that civic engagement extended simply to voting.

"I remember being a Campfire Girl who handed out programs at the League of Women Voters debates," she said.

Now, having seen another global health crisis and watching as her oldest child pursues a degree at Johns Hopkins in global health, Levin realizes so many of these seemingly unrelated experiences all stem from advocacy work.

"I never thought back then that I'd travel to Uganda or advocate in Washington, D.C.; I didn't think advocacy was something I could do, even though I was aware that public policy could affect people's lives," she said. "Now I can draw a line between what my mom was doing to my early advocacy work to my child studying global health and see that it's all very connected."

Levin started toying with the idea of writing a book more than 10 years ago and originally thought she'd produce a short book about being an advocate with just young children. As she got more involved in advocacy work, she realized the book needed to expand.

"I mean, it doesn't take 10 years to write a book but it took me that long because I was living it," she explained.

For anyone wanting to get more involved in advocacy work, Levin encourages starting with some introspection. "Advocacy is very personal; you will be the best advocate for something you care about," she said. "So it's okay to take time for ourselves to meditate or ruminate on things going on, and listen to your body, listen to what you are reacting to."

She writes in the book that “advocacy is simply expressing yourself to inspire action from another person with the power to help.” Levin breaks down her information in three parts: why moms make great advocates, how to start and practical advice, with ideas for how mothers can still create meaningful change even if they only have 5 minutes or 20 minutes in the middle of the night while holding a baby.

Once a mom knows what issues she’s passionate about and would want to become an advocate for, Levin listed three organizations that teach people the necessary skills for advocacy work: RESULTS , MomsRising , and Citizens’ Climate Lobby .

“It’s my joy to talk to people and help them understand this (work) is something they can do and get involved with,” she explained.

Her book offers many ideas for how moms (and all parents, really) can start taking small steps in their advocacy work and even involve children. She writes: “What happens if you don’t make time to become the best person you want to be?...Kids are little pitchers with big ears; what are you pouring in there?”

Levin shared stories in the book about her children becoming advocates in their own right after watching her over the years. One child organized a peaceful protest after a classmate had soccer playing at recess revoked and presented to the principal a list of changes, written in crayon no less.

Today, Levin’s children are almost 17 and 19 years old, and “they are becoming emerging advocates,” she shared. Yara Changyit-Levin is studying global health in Baltimore while her younger daughter Summer Levin is still assessing what she’d like to pursue after high school. Levin and Yara are actually writing a book tentatively titled “Use Your Outside Voice” to help parents and teens understand how to advocate successfully in a way that makes sense for a youth audience .

Levin’s book is available on her website – www.changyit.com – as well as other book retailers like Amazon, Barnes & Noble and independent bookstores.

<https://www.inforum.com/lifestyle/on-the-minds-of-moms/moorhead-grad-pens-book-encouraging-mothers-to-become-advocates>



Benefits to extending Child Tax Credit

Our elected senators and representatives can do their part to improve the lives of millions of children by supporting the extension of the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

December 08, 2022

In the remaining weeks of the 117th Congress, our elected senators and representatives can do their part to improve the lives of millions of children by supporting the extension of the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The CTC was responsible for cutting child poverty from 9.7% in 2020 to 5.2% in 2021, the largest decrease in the child poverty rate on record.

Furthermore, the Child Tax Credit helped families increase their labor force participation by allowing them to afford childcare, transportation, and other necessities that help them get to work. In addition, a University of Washington study showed a link between a reduction in child neglect reports with the increase in parental income, a very positive impact.

But Congress chose to let the CTC extension expire. Roughly 4 million children sank back into poverty in January of 2022. Food insufficiency rates among households with children increased by 25%. In a May 2022 poll by Lake Research, voters expressed support for extending the improved CTC. They indicated overwhelming concern with data showing that child poverty over time leads to poor health outcomes, higher crime, and lower adult income when children living in poverty grow up.

Over 130 economists called for the reinstatement of the Child Tax Credit payments as one of the most efficient and direct approaches to help offset inflationary pressures and concurred that the CTC would not increase inflation. The Niskanen Center found that extending the Child Tax Credit for even one year would support the equivalent of 500,000 private-sector jobs.

It would serve our nation well if partisanship bowed to the needs of children. I ask our Congressional delegation, Sen. John Hoeven, Sen. Kevin Cramer and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to join with their colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the extension of the Child Tax Credit this year to benefit children in North Dakota and across the country.

- Kathleen Ness, *Grand Forks*

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-benefits-to-extending-child-tax-credit>

Ohio media

The Columbus Dispatch

Child Tax Credit helps reduce child poverty and should be a priority for us all

February 6, 2022

One of the most powerful steps to reduce child poverty came to an abrupt halt this month when the expansion of the Child Tax Credit was not continued.

Families who had come to rely on that extra money in their bank account each month were back to struggling to put enough food on the table, make rent, pay for day care or a car repair. The Build Back Better legislation is stalled in Congress and families are suffering.

Thanks go to our Sen. Sherrod Brown and several other senators who have appealed to President Biden to extend the Child Tax Credit and make the well-being of children a priority. It seems like this should be a priority for all of us.

- Virginia M. Vogts, *Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2022/02/06/letters-covid-and-biden-blame-irs-tax-return-backlog/9312843002/>

Rise in poverty shows need for Child Tax Credit

March 1, 2022

A couple of tanks of gas. Boots, coat, and mittens. Diapers. Ground beef, peanut butter and jelly, milk, bread, apples. After six months of receiving monthly deposits that provided some added economic stability, families lost the financial equivalent of these staples when Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments didn't arrive in January. Just like that, the number of children in the United States living in poverty increased dramatically, according to a study reported by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The expanded CTC not only offered increased financial security and improved nutrition. A recent study found that children in families who had extra income coming from sources such as the CTC were more likely to have brain patterns associated with the development of thinking and learning, counteracting the damaging effect that poverty has on brain development.

Cruelly, this transformative program was allowed to expire with the stalling of the Build Back Better Act. How did it happen that we turned our back on the development of children in our country? How much potential for innovation or knowledge or beauty or peace are we squandering by failing these children?

I call on our Ohio senators Rob Portman, R-Cincinnati, and Sherrod Brown, D-Cleveland, to make the CTC monthly payments permanent and extend payments to our poorest families. This could be a historic moment in the lives of our children. You can make it happen.

- Allison Gallaher, *Grafton*

No online link

THE PLAIN DEALER



To help children succeed, permanently restore monthly Child Tax Credit payments

March 9, 2022

In 2021, there was a dramatic decrease in child poverty in the United States. Many of us are unaware of the huge impact the monthly Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments and the extension of benefits had: In just six months, beginning in July 2021, nearly 4 million children were lifted out of poverty.

One important effect of these payments is childhood development. For the last decade, studies have shown the damaging effect that poverty can have on brain development, but a recent study found that children in families who had extra income coming from sources like the CTC were more likely to have brain patterns associated with the development of thinking and learning.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Congress allowed the CTC monthly payments to expire. How did it happen that we turned our back on the development of children in our country? How do we know which American child might grow up to cure cancer or negotiate peace for the world?

I call on Sens. Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown to help make the CTC monthly payments permanent and extend payments to our poorest families. This could be a historic moment in the lives of our children.

– **Liz Clerkin, *Oberlin***

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2022/03/to-help-children-succeed-permanently-restore-monthly-child-tax-credit-payments.html>

THE BLADE

Child Tax Credit must be permanent, period

March 19, 2022

Members of Congress have shown enormous compassion for the besieged nation of Ukraine, approving more than \$13 billion in aid this month. Since the Russian invasion on Feb. 24, the U.S. Agency for International Development has provided more than \$100 million in humanitarian aid.

U.S. Senators, however, have shown far less compassion for millions of impoverished children in the United States, after child tax monthly payments ended in January. Their failure to extend the Child Tax Credit, approved by the House in November, tossed nearly 4 million children back into poverty. Republican Pat Toomey and Democrat Bob Casey Jr., both U.S. senators from Pennsylvania, can make a huge difference by fighting to extend the Child Tax Credit now.

Build Back Better, which would have extended the credit, is dead. Another economic recovery bill, however, or even a stand-alone bill, could still include a full tax credit extension. Republican Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah has proposed a "Family Security Act" that includes a Child Tax Credit.

One way or the other, it must get done. Nearly 20% of U.S. children live in poverty, a figure that's close to Mexico's rate, reports the international Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Almost immediately after the Child Tax Credit monthly payments took effect in July, they cut child poverty by an estimated 30%. It provided most U.S. families with a credit against taxes of \$250 a month, or \$3,000 a year, for each child, ages 6 to 17. The credit rose to \$3,600 a year, or \$300 a month, for a child under 6.

Previously, the credit came at tax time only and maxed out at \$2,000 per child. By contrast, monthly installments enabled families to budget for food, utility and housing costs. Some families opened their first bank account.

Middle- and working-class families also received the credit — in fact, most of its benefits went to them. In Pennsylvania, the program assisted an estimated 1.4 million families with 2.4 million children. The poorest among them face daily lacerations of hunger, instability and deprivation, with prospects nearly as dim as those of the displaced children of Ukraine.

The plan to extend Child Tax Credit stalled in the U.S. Senate, after one Democrat, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, joined every Republican, including Mr. Toomey, in opposing the bill, citing inflation and the national debt. He also wanted a work requirement.

Work requirements may sound reasonable but they withhold money from the children who need it most. They also ignore circumstances common in poor families, such as children living with retired grandparents, and can interfere with education, training and efforts to become self-sufficient. Studies in the United States and Canada also show child benefits have no significant effect on workforce participation.

With inflation nearing 8%, the indifference senators have shown toward the nation's most vulnerable children is unconscionable.

By extending Child Tax Credit now, however, and making the full refundability permanent, they can fulfill the nation's moral responsibilities in Ukraine and on the home front.

- The Blade Editorial Board

<https://www.toledoblade.com/opinion/editorials/2022/03/20/editorial-child-tax-credit-must-be-permanent-period/stories/20220319074>

The Columbus Dispatch

Permanently expand Child Tax Credit

June 24, 2022

When the June 13 Dispatch.com article by Haley BeMiller, "Without expanded Child Tax Credit, South Side families find themselves struggling" was published, I was taking part in an Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, sponsored by RESULTS.

RESULTS is a grassroots organization dedicated to ending poverty, both domestic and global. We visited the offices of several members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation to urge support for the permanent expansion of the fully refundable Child Tax credit. We were able to talk to legislative aides in Rep. Mike Carey and Sen. Sherrod Brown's office. We had a virtual meeting with Sen. Rob Portman's staff prior to in-person visits.

This article was timely, and its impact will support our efforts. We find that overall, the Ohio members of Congress recognize the return on investment of this program. With every \$1 invested, local communities earn \$8. The multiplier effect, mostly concentrated in the local community, boosts that economy.

I urge all members of Congress to support the expansion, either in the reconciliation process or in separate tax policy legislation.

"Poverty is the worst form of violence" — Mahatma Gandhi

– Catherine Logsdon, *Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2022/06/24/letters-intel-can-influence-lawmakers-future-employees-rights/7706477001/>

The Columbus Dispatch

Now help children

July 30, 2022

I was planning to write about the Child Tax Credit in light of the recently passed CHIPS Act which had bipartisan support.

If we can provide hundreds of billions of dollars for scientific research and the production of microchips (which is necessary to be successful in the future) we should also be willing to fund the expansion of Child Tax Credit to lift the poorest children in the country out of poverty. This is also an investment in our future.

It now looks like Sen. Joe Manchin is reversing himself and there may be legislation passed soon on climate change and medication costs — investments in a healthy future. But who will fill those high tech jobs, provide a tax base or become our teachers and workers if we don't help low-income families stabilize and raise healthy children?

We need a balance of investment in this country; industrial=human. Who are we if we don't care about the children?

I urge Ohio's Congressional legislators to include an expanded, fully-refundable, Child Tax Credit to the year-end budget.

Earlier: Congress must act to reestablish US as semiconductor superpower | Opinion

– Virginia Vogts, *Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2022/07/30/letters-child-tax-credit-should-expanded-changes-newman-center-columus-ohio-state-bishop-jim-jordan/10175512002/>

Dayton Daily News

A.J. Wagner belonged to the whole community

By Nick Arena

September 13, 2022

When I first met A.J. Wagner (former Montgomery County Auditor and Judge), it was the late winter of 1995. My friend Megan Dixon had written a letter to the editor of the Dayton City Paper announcing our organizing meeting for RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocacy group. It was to be a meeting of citizens who wanted to work to end poverty everywhere by lobbying the US Congress on ways they could redirect funding to help those most in need.

A.J. did something I had never seen anyone do up to that time in my years with RESULTS: he just showed up at the meeting in an Oregon District restaurant. Just from reading the letter. He was the Montgomery County Auditor at the time. He joined the Dayton volunteer group that day, the only elected official I know of that joined a RESULTS group while still in office.

During that year, A.J. had an op-ed published in the Dayton Daily News called 'I Am a Welfare Success Story.' In it, he told the world of his financially impoverished youth. He would say that money was short but not the spirit of plenty and love he had experienced growing up. He said how welfare had helped him and his family survive. How good public schools helped him to be educated, allowed him to go to law school and become a successful person. He reminded us of the good work done by others before and during this time on the history of poverty. How in one person's words that poverty was a common ancestor to us all. He told me he took a lot of flak from the public and other politicians for the op-ed. But in true A.J. form, he said he didn't care. It was the right thing to do.

How many times can all of us hear him saying the same thing - it is the right thing to do.

A.J. and I would stay in touch in the years after I left Dayton in 1998.

With his death last month, perhaps it's selfish for me to say, but I just wanted more time with A.J. Another decade or two, or at least another election cycle, or another month or week or day. Working and talking with him inspired me to do more, to go further, to try harder, to be better. You can't replace that feeling. You can just try to embody it, every day.

Sam Daley-Harris, founder RESULTS and who was also a good friend of A.J.'s, shared this George Bernard Shaw quote with me many years ago. I think it captures what A.J. was all about:

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live."

For over 37 years, Nick Arena has worked for not-for-profits that work on health, economic and social justice issues. Currently, he works for a community bank in Washington DC and volunteers his time with several anti-hunger organizations and the local community radio station WPFW FM.

Dayton Daily News

Letter to the editor

September 18, 2022

In response to Nick Arena's "A.J. Wagner belonged to the whole community" on Sept. 13, Judge A.J. Wager was one of the truly great people that walked this earth. A.J. was a devout Christian and believed it his Christian duty to "Love thy neighbor." Of course, A.J. understood that God loved all his children equally, not just those living in Dayton. That's why he attended the RESULTS meeting with Nick Arena, and started the ButterflyPAC to alleviate, and even end, poverty globally and in the US. A.J. kept it going with his devotion, dollars and energy. I only knew A.J. for two years as the leader of the ButterflyPAC, but I greatly enjoyed his polite and caring manner that made everyone feel included and loved. You'll be missed during our weekly meetings, my friend, and we'll make sure to continue the great crusade you initiated.

- Pankaj Agarwal, *San Francisco*

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/ideas-voices/letters-to-the-editor-sept-18-2022/6QDYT2GGCNDCPJ4YDQGT2RTKQM/>

Dayton Daily News

Honor A.J. Wagner's work by expanding Child Tax Credit

October 1, 2022

What a beautiful and inspirational tribute to A.J. Wagner "A.J. Wagner belonged to the whole community." In that opinion piece, RESULTS was brought up, as well as Wagner's back story and belief in the power of Congress to end poverty. This story of Wagner should be a reminder to us all to carry on his work and dedication to those who are struggling to make ends me.

Last year, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most, monthly bill time, and allowed families to choose how best to use it. New data proves how well it worked.

The new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) reduced child poverty by 46 percent! In one year, the expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured. But 51 senators let the CTC expansion expire last December. This data shows they made a huge mistake. I call on all of the senators from both sides of the aisle to put aside partisan politics and pass an expansion of the CTC.

– **Sarah M. Miller, *St. Louis***

No online link

Reprinted in:

JOURNAL-NEWS
Butler County's Local News Now

No online link

SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN
Clark and Champaign Counties' Hometown News

No online link

Republican 'solutions' will make inflation worse

If cutting corporate tax rates and making billionaires wealthier actually fixed inflation, it would have been fixed ages ago.

By Peter Certo

October 26, 2022

My wife and I recently had the tremendous misfortune of needing to buy a car. Car prices, you may know, reached an all-time high between this year and last.

There are now rumblings of a gradual decline, but rising interest rates will likely offset any savings. So with our beloved but rickety 2006 Altima facing another cruel Midwestern winter alone, we bit the bullet and bought a newer used car before those rates could get any higher.

For us it was the capstone of a year we spent, like anyone else, shelling out more for gas, groceries, and everything else. It's this kind of inflation that's giving even the fringe Republican candidates an edge going into this year's midterms.

But if Republicans ride inflation to victory, experts warn their "solutions" will make it worse.

It starts with where they place the blame. GOP campaign ads blame "Joe Biden's spending," while a few conservative-leaning economists blame wage increases. Economist and former Labor Secretary Robert Reich dismisses both.

Spending alone "can't be causing our current inflation," Reich argues, "because inflation has broken out everywhere around the world, often at much higher rates than in the U.S." And "wages can't be pushing inflation, because wages have been increasing at a slower pace than prices."

Besides, what's that money being spent on?

Maureen Bowling, a single mom in Kentucky, credited Biden's expanded Child Tax Credit with helping her family out of poverty. With 9 of 10 recipients spending their payments on household necessities, she writes, those payments "eased the effects of inflation on families."

Instead, Reich puts the blame on global shortages caused by Russia's war on Ukraine and pandemic lockdowns in China — and on "big corporations that have been taking advantage of inflation by raising their prices higher."

Don't take Reich's word for the second part. Experts at the Groundwork Collaborative have documented call after call in which CEOs literally brag about gouging consumers and blaming it on inflation. "A little bit of inflation is always good in our business," confirmed Kroger CEO Rodney McMullen.

A New York Times investigation identified car dealerships as especially bad actors. No argument from me!

So, what would Republicans do about it?

Every single Republican voted against the Child Tax Credit and other social programs that help families cope with rising prices. They also voted against the Inflation Reduction Act, which will lower health care and prescription costs for millions of Americans. And they opposed a bill that would have taxed oil companies that gouge consumers at the pump and returned the proceeds to taxpayers.

Instead, reports now say Republicans will pursue their usual plan: tax cuts for billionaires and corporations. Sorry, but how's that going to help?

America's billionaires have seen their wealth increase by \$1.7 trillion since the pandemic started. If it's "inflationary" when single moms like Maureen Bowling get help with their groceries and heating bills, isn't it more inflationary when the absurdly rich get even more? And if you reward price gouging with tax cuts, won't that just encourage more gouging?

The fact is, if cutting corporate tax rates and making billionaires wealthier actually fixed inflation, it would have been fixed ages ago. Instead, the "corporate tax cuts the

Republicans are pushing would add to inflation, add to the deficit, and do little or nothing for economic growth,” concludes Harvard economist Jason Furman.

Of course, Democrats need to offer voters clearer solutions too. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) warns, “It would be political malpractice for Democrats to ignore the state of the economy and allow Republican lies and distortions to go unanswered.” He urges the party to “present a strong pro-worker agenda.”

Without one, the real winners of this fight over inflation will be the CEOs and corporations who profit from it. And believe me — they’re already doing fine with my car payment.

Peter Certo is the editorial manager of the Institute for Policy Studies and the editor of OtherWords.org. He lives in Kent, Ohio.

THE PLAIN DEALER



Congress should prioritize an expanded Child Tax Credit over corporate tax breaks

November 17, 2022

The election is over but, for families living in poverty, the daily struggle continues to pay for food, rent and utilities. Before the end of this year, our senators can take action to help families with that struggle.

In 2021, when Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC), the number of children living in poverty dropped by about 46%. Families were able to pay utility bills and avoid high-interest payday loans. But Congress failed to make the expansions permanent and child poverty rose again in 2022. One study found that employment decreased for CTC recipients after the monthly payments stopped, highlighting the importance of the CTC payments in helping families afford child care and transportation.

When Congress returns to Washington this month, extending corporate tax breaks will most likely be a part of the end-of-year agenda. We cannot allow corporations to enjoy tax breaks and then deny our American children basic needs. Thanks to Sen. Sherrod Brown for being a champion of CTC expansion; keep up the fight. Sen. Rob Portman, your legacy could be a bright future for Ohio children. Insist that tax policies speak to the value of American families and their children; make the CTC expansions permanent.

- Liz Clerkin

<https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2022/11/congress-should-prioritize-an-expanded-child-tax-credit-over-corporate-tax-breaks.html>

The Child Tax Credit should be made permanent

December 3, 2022

I am proud that the U.S. Senate passed the Respect for Marriage Act on Tuesday with both Ohio's senators voting aye. Millions of people are now closer to having their fundamental right to love and marry enshrined into law. Having proven that bipartisan cooperation is possible, Congress has urgent work yet to be done to protect vulnerable communities.

One in five children in Lorain County don't know where their next meal is coming from. In 2021, when Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit, the number of children living in poverty dropped by about 46 percent. Families were able to pay for utility bills and avoid high-interest payday loans. But Congress failed to make the expansions permanent and child poverty rose again in 2022. One study found that employment decreased for CTC recipients after the monthly payments stopped, highlight the importance of the CTC payments in helping families afford childcare and transportation.

It is very likely that another priority during the lame duck session will be extending corporate tax breaks. We cannot allow corporations to enjoy tax breaks and then deny our American children basic needs. Thanks to U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Cleveland, for being a champion of CTC expansion; keep up the fight. The legacy of Sen. Rob Portman, R-Cincinnati, could be a bright future for Ohio children. Insist that tax policies speak to the value of American families and their children. Make the CTC expansions permanent.

- Allison Gallaher, *Grafton*

No online link

Oklahoma media



Child tax credit should be renewed

May 22, 2022

As families face rising costs, it's important to remember how crucial the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) has been for children and families.

According to a recent study from the Brookings Institution, the 2021 changes to the CTC, including sending it as a monthly payment, had a profound impact. Child poverty dropped by 40%.

CTC recipients lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education, and were less likely to rely on payday loans. Families spent their CTC payments on rent, food, and clothes for their kids – the same costs that are going up for us all now.

But some lawmakers stopped an extension of the CTC payments. As a result, 3.7 million children fell below the poverty line in January. And 1.4 million CTC households have had parents left their jobs because they can no longer afford child care.

Economists say extending the CTC is critical to help families facing rising costs from inflation. How much more evidence do lawmakers need before they do the right thing?

RESULTS Oklahoma volunteers call on U.S. Reps. Kevin Hern, Markwayne Mullin, Frank Lucas, Tom Cole, and Stephanie Bice and Sens. Jim Inhofe and James Lankford to extend the CTC with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments immediately.

– Star Okolie, *Tulsa*

https://tulsaworld.com/opinion/letters/letter-child-tax-credit-should-be-renewed/article_e6d34052-d6f2-11ec-b19c-5704af85e526.html



Extend child tax credit now

By the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Editorial Board

November 8, 2022

Lobbyists are lining up to push Congress to approve more corporate tax breaks before Jan. 1, including extending deductions for research and development. Supporters argue that U.S. businesses need such incentives to keep the nation competitive in the world economy.

But nothing boosts the nation's ability to compete as much as a direct investment in the health and security of its children. As members of Congress negotiate a year-end budget package, they should not approve more incentives for big business, without also extending an expanded Child Tax Credit.

Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation — including U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey, a Republican, and Bob Casey Jr., a Democrat; as well as U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, an Allegheny County Democrat — ought to make sure an extension of the expanded Child Tax Credit becomes part of any bipartisan year-end budget package. Ideally, Congress should make the expanded CTC permanent. At minimum, Congress should extend it for two years, and make it retroactive for this year.

No federal program has been more effective. The expanded CTC benefited 60 million children and helped reduce U.S. child poverty rates by 46%, said Ken Patterson of RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocacy group. Not surprisingly, Columbia University researchers found a 41% increase in child poverty, after expanded monthly Child Tax Credits stopped in January.

In Pennsylvania, the program helped an estimated 1.4 million families with 2.4 million children. Children in the poorest of those families face hunger, instability and prospects nearly as dim as those of the displaced children of Ukraine. Middle- and

working-class families also received the expanded CTC; in fact, they received most of the benefits.

Under last year's American Rescue Plan, the maximum Child Tax Credit increased to \$3,000, or \$250 a month, for each child aged 6 to 17; and to \$3,600, or \$300 a month, for younger children. More than 90% of all families with children received an average benefit of \$4,380, reports the Tax Policy Center. The CTC became the largest federal cash-support program for children in 2021. Monthly installments enabled families to budget for food, utility and housing costs. Some families opened their first bank account.

The former child tax credit program left out millions of poor children whose families did not earn enough to qualify. By making the CTC fully refundable, low-income families received the full benefit.

Expanded monthly CTC payments, however, applied only to 2021. (Families who didn't file taxes for 2021 can still claim a full Child Tax Credit for last year.) Shamefully, the U.S. Senate failed to renew the CTC expansion for 2022, tossing nearly 4 million children back into poverty.

Owing to congressional inaction, 19 million children in the lowest income families no longer get the full value of the CTC, said Meredith Dodson of RESULTS. Galloping inflation rates of roughly 9% this year worsened the economic plight of children and families.

Any version of the Child Tax Credit approved before Jan. 1 should not include work requirements. Work requirements sound reasonable, but they withhold money from the children who most need it and aggravate racial disparities. They also fail to account for circumstances common in poor families, such as children living with retired grandparents; and interfere with education and training that are essential to making families self-sufficient.

Extending an expanded Child Tax Credit this year is a moral, social and economic imperative. Historically, nearly 20% of U.S. children live in poverty, a figure close to Mexico's rate, reports the international Organization for Economic Development. The attendant impacts of poverty on a child's development, health and safety are

formidable: They influence how the body and mind develop, widen academic achievement gaps, undermine health, reduce access to educational resources, and put children in proximity to crime, violence and environmental toxins.

Extending the expanded Child Tax Credit would alleviate all of those problems for the key to the nation's future — its children. Shame on members of Congress if they adjourn for the holidays without first taking care of their most important priority.

https://www.swoknews.com/coronavirus/editorial-extend-child-tax-credit-now/article_aa5c5686-15b9-5210-940f-a2639078abeb.html



Child Tax Credit missing from bill

October 11, 2022

Dear Editor,

I am pleased that the Inflation Reduction Act will help Americans by reducing health care costs and making corporations pay a fairer share of taxes.

But there is one big thing missing from the bill — the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC).

The 2021 CTC expansion with monthly payments was nothing less than extraordinary. After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped by 40 percent, food security increased, and families finally made ends meet. But Congress let the expanded CTC expire at the end of last year. With child poverty again on the rise and families still struggling with higher costs for rent and food, Congress must to bring it back.

Congress is expected to pass a bipartisan tax bill at the end of this year, which will include tax breaks for corporations. That bill must prioritize children and families first. I urge our members of Congress to pass an expanded Child Tax Credit that reaches the lowest-income families and includes monthly payments in any tax legislation this year.

Sincerely,

Robin Reyna, *Lawton*

https://www.swoknews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-to-the-editor-child-tax-credit-missing-from-bill/article_6ce6c90c-abbd-56a8-aa5e-ac7d17fd18df.html

Oregon media



Think Locally, Act Nationally

February 10, 2022

Thanks for the inspirational local effort to deal with the housing crisis with Safe Sleep Sites. ("It Takes a Village" by Clayton Franke, EW 2/3) The in-depth report on the Everyone Village details this respectful way to make a difference, including people in need of housing in the process.

Nationally, Build Back Better also has answers for the housing crisis, but it is still stalled in the Senate. One way to help relieve the housing crisis is to ask those who represent us to support this initiative by passing the Build Back Better Act. It is time for the housing and hunger crises to be dealt with. When people speak up, it becomes good politics for Congress to take action. Please do your part.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2022/02/10/think-locally-act-nationally/>



Federal Help On Housing

March 17, 2022

Refreshing to see a landlord's point of view being working together to support the belief that reasonable rent and home ownership belongs to all ("Landlords Can Support Renters" by Eva Chava Kronen, EW 3/10). New local ideas and legislation are helping to deal with the housing crisis, but federal help is needed as well. Congress attempted to do just that with the Build Back Better Act, but 51 senators stood in the way. The child tax credit, housing relief and child care initiative alone would have critically benefited families in difficult times.

We can thank Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley for supporting these initiatives and encourage them to keep going until these crises are no longer with us. Our voices raised in gratitude and encouragement will help create the political will to pass these initiatives and create a better future for America's families.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2022/03/17/federal-help-on-housing/>



It's Time For The Rich To Help Out

March 24, 2022

I applaud the letter (EW 3/17) calling attention to struggling families lacking income for basic needs.

The Child Tax Credit lifted more than 30 percent of U.S. kids from poverty in 2021. But Congress allowed the 2021 CTC extra provisions to expire in December, so now in January 2022, 3.7 million children fell into poverty — a 41 percent increase.

In 2020, more than 50 of the largest U.S. companies paid no federal taxes at all (Forbes.com, April 2, 2021). In the 1950s, corporations accounted for about 40 percent of federal income. Today it's just about 7 percent.

We can afford to give our kids the basic resources to thrive. We must change the tax code to make the rich and large corporations pay their fair share. Thank god much-needed tax reform looms large on President Joe Biden's agenda.

Note: If you qualified for Child Tax Credit monthly payments last year, go to [ChildTaxCredit.gov](https://childtaxcredit.gov) to learn how to claim the rest of your credit.

– **Donna Schindler Munro, *Bremerton, Washington***

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2022/03/24/its-time-for-the-rich-to-help-out/>



Weigh in now

April 13, 2022

Sad to see the homelessness counts rise significantly. ("Homeless count finds increases," Columbia Gorge News, March 30, 2022). Right now Congress is working on appropriations for next year, so it is the perfect time to contact your representative. Tell them to weigh in with the appropriations committee, asking to raise funding levels for affordable housing and housing vouchers. The first will take time, but an increase in housing vouchers can help families more immediately, and both are needed.

In addition, the Child Tax Credit helped millions pay rent and buy food before it lapsed. Renewing the Child Tax Credit can help families remain in their homes, so ask your member of Congress to vote in favor of renewing the Child Tax Credit.

By speaking to our members of Congress we can help create the political will for action to bring an end to homelessness.

Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-april-13-2022/article_4b1cbb1a-baa6-11ec-ae7a-2f7b5ec73d2e.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Weeklies are What's Happening

May 26, 2022

Happy 40th birthday year to Eugene Weekly! ("Vol. 1, No. 1," 5/19). Weekly papers are America's heart: local stories, celebrations and concerns, along with a forum for discussion. Whether it is local issues such as homelessness, national issues like tax fairness (i.e. the Child Tax Credit renewal) or global issues like the pandemic and support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, readers learn and discuss all in these pages. Not to mention elections, reproductive rights and climate degradation.

So happy birthday and thanks for all you do, from an appreciative out-of-town reader and conversation participant.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2022/05/26/weeklies-are-whats-happening/>



Courage to make changes is needed

June 10, 2022

Courage to make big changes is needed to keep America on the path to becoming a safe and equitable country for all ("We need that depth of courage again," Mark Aron, May 31).

Our voices can help stem the tragedy of gun violence, battle climate change, stop the homelessness tsunami and bring an end to child hunger and poverty. After all, the expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty by nearly \$4 million, helped families pay rent and buy food, and more. This is an example of proven congressional action; sadly it failed to be renewed.

It is not too late for any of these issues. Call on your members of Congress, 202-224-3121, asking them to take action today, reminding them what they do or don't do will determine your vote in the next election.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

https://www.gazettetimes.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-courage-to-make-changes-is-needed/article_7eb95593-db18-5ca1-8cbf-902e6178f409.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Also printed in:



https://www.gazettetimes.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-courage-to-make-changes-is-needed/article_7eb95593-db18-5ca1-8cbf-902e6178f409.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Bring Back The Child Tax Credit

June 16, 2022

I agree with the recent letter about Child Tax Credit ("Weeklies are What's Happening" by Willie Dickerson, Letters 5/26). Under the American Rescue plan, which President Joe Biden signed in 2021, it made the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) available to all low-income families for the first time. This change alone reduced the number of children living below the federal poverty line by almost half.

Since the monthly CTC payments stopped in January, families are facing increased hardship. Monthly child poverty rate has since increased 41 percent from December 2021 to January 2022 alone.

The House has passed the CTC in the Build Back Better Act. Now it's time for the Senate to step up and help those children who need it most. Call or write your senators and urge them now to vote for and extend the Child Tax Credit.

- Janet Brumbaugh, *West Linn*

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2022/06/16/bring-back-the-child-tax-credit/>



Congress will tackle all crises

July 20, 2022

Thanks to the editors for picking Michael Paul Williams' piece on solutions to gun violence ("U.S. gun violence knows no boundaries. Our solutions must cross divides," July 13).

He says solutions must cross divides. The bullets sure are. Same goes for our other crises of lack of affordable housing and child care, along with a lack of equity in health care and income taxes. The number of Americans struggling is growing. Why did the proven Child Tax Credit not get extended? Good timing for questions as we enter the midterm elections.

Ask the hard questions and vote accordingly. Encourage bipartisan work such as the recent gun legislation. Congress will tackle all the crises we face if we demand it.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

https://democratherald.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-congress-will-tackle-all-crises/article_529899b8-02ef-11ed-b0f7-7f91183cfcfe.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Also printed in:



https://www.gazettetimes.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-congress-will-tackle-all-crises/article_570d5422-1525-5206-9bb8-642a6059f533.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Fight Inequity On Many Fronts

August 25, 2022

Congratulations to those responsible for the Black Cultural Festival, a special time for healing of Eugene's scarred history ("Healing History's Wounds" by Irene Rasheed, EW 8/18). On the national scale the Inflation Reduction Act is beginning to address some inequities in health care and the dangers of climate change. Sadly, the expanded Child Tax Credit was not a part of it. Hunger and affordable housing were exacerbated when this tax credit failed. Unfortunately, it is always the poor and minorities who are affected most. So let's make sure we elect candidates that will continue to put America on the road to equity, a healing in itself.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2022/08/25/fight-inequity-on-many-fronts/>



Take a tiny step, cast informed vote

October 31, 2022

Tristan VanBrocklin is right about the power of each person's vote. ("Voting is a step toward better world," Oct. 30)

Voting for candidates who are working to make a difference, like renewing the Child Tax Credit that lifted 40% of children out of poverty. Proven initiatives like this are good litmus tests for which candidates we vote for.

Pick your crisis: housing, health care, hunger, child care, and ask candidates how they will make a difference, or in the case of incumbents look at their records. Then take your "tiny step toward making a better world" and cast an informed vote.

– **Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington***

https://democratherald.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-take-a-tiny-step-cast-informed-vote/article_07e28816-5952-11ed-8656-d71f9f9bbfa0.html

Also printed in:



https://www.gazettetimes.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-take-a-tiny-step-cast-informed-vote/article_f2a34629-6283-5c4a-8665-4cf684434902.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



DeFazio must focus on Child Tax Credit

November 9, 2022

This week's cold weather is putting the families living in tents and cars around Corvallis in jeopardy again.

They need serious assistance. Our shelters do not cover the needs of families.

Part of the solution is for Congress to renew the Child Tax Credit to what it was in 2021. The 2021 American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit for millions, and this slashed the poverty rate by 40%!

The monthly Child Tax Credit payments gave parents the freedom and flexibility to cover rent, food and utilities when they needed it most — monthly bill time. It was a ladder out of poverty and helped stop the flow to homelessness.

But that ladder was snatched away last January. It is imperative that Congress restore the Child Tax Credit for these families to what it was last December. Our Rep. Peter DeFazio must focus on getting this done before the year ends, to help our most vulnerable children.

– **Peter Stoel**, [RESULTS.org](https://results.org) volunteer, *Corvallis*

https://democratherald.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-defazio-must-focus-on-child-tax-credit/article_3486ece4-5efd-11ed-8317-f7c2476c6de1.html

Also printed in:



https://www.gazettetimes.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-defazio-must-focus-on-child-tax-credit/article_0501d944-636c-5547-a716-53084eeef234.html



Child Tax Credit

November 15, 2022

Congress has a lot of work to complete before the end of the year. That must include reinstatement of an expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC).

15% of households in Oregon reported income below the poverty line last year. The poverty rate in Klamath Falls is 23% meaning that over 1 in 4 residents of Klamath Falls live in poverty. These rates are dramatically higher than the rest of Oregon and the vast majority of residents living in poverty are children and adolescents; over 30% of children under 11 in Klamath Falls are living in poverty.

The CTC has been proven to reduce poverty rates. In 2021 CTC lifted 40% of children out of poverty. Since the payments expired last December, child poverty has increased, parents can't work because they can't afford childcare, and global inflation has made basic necessities more expensive.

Last year, we achieved an historic reduction in child poverty. We can do it again. I urge Rep. Cliff Bentz to reject any corporate tax cuts this year unless an expanded, monthly CTC for all low-income families is also included.

– Stefani Ritter

<https://www.klamathfallsnews.org/news/letter-to-the-editor-child-tax-credit>

WestLinnTidings

November 30, 2022

I agree with the recent letter about the Comprehensive Care of Alzheimer' Act ("Support for the Comprehensive Care of Alheizmer's Act" by Erik Simshauser, Letters 11/17). We also need to help care for another of our most vulnerable people, low income familes, by passing the Child Tax Credit. The CTC will give children and their families a leg up and out of poverty. Under the American Rescue plan, which President Joe Biden signed in 2021, the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) was available to all low-income families for the first time. This change alone reduced the number of children living below the federal poverty line by almost half.

Since the monthly CTC payments stopped in January, families are facing increased hardship. Monthly child poverty rate has since increased 41 percent from December 2021 to January 2022 alone.

Now it's time for the House and the Senate to step up and help those children who need us most. Call or write Congressman Schrader, Senators Merkley and Wyden and urge them to vote for the Child Tax Credit.

- Janet Brumbaugh, *West Linn*

No online link



Congress should restore expanded child tax credit

December 2, 2022

The recent midterm elections saw many voters rejecting extremist candidates and embracing those who really are trying to use government to help their constituents. Although taxes raise money that can be spent on the public good, tax policies always favor some folks more than others.

During the height of the pandemic, the expanded Child Tax Credit reduced the child poverty rate by 40%. A simple monthly payment allowed parents to stay home with their kids—or to pay for daycare so that they could go to work. The Niskanen Center supports the child tax credit, and Columbia University's Center on Poverty and Social Policy estimates that its social benefits (lower infant mortality, lower long-term health care costs, more children becoming more productive citizens) outweigh the costs by eight to one. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, has been one of the child tax credit's strongest supporters. The expanded credit was allowed to lapse, but with the lessons of the midterms in mind the members of Congress now have a chance to restore it. Please call upon your representative, of either party, to take this simple but crucial step toward creating a better America.

– Randolph Splitter, *Portland*

<https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2022/12/readers-respond-congress-should-restore-expanded-child-tax-credit.html>



Results Are On Our Mind

December 22, 2022

Looks like Austin Folnagy's work paid off in the recent Georgia election ("Georgia's On Our Mind" by Austin Folnagy, Letters 12/15). Obviously, there is more to do to ensure voters' rights and equity across our nation. For those of us who want to help these and other important changes come about without leaving home, there are groups like RESULTS (Results.org) working to pass critical legislation such as renewing the expanded child tax credit, creating better healthcare system for all, and passing a renters tax credit so millions of families don't face eviction and homelessness. Each of us can use our voices beyond voting to guide Congress in the work of equity.

RESULTS and other groups help you understand and become more effective at this work, while connecting with people of all ages and from all walks of life, wanting to make a difference. We the people can accomplish making sure Congress acts.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2022/12/22/results-are-on-our-mind/>



Perhaps it is time to better ourselves

December 31, 2022

Richard Kyte's discussion about living an ethically responsible life ("Effective altruism offers promise, pitfalls," Dec. 7, online) reminds me of the people I volunteer with in RESULTS: "sincere, thoughtful and encouraging."

All of this while working together to end hunger and poverty by working with our members of Congress to pass legislation that makes a difference in our country and our world. Like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty by 46% and helped families pay rent and bills and buy food.

Or working now to pass the End TB Now Act (S.3386/H.R.8654), which sets bold targets to reach and treat the most vulnerable populations for all forms of tuberculosis. So perhaps it is time to work with others to better ourselves and our world at the same time, by taking action in our democracy.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

https://democratherald.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-perhaps-it-is-time-to-better-ourselves/article_64d939b4-7c18-11ed-aa72-7fdab8f27c6a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Also printed in:



https://www.gazettetimes.com/corvallis/opinion/letters/letter-perhaps-it-is-time-to-better-ourselves/article_4a4bbbf8-7a2e-5cc5-946c-fc64f8ea09be.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Pennsylvania media

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Build better

January 8, 2022

I am saddened to see that the Carnegie Science Center has to close temporarily due to staffing shortages. This pandemic feels like it is never ending, and lots of people are suffering economically. We need assistance from the government by passing the Build Back Better bill. 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. I call on my senators, Pat Toomey and Bob Casey, to push this legislation through the Senate to get it passed.

– **Lily Callaway, *Lawrenceville***

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2022/01/09/Build-better/stories/202201090133>



Pass Build Back Better Act

January 10, 2022

I was saddened to read the article “Eat’n Park to close Squirrel Hill location” (Jan. 4, TribLIVE). This pandemic feels like it is never ending, and lots of people are suffering economically. We need assistance from the government by passing 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 (CTC) payments, which already have 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.

I call on Sens. Pat Toomey and Bob Casey to push this legislation through the Senate to get it passed.

- Lily Callaway, *Lawrenceville*

<https://triblive.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-pass-build-back-better-act/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Compassion on the home front

March 18, 2022

Members of Congress have shown enormous compassion for the besieged nation of Ukraine, approving more than \$13 billion in aid this month. Since the Russian invasion on Feb. 24, the U.S. Agency for International Development has provided more than \$100 million in humanitarian aid.

U.S. Senators, however, have shown far less compassion for millions of impoverished children in the United States, after child tax monthly payments ended in January. Their failure to extend the Child Tax Credit, approved by the House in November, tossed nearly 4 million children back into poverty.

Republican Pat Toomey and Democrat Bob Casey Jr., both U.S. senators from Pennsylvania, can make a huge difference by fighting to extend the Child Tax Credit now.

Build Back Better, which would have extended the credit, is dead. Another economic recovery bill, however, or even a stand-alone bill, could still include a full tax credit extension. Republican Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah has proposed a “Family Security Act” that includes a Child Tax Credit.

One way or the other, it must get done. Nearly 20% of U.S. children live in poverty, a figure that’s close to Mexico’s rate, reports the international Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Almost immediately after the Child Tax Credit monthly payments took effect in July, they cut child poverty by an estimated 30%. It provided most U.S. families with a credit against taxes of \$250 a month, or \$3,000 a year, for each child, ages 6 to 17. The credit rose to \$3,600 a year, or \$300 a month, for a child under 6.

Previously, the credit came at tax time only and maxed out at \$2,000 per child. By contrast, monthly installments enabled families to budget for food, utility and housing costs. Some families opened their first bank account.

Middle- and working-class families also received the credit — in fact, most of its benefits went to them. In Pennsylvania, the program assisted an estimated 1.4 million families with 2.4 million children. The poorest among them face daily lacerations of hunger, instability and deprivation, with prospects nearly as dim as those of the displaced children of Ukraine.

The plan to extend Child Tax Credit stalled in the U.S. Senate, after one Democrat, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, joined every Republican, including Mr. Toomey, in opposing the bill, citing inflation and the national debt. He also wanted a work requirement.

Work requirements may sound reasonable but they withhold money from the children who need it most. They also ignore circumstances common in poor families, such as children living with retired grandparents, and can interfere with education, training and efforts to become self-sufficient. Studies in the United States and Canada also show child benefits have no significant effect on workforce participation.

With inflation nearing 8%, the indifference senators have shown toward the nation's most vulnerable children is unconscionable. By extending Child Tax Credit now, however, and making the full refundability permanent, they can fulfill the nation's moral responsibilities in Ukraine and on the home front.

– The Editorial Board

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/editorials/2022/03/18/child-tax-credit-toomey-casey-manchin-build-back-better-romney/stories/202203180122>

TIMES LEADER

New anti-poverty program spans five counties

October 20, 2022

By Mark Guydish mguydish@timesleader.com

DALLAS TWP. — A sweeping new effort to pull families out of poverty covers five counties and involves more than two dozen organizations. One of them, Misericordia University, hosted a media event Thursday to unveil the breadth and multi-generational goals of “Parent Pathways of Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

The program may seem succinctly summed up in one blurb from a media kits handed out: “Parent Pathways of Northeastern Pennsylvania guides parents out of poverty through access to higher education and family-sustaining professional careers.”

But as representatives from several involved organizations made clear, the new push to break the cycle of poverty for many low-income parents with children is anything but simple.

Gretchen Hunt from The Commission on Economic Opportunity, an “anchor partner” in the program, pointed out that it isn’t enough for parents to have jobs, even if they pay reasonably well. With children, economic success may require “reliable child care,” and “strong connections to the community.” She cited Misericordia’s Ruth Matthews Bourger Women With Children program, which gives single moms a chance to live for free while pursuing a college degree, as one example of how to make big changes in a family’s chances to escape poverty.

Noting that Women With Children provides extensive support in connecting mothers with available social services, and in persistently encouraging them to work through problems, Hunt said it “incorporates all the elements of success.”

Women With Children Director Katherine Pohlidal called the Parent Pathway program a “new holistic approach” designed to connect existing local programs that help low-income parents with opportunities to advance their education. It begins with parents

filling out a one-page “Pathfinder Form” that, in turn “identifies what parents would like to do.”

The broad number of organizations involved — covering Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wyoming, Wayne and Susquehanna counties — work to make sure there is a “warm hand off” as one agency may direct parents to another in pursuing the identified goals, Pohlidal said.

The program was devised with help from The Institute, a collaboration among 13 higher education institutions, with support from CEO and The Robin Hood Foundation, a New York City poverty fighting organization. To be eligible, participants must reside in one of the five counties and have an income no higher than 250% of federal poverty guidelines for the head of the household and their dependent children.

Other partners include Unite Pennsylvania, a coordinated care network of health and social service agencies that use a shared technology platform to allow electronic referrals and sharing of information; Persistence Plus, a service providing students with messages designed to motivate lasting behavior, something Pohlidal likened to how the Women With Children “nudges” students toward success; and RESULTS, a group of volunteers trained to advocate for changes in government policy or funding that can have the biggest impact on reducing poverty.

Women With Children program graduate Asia Thomspen Olieman, who is now an attorney, is a senior associate involved with Results and spoke at Thursday’s event. “Our goal is to find people struggling in poverty and to empower them,” she said.

At the end of the event, Pohlidal invited Parent Pathways of Northeastern Pennsylvania’s network partners to the stage in Misericordia’s Lemmond Theater, assembling 24 people —all but one of them women — for a group photo.

For more information, visit parentpathwaysofnepa.org.

Extend child tax credit now

November 6, 2022

Lobbyists are lining up to push Congress to approve more corporate tax breaks before Jan. 1, including extending deductions for research and development. Supporters argue that U.S. businesses need such incentives to keep the nation competitive in the world economy.

But nothing boosts the nation's ability to compete as much as a direct investment in the health and security of its children. As members of Congress negotiate a year-end budget package, they should not approve more incentives for big business, without also extending an expanded Child Tax Credit.

Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation — including U.S. senators Pat Toomey, a Republican; and Bob Casey Jr., a Democrat; as well as U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, an Allegheny County Democrat — ought to make sure an extension of the expanded Child Tax Credit becomes part of any bipartisan year-end budget package. Ideally, Congress should make the expanded CTC permanent. At minimum, Congress should extend it for two years, and make it retroactive for this year.

No federal program has been more effective. The expanded CTC benefited 60 million children and helped reduce U.S. child poverty rates by 46%, said Ken Patterson of RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocacy group. Not surprisingly, Columbia University researchers found a 41% increase in child poverty, after expanded monthly Child Tax Credits stopped in January.

In Pennsylvania, the program helped an estimated 1.4 million families with 2.4 million children. Children in the poorest of those families face hunger, instability and prospects nearly as dim as those of the displaced children of Ukraine. Middle- and working-class families also received the expanded CTC; in fact, they received most of the benefits.

Under last year's American Rescue Plan, the maximum Child Tax Credit increased to \$3,000, or \$250 a month, for each child aged 6 to 17; and to \$3,600, or \$300 a month, for younger children. More than 90% of all families with children received an average benefit of \$4,380, reports the Tax Policy Center. The CTC became the largest federal cash-support program for children in 2021. Monthly installments enabled families to budget for food, utility and housing costs. Some families opened their first bank account.

The former child tax credit program left out millions of poor children whose families did not earn enough to qualify. By making the CTC fully refundable, low-income families received the full benefit.

Expanded monthly CTC payments, however, applied only to 2021. (Families who didn't file taxes for 2021 can still claim a full Child Tax Credit for last year.) Shamefully, the U.S. Senate failed to renew the CTC expansion for 2022, tossing nearly 4 million children back into poverty.

Owing to Congressional inaction, 19 million children in the lowest income families no longer get the full value of the CTC, said Meredith Dodson of RESULTS. Galloping inflation rates of roughly 9% this year worsened the economic plight of children and families.

Any version of the Child Tax Credit approved before Jan. 1 should not include work requirements. Work requirements sound reasonable, but they withhold money from the children who most need it and aggravate racial disparities. They also fail to account for circumstances common in poor families, such as children living with retired grandparents; and interfere with education and training that are essential to making families self-sufficient.

Extending an expanded Child Tax Credit this year is a moral, social and economic imperative. Historically, nearly 20% of U.S. children live in poverty, a figure close to Mexico's rate, reports the international Organization for Economic Development. The attendant impacts of poverty on a child's development, health and safety are formidable: They influence how the body and mind develop, widen academic achievement gaps, undermine health, reduce access to educational resources, and put children in proximity to crime, violence and environmental toxins.

Extending the expanded Child Tax Credit would alleviate all of those problems for the key to the nation's future — its children. Shame on members of Congress if they adjourn for the holidays without first taking care of their most important priority.

- The Editorial Board

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/editorials/2022/11/06/child-poverty-pat-toomey-bob-casey-mike-doyle/stories/202211060063>

Reprinted in:

Bedford Gazette
Published Continuously Since 1805. One of America's Oldest Newspapers.

https://www.bedfordgazette.com/editorial/extend-child-tax-credit-now/article_12ae290c-cfa7-5cbf-aaea-9f3025c1f35e.html

The Sentinel

Our two Congressmen can address child poverty

December 5, 2022

After the recent election, residents of Newville like me really have two Congressmen: our current one, John Joyce, and the one who will represent Newville in January, Scott Perry. Newville was on the old boundary between districts and got shuffled to the other one. Confusing, but how many Americans have two members in Congress for a couple of months?

Both have an opportunity to address child poverty between now and January. In an August guest essay in The Sentinel, Shippensburg University professor Lawrence Eppard listed the well documented costs that child poverty extracts from children and from our society. I'll just summarize: less child poverty is a lot better for everyone. For the year 2021, government policy nearly eliminated child poverty by extending the full Child Tax Credit to all families. What could be more bipartisan than the full Child Tax Credit for all children? Unfortunately, both representatives opposed it during the pandemic, and now the expansion has expired. Maybe they think child poverty isn't important in their districts.

In the next two months, Congress takes up renewal of some lucrative business tax breaks. Tax policies give businesses incentives to build facilities and do research and experimentation. They would do these without the tax breaks, but the breaks boost profits. This time, why not pair the tax breaks with expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all families? One of them boosts profits and the other invests in our country's children.

With the Republicans taking control of the U. S. House, Representatives Joyce and Perry will probably get responsible positions to influence policies next year. We should ask them to do something responsible now – expand the Child Tax Credit. The Sentinel prints their contact information, so please give them a call.

– **Bruce Kessler, *Newville***

https://cumberlink.com/opinion/letters/letter-our-two-congressmen-can-address-child-poverty/article_cb9d4e6e-70b1-11ed-8d02-e36dc6af4e9a.html

**Rhode Island
media**

South Carolina media

Make credit permanent

November 17, 2022

Inflation could make the coming holidays especially hard for South Carolina's poor children.

We can contribute to food banks and toy drives, but Congress has the power to reduce child poverty permanently with an expanded child tax credit in its year-end tax package.

In 2021, the expanded child tax credit helped cut child poverty by a historic 46%. Parents used the monthly payments to cover essentials such as food, rent, utilities and clothing.

The funds reduced children's hunger and improved their health and educational success. But after the payments expired last December, child poverty increased.

When 1.4 million parents could no longer afford child care, they had to leave the workforce just as global inflation made necessities even harder to afford.

As Congress negotiates its year-end tax package, many members favor giving generous tax breaks to wealthy corporations.

While tax incentives for research and development may benefit the U.S. economy, investing in families is also essential for our long-term economic health.

In addition to making families stronger and more self-sufficient, these payments boost consumer spending by \$27.6 billion, generate \$2 billion in state and local tax revenue and create half a million jobs.

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott sits on both the Banking and Finance committees. I urge him to help South Carolina's families by rejecting any tax package that does not include permanent, expanded child tax credit payments for all low-income families.

- Mary Lash, *Piedmont*

https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-lindsey-graham-s-strategies-for-african-american-votes-miss-the-mark/article_28954ee8-4ef0-11ed-8c89-573714c0f6cc.html

South Dakota media

Tennessee media



Extend child tax credit to take children back out of poverty

July 17, 2022

Your paper recently reported that the U.S. economy shrank by 1.5% in the first quarter. The article says 'the painful grip of high inflation ... has caused particularly severe hardship for lower-income households, many of them people of color.' Interestingly, the temporary COVID-19 relief expansion of the child tax credit expired at the end of last year. The Center on Budget Policies and Priorities found that families with incomes below \$35,000 pumped those monthly tax credits directly into the economy by paying for basic needs: food, utilities, rent, clothing and education costs like internet access. Between December and January, the stoppage of the payments caused a 41% increase in poverty, pushing 3.7 million children back into poverty. Over 200,000 of those children live in Tennessee.

The reconciliation package being discussed in the Senate could address this hardship if it were to include an extension of the child tax credit with permanent full refundability reaching the lower-income households and reimplementing of the monthly payment option. Do it, Congress. Our kids deserve no less.

- Anne Child, *Knoxville*

No online link



Tell candidates to expand the child tax credit again

October 9, 2022

Lawrence Williams, the founder of the Safe Haven House in East Knoxville, said, 'I can't tell a young man to stop doing certain things if I don't have anything to offer him. You'd be surprised at what just a meal can do,' as reported in the article 'To end gun violence, leaders say, Knoxville must alleviate stifling Black poverty.' Also in that edition, in an article on President Joe Biden's strategy to end hunger, the administration acknowledges this need and is planning to expand 'benefits that help low-income Americans buy food.'

Cuts to safety nets and changes to tax policies have increased the disparity between rich and poor, increasing despair and decreasing hope for struggling young families. Local nonprofit efforts and the Biden administration's promotion of healthy foods may help, but congressional action is needed now.

In 2021, the American Rescue Plan cut child poverty by more than a third by expanding the child tax credit to reach the lowest-income families with monthly payments. Not only could families pay the bills, they ate healthier, invested in education and avoided predatory payday loans. This benefited our local economy, too.

This temporary CTC expansion ended in January 2022. So did a research and experimentation tax credit for businesses. Congress is considering extending the R&E tax credit. We must make it clear to the politicians campaigning for our votes they must also include CTC expansion in any end-of-session tax legislation.

- Anne Child, *Oak Ridge*

No online link

Texas media

Work to build better safety nets for families must get more funding

January 23, 2022

Re: Jan. 18 commentary, "Not time to stop short: Building a just future."

Rep. Doggett's op-ed highlighted the need to build better safety nets for the thousands of families still on the brink in these still-perilous times.

I applaud him for that. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 87% of Texas families with yearly incomes below \$35,000 spent their expanded Child Tax Credits on basic needs (food, clothing, rent, mortgage payments and utilities).

If the Senate chooses not to continue robust funding for the Child Tax Credits, low-income families will lose this critical lifeline, and we will deny funds to the 91% of Texas' children who stand to benefit from expansion.

Without the measures in the Build Back Better Plan to buoy Texas' families how will we end this pandemic? What kind of world will we leave for the next generation?

At this point, Sens. Cruz and Cornyn must support Build Back Better or make peace with doing a disservice to all of us.

- Hwa Young Lee, *Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2022/01/23/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-jan-23-2022/6577018001/>

The Dallas Morning News

Expand child tax credit

September 18, 2022

Re: "Programs helped cut child poverty — COVID-related tax credits, stimulus payments were key," Wednesday news story.

Last year, the expanded child tax credit monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most, at monthly bill time, and allowed families to choose how best to use it. New data proves how well it worked, as reported in this story. Life got better and hunger was reduced for millions of children from low-income families, but then the benefit stopped, through no fault of their own, but due to the Senate's shortsightedness.

The new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the CTC reduced child poverty by 46%. In one year, the expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

But 51 senators let the CTC expansion expire in December. This data shows they made a huge mistake.

After the election, some politicians in Congress will try to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be outrageous for Congress to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the CTC for low-income families.

I implore our members of Congress to expand the child tax credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year.

- Martin G. White, *Dallas/Turtle Creek*

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=fe377538-051b-4147-ba0c-f8eb207ef0a5

The Dallas Morning News

Yes to child tax credit expansion

September 22, 2022

Re: "Expand child tax credit," by Martin G. White, Sunday Letters.

I agree with White's letter about expanding the child tax credit. I am a teacher. I see the students whose families are struggling to make ends meet and how hard it is on them to focus in school. I see how it impacts their academic performance and overall well-being in the classroom.

We are concerned with the teacher shortage, and some think increasing teacher pay and/or lowering the standards will help. What if it is as simple as helping families and kids have enough to eat every day? What if it was about the state of the kids in the classroom, rather than what the politicians think will solve the problem?

I am willing to work for less pay if the kids I serve are able to learn, which means that they are in stable housing and have enough to eat. As White said, the child tax credit has done much to help our kids in 2021. Why not help kids, and in turn schools and our society, for good?

– **Sarah Miller, *St. Louis***

https://reader.dallasnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=79de7da8-1850-4b36-960f-1af2969182e1

Restore this tax credit as a tool to help fight childhood poverty

December 18, 2022

Congress has a term to describe at-risk areas overseas: fragile states.

There's more we can do as a country to help families and children flourish across the land. The child tax credit is that far-reaching vehicle. The credit usually comes at tax time as a refund but in 2021, thanks to the pandemic, the IRS sent qualifying families monthly checks instead of a lump sum at tax time. That money helped put food on the table and pay monthly bills like rent and utilities. This method almost halved the childhood poverty rate in our country.

Yet, that monthly method ended in January and the rate of childhood poverty surged again in an era of rising costs.

Sens. Cornyn and Cruz, as constituents we're waving a red flag for this important and necessary approach because fragile states exist in our own communities.

– Cathy White and Susan Lamb, *Cedar Park and Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2022/12/18/austin-american-statesman-letters-to-the-editor-dec-18-2022/69723905007/>



Poverty crisis

December 19, 2022

Regarding "Editorial: Did American fusion breakthrough just save the planet?" (Dec. 13): In regard to the recent breakthrough in fusion energy, how exciting it is to imagine a future with unlimited clean energy. This is proof positive that when we invest in trying to solve big problems, many times we discover big solutions. Another problem we face is the age-old crisis of child poverty in America. Last year Congress made a big investment in reducing child poverty with the expanded Child Tax Credit monthly payments. Like the fusion experiment, it too worked. In 2021 child poverty dropped by 46 percent, the largest single drop on record. This was mainly due to the expanded CTC. Sadly, Congress let the expansion expire and child poverty has gone back up.

We have found the solution to child poverty. We must bring it back. I urge senators Cornyn and Cruz to expand the CTC in a year-end spending bill.

– **Stacey Green, *Houston***

No online link

Utah media

The Salt Lake Tribune

Reduce childhood poverty: Pass the Family Security Act 3.0

September 25, 2022

The 2021 U.S. census shows that rates of children in poverty, when assessed with the Supplemental Poverty Measure, declined from 9.7% of the population to 5.2% — a stunning 46% reduction vs. 2020. This decline represents 3.4 million children and is mostly attributable to expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) benefits implemented under the American Rescue Plan.

However, those expired in December and were not extended via the Inflation Reduction Act. Sen. Mitt Romney has proposed the Family Security Act 2.0 as a legislative fix. It would provide monthly benefits of \$350 for each young child (0-5 years) and \$250 for those 6-17 years. Sadly, however, he does not see this measure as an effort to combat poverty, but only as strengthening marriage and encouraging larger families. Accordingly, his plan penalizes the most vulnerable — single parent and very-low-income families vs. families with two parents and/or earning up to \$400,000/year. Similarly, his proposed funding mechanisms reduce other supportive benefits such as the Earned Income Credit.

Rescue Plan data show that families used the expanded CTC benefits for basic necessities such as food, rent, child care, debt reduction and school expenses. This improved financial stability for children will substantially improve their ability to break intergenerational cycles of poverty by reducing malnutrition and housing instability, while improving school success and future earnings

Accordingly, we applaud Sen. Romney's efforts, but also encourage him to draft a version 3.0 that addresses these structural concerns, and to bring his Republican colleagues on board.

We have seen what Child Tax Credit benefits can do, especially when reaching the most vulnerable among us. We must put our money where our mouth is and invest in our children, our families, and our country's future.

- Ellen Brady, *Murray*

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2022/09/25/letter-reduce-childhood-poverty/>



We need Romney and Lee to work together on family legislation

The rates of child poverty are declining. We need our senators to continue the progress to help families out of poverty

October 1, 2022

Utah Sens. Mike Lee, left, and Sen. Mitt Romney speak during a South Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting at Salt Mine Productive in Sandy on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022. Kristin Murphy, Deseret NewsPurchase Photo

The 2021 U.S. Census showed that rates of children in poverty declined from 9.7% of the population in 2020 to 5.2% in 2021, a stunning 46% reduction representing 3.4 million children. These reductions are largely attributable to expanded child tax credit benefits implemented by the American Rescue Plan. However, those expired in December and were not extended via the Inflation Reduction Act.

Sen. Mitt Romney has proposed the Family Security Act 2.0 as a legislative fix. It would provide monthly benefits of \$350 for each young child (0-5 years) and \$250 for those 6-17 years. Some aspects need “tweaking” to ensure equity for those most in need, as the current plan penalizes single parent and very-low-income families compared to two parent and high-income families. Similarly, funding mechanisms should not rob other safety net benefits such as the earned income tax credit.

Accordingly, we urge our Sens. Romney and Lee to help craft an acceptable version of this bill and push it through Congress. We have seen what a child tax credit can do. We must put our money where our mouth is — supporting children and families.

– Ellen Brady, Murray

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2022/10/1/23378739/opinion-romney-lee-to-family-security-act-2-0>



How could we let the child tax credit expire?

The child tax credit helped lift many children out of poverty

October 15, 2022

I am not living in poverty and I do not have children. But last year, the expanded child tax credit monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most. New data proves how well it worked.

The new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the 2021 child tax credit reduced child poverty by 46%. In one year, the expanded child tax credit pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

Fifty-one senators let the child tax credit expansion expire last December. How could we let this happen?

Our members of Congress need to expand the child tax credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year. This isn't just good for children, it's good for all of us to live in a society that invests in its own future.

– Naresh Kumar, *Salt Lake City*

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2022/10/15/23403150/opinion-expand-child-tax-credit-children-poverty>

The Salt Lake Tribune

Expanded Child Tax Credit drastically cut the child poverty rate. It must be brought back.

October 20, 2022

I am not living in poverty and I do not have children. But last year, the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families when they needed it most. New data proves how well it worked.

The new 2021 U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure report shows that the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) reduced child poverty by 46 percent! In one year, the expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever measured.

51 senators let the CTC expansion expire last December. How could we let this happen?

Our members of Congress need to expand the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year. This isn't just good for children, it's good for all of us to live in a society that invests in its own future.

- Naresh Kumar, *Salt Lake City*

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2022/10/20/letter-expanded-child-tax-credit/>

The Salt Lake Tribune

Cut child poverty by expanding the Child Tax Credit

November 23, 2022

Our members of Congress have the opportunity to do something very meaningful this holiday season. They can make deep cuts into child poverty while increasing the number of parents in the workforce. How? Simply by reinstating the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Child poverty dropped nearly in half in 2021 but those gains were erased when CTC payments ended in December of that calendar year, leaving too many kids going hungry through no fault of their own.

Surprisingly, when the CTC expansion ended, parental employment also dropped. That's because the tax credit aided employment, giving parents more money for childcare, transportation and stable housing, according to research from Washington University in St. Louis.

Meanwhile, the best investment the U.S. can make to stay competitive is investing in our kids, who are much more likely to finish school and contribute to the economy, and society at large, when they aren't mired in poverty and hopelessness.

The Child Tax Credit has a long history of bipartisan support. With so much to gain, I call on Sens. Mitt Romney and Mike Lee to support expanding the CTC with monthly payments to all low income families. What a gift this would be for so many children this holiday season!

– **Georgia Platts, *South Jordan***

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2022/11/23/letter-cut-child-poverty-by/>



Our senators should lift children out of poverty this Christmas

The child tax credit helped countless children receive the resources they needed to thrive. Our senators should bring it back

November 26, 2022

Stories of struggle and success color my volunteer work helping people to help themselves. I've talked to women like Sarah, who escaped a horribly abusive marriage. But after breaking free of the abuse, she found that even a full-time job couldn't pay the bills, let alone cover payments for the child care that allowed her to work. She credits the child tax credit with helping her to feed and clothe her son. Today she is studying neuroscience at Stanford University, seeking a better life for her family, and she still needs the child tax credit to make ends meet.

Many innocent children need the child tax credit in order to be satisfactorily clothed and fed. In fact, child poverty dropped 46% when the credit was expanded last year. The child tax credit even helped more parents to work, providing adequate money to cover child care and transportation costs.

Unfortunately, the expansion expired in December 2021, casting many kids back into destitution. But Sens. Mitt Romney and Mike Lee can help reinstate the improvements that helped so many kids by asking Senate leadership to prioritize expanding child tax credit before the end of the year.

- Georgia Platts, *South Jordan*

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2022/11/26/23474158/child-tax-credit-impact-on-children>

Vermont media



Further Feeding

March 30, 2021

[Re paid post from Hunger Free Vermont: "Vermont Schools Are Feeding All Students. Let's Make That Permanent," March 14]: As someone who always had a cafeteria account in the negatives in elementary school, I teared up reading about Hannah Prescott's efforts to provide snacks to make sure students don't go hungry and the efforts of others urging for legislation that will continue pandemic-era relief for children in poverty. The temporary government efforts during COVID-19 to help low-income families and children need to remain in place. We all know that the majority of the kids who didn't have lunch money before would go right back to being hungry if relief ceased.

A recent report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities shows that government interventions during the pandemic were amazingly successful and that in 2020 the poverty rate actually went down in the U.S. That was thanks to federal assistance for things like universal school meals and the Child Tax Credit.

Why now, when average people are pinching pennies at the grocery store and gas pump and struggling to pay utility bills, is Congress not racing to extend assistance? In December, 51 U.S. senators let CTC payments expire, resulting in the child poverty rate jumping by 41 percent in January. Sens. Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders should immediately urge Washington, D.C., to extend the 2021 CTC with permanent, full refundability and resume the monthly payments as soon as possible to help keep these children from falling back into hunger and poverty. Pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

– **Felicia Bonanno, *Essex Junction***

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/letters-to-the-editor-3-30-22/Content?oid=35204164>



Vermont child tax credit not enough

June 14, 2022

I was so proud to see that the Vermont House passed its own statewide version of the child tax credit.

This is estimated to impact approximately 33,000 Vermont children at a time when rising inflation is negatively affecting the everyday lives of average Vermonters. And we know for a fact that these credits help.

In 2021, the expanded federal child tax credit was a financial lifeline for U.S. children living in poverty. The impact was immediate. Child poverty dropped by 40% after one month of payments, and research shows that recipient families spent that money on rent, food, and clothes for children. Child tax credit recipients continued to work, lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education, and were less likely to use payday loans.

But some lawmakers stopped an extension of the child tax credit payments. As a result, child poverty jumped 41% after the payments stopped. Also, many child tax credit households had to leave their jobs because they could no longer afford childcare.

I was so grateful to see Rep. Welch support Vermont's child tax credit. I would like to see Sen. Leahy and Sen. Sanders show equal support for children living in poverty. I call on Sens. Leahy and Sanders to do their utmost to extend the national child tax credit with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments immediately.

With inflation making it harder for families to make ends meet, what more do lawmakers need to do the right thing?

- Felicia Bonanno, *Essex Junction*

https://vtdigger.org/letters_to_editor/vermont-child-tax-credit-not-enough/



Congress must extend the child tax credit now

August 2, 2022

Congress needs to prove its concern for our country's children by passing the expanded child tax credit.

Phil Scott recently signed a tax cut package into law that will send \$1,000 for every child 5 and under to Vermont households making \$125,000 or less. Vermont has taken action to support its children; now it's time to do the same for the rest of the country.

This was in response to 51 senators blocking the extended child tax credit, which had passed in the U.S. House. The senators blocking the extended tax credit caused payments to families to stop last January. Child poverty has since skyrocketed. Now, with inflation driving up rent, food, and gas prices, Congress must act.

The 2021 child tax credit expansion was extraordinary. After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped by 40 percent, food security increased, and families finally made ends meet. One important reason for this success was that, for the first time, the child tax credit was fully refundable, making all low-income children eligible for the full child tax credit.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, has now proposed a new "child allowance" similar to the expanded child tax credit. This is encouraging, but his credit still excludes the lowest-income children.

Families and children need help now. I urge Sen. Leahy, Sen. Sanders and Rep. Welch to follow their state's lead and pass an expanded child tax credit that reaches the lowest-income families with monthly payments as soon as possible.

- Jake West, *Burlington*

https://vtdigger.org/letters_to_editor/congress-must-extend-the-child-tax-credit-now/



No corporate tax cuts without expanding the child tax credit

November 8 2022

Last week, The Washington Post revealed that Collins Dictionary has declared “permacrisis” the 2022 Word of the Year. Collins defines the term as “an extended period of instability and insecurity.”

Yet many Vermont families don’t need a dictionary to define the term as they continue to struggle paycheck to paycheck.

Last year, the expanded child tax credit monthly payments put money back into the hands of American families at monthly bill time. This allowed families to choose how best to use the money, and data showed it was used for rent, food, and child care. According to a recent report by the Public Assets Institute, approximately 14,000 fewer people were living in poverty in Vermont in 2021 than in 2019. In the country overall, child poverty dropped by 46 percent (U.S. Census data).

The expanded child tax credit is a pro-family policy that works. After the election, some politicians in Congress want to pass tax credits for large corporations. It would be scandalous for Congress to pass tax cuts for the wealthy without expanding the child tax credit.

If lawmakers truly care about family values, they will expand the child tax credit to all low-income families, with a monthly payment option, in any tax legislation this year. Sens. Leahy and Sanders and Rep. Welch, we are counting on you to finish this legislative session strong and help put our current state of “permacrisis” behind us.

– Julia Russell, *Charlotte*

https://vtdigger.org/letters_to_editor/no-corporate-tax-cuts-without-expanding-the-child-tax-credit/

Virginia media

Fund rental assistance

March 18, 2022

It's no longer news that prices for food and gas have skyrocketed, burdening many low- and middle-income Americans. Additionally, America's affordable housing crisis is getting worse. Even pre-pandemic, far too many low-income renters were spending at least half of their income on rent.

Currently in Virginia, a renter must make \$24.41 an hour to afford a two-bedroom rental. At the current minimum wage, it would take a 103-hour work week to afford that same rental, as per the National Low-Income Housing Coalition.

Congress has the power to alleviate the crushing financial burden falling on America's renters. Federal rental assistance helps households afford rent and lifts millions of households above the poverty line each year. However, it is chronically underfunded — only 1 in 4 renters can obtain a voucher.

As Congress works to pass a new package of investments in America's children, workers and families, I urge Virginia Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner to advocate and include a robust investment in rental assistance in any proposed spending bill.

- Michaela Mishoe, *Richmond*

https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-for-march-18-2022-fund-rental-assistance/article_978bdf12-7df1-57d3-be77-522e320213ba.html



Extend the Child Tax Credit now

May 13, 2022

Dear Editor,

Many Virginia families are faced with the fact that life is getting harder to afford without the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Congress broadened the CTC to include all families with low incomes and allowed the credit to be received through monthly, fully refundable payments. In Virginia, with a total of \$388.1 million going to families every month, the payments reached 1.56 million children. Most of these families spent the CTC on food, rent, and clothing.

But these payments no longer exist. Some lawmakers stopped an extension of the CTC payments at the end of last year. Thousands of Virginia families immediately lost income while inflation increased. This loss of payments means an increase in poverty levels back to the rates seen prior to the CTC expansion. In the 8th, 10th, and 11th Districts of Fairfax County, 11.4%, 4.6%, and 7.8%, respectively, of children were already living under the poverty level according to the 2020 census figures.

To offset the impact of rising inflation, the CTC should be extended by Congress with full refundability and monthly payments. In Virginia, the \$388.1 million that families received was estimated to generate \$485.1 million in spending in local economies monthly. Not extending the CTC is not only a reflection of our nation's morals but a decision that withholds billions of crucial dollars from our economy. I call on our members of Congress to extend the CTC with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments now.

– Alyssa Fortner, *Vienna*

https://www.fairfaxtimes.com/articles/opinions/extend-the-child-tax-credit-now/article_8d3f039a-d22f-11ec-9884-678f825cc1db.html



Bring back child tax credit

May 17, 2022

This tax season, many Virginia families are faced with the fact that life is getting harder to afford without the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Congress broadened the CTC to include all families with low incomes and allowed the credit to be received through monthly, fully refundable payments. Nationally, the CTC dramatically reduced child poverty. In Virginia, with a total of \$388.1 million going to families every month, the payments reached 1.56 million children. Most of these families spent the CTC on food, rent, and clothing.

But these payments no longer exist. Some lawmakers stopped an extension of the CTC payments at the end of last year. Thousands of Virginia families immediately lost income while inflation continued to increase. This loss of payments means an increase in poverty levels back to what was seen before the CTC was expanded. For a 5th Congressional District perspective, 17.7% of children in the 5th District were already living under the poverty level, according to the most recent 2020 census figures.

To offset the impact of rising inflation costs, the CTC should be extended by Congress with full refundability and monthly payments. In Virginia alone, the \$388.1 million that families received was estimated to generate \$485.1 million in spending in local economies monthly. Not extending the CTC is not only a reflection of our nation's moral commitment to children, but also a decision that withholds billions of crucial dollars from our economy. I call on our members of Congress, including Bob Good and his fellow Virginia representatives, to extend the CTC with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments immediately.

– **Susan Schultz, Keene**

https://dailyprogress.com/opinion/opinion-letter-bring-back-child-tax-credit/article_fde6116e-d55a-11ec-a655-577c5b4de938.html

The missing piece

August 17, 2022

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

I am pleased that the Inflation Reduction Act will help Americans by reducing health care costs and making corporations pay a fairer share of taxes. But whether or not our federal lawmakers voted for or agreed with everything in the legislation, there is one big thing missing from the bill — the expanded child tax credit.

The 2021 expansion was nothing less than extraordinary. After monthly payments began in July of that year, child poverty dropped by 40%, food security increased and families finally were able to make ends meet.

In Virginia, \$388.1 million went to families every month, reaching 1.56 million children. This generated an estimated \$485.1 million in monthly spending in local economies.

But Congress let the expanded child tax credit expire at the end of 2021. With child poverty again on the rise, and families still struggling with higher rent and food costs, lawmakers must bring it back. Child poverty in Virginia, by congressional district, already ranges as high as 22%, according to 2020 census figures.

Recent news reports indicate Congress is expected to pass a bipartisan tax bill at the end of this year, which will include tax breaks for corporations. That bill must prioritize children and families first.

I urge members of Congress to pass an expanded child tax credit, which reaches the lowest-income families and includes monthly payments. Failing to extend the tax credit is not only a sad reflection of our nation's moral commitment to children; it also is a decision that withholds billions of crucial dollars from our economy.

– Susan Shultz, *Keene*.

https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-for-aug-17-2022-the-missing-piece/article_8021d4b6-497d-52c0-83d9-8e20124ba76a.html

Bring back the Child Tax Credit

December 13, 2022

The winter holidays are a time when food pantries, soup kitchens and other charities traditionally get an outpouring of support to help families in need have a nourishing meal, or to give their kids a fun present. This is an honorable tradition, and we absolutely should keep it up and give generously to help our neighbors.

Congress has a historic opportunity to make a much more lasting impact in the lives of families in poverty by bringing back the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) that issued monthly payments in 2021. These payments last year helped over 1 million families in Virginia afford basics like food, rent and clothing. Nationally, child poverty declined by 46%. But the monthly payments ended in 2021, and child poverty soared in 2022, increasing 40%.

Senators are discussing using a year-end tax and spending omnibus package to extend corporate tax cuts from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that are set to expire at the end of 2022, including one for research and development (R&D). If we can afford to cut taxes for corporations, then we can afford to lift children out of poverty. Renewing the R&D tax cut would cost \$15.5 billion a year, compared to \$12 billion for reinstating the CTC. As Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Connecticut, said at the Capitol recently, "No R&D without the CTC!"

– Randy Rosso, *Arlington*

https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-bring-back-the-child-tax-credit/article_bbfbddbe-5aeb-5293-896e-9b60b0cb6e95.html

**Washington
media**



Child Tax Credit made a difference

January 1, 2022

Thanks for the top stories of 2021. (15 stories that changed us in 2021, by the Associated Press, The Daily News, Dec. 31, 2021) Unfortunately, the 3.6 million children leaving poverty thanks to the increase in the Child Tax Credit wasn't one of these top 15. Families being able to pay rent and buy food was another result of the relief and infrastructure bills passed by Congress. Build Back Better would have/may still continue this wonderful news. We can help create this news by calling our members of Congress (202-224-3121) and ask them to pass this critical legislation in the new year.

– Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-child-tax-credit-made-a-difference/article_34914035-dbcd-5040-a6f7-fb00e6a8a495.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Child tax credit worth noting

January 4, 2022

The top stories of the past year always makes interesting reading, especially when there are stories mentioned that didn't make the top 10, along with readers' choices ("Top Stories of 2021: A year of extremes in Clark County," by The Columbian).

Not surprising to see pandemic and housing/homelessness stories pervading the lists. But what about the good news of the 3.6 million children that were lifted out of poverty by the increase in the child tax credit? Sadly, it didn't get renewed when Build Back Better wasn't voted on in the Senate. Renewing the transformational child tax credit is still possible, especially if our supportive Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell hear from us (202-224-3121) about how it makes a difference, like not having to choose between rent and food. Then this could be one of next year's top stories.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/jan/04/letter-child-tax-credit-worth-noting/>



Pass Build Back Better Bill

January 6, 2022

Let's get the Build Back Better bill passed. I am so tired of our national Congress passing bills to enrich the wealthy and to further build the military, yet being unable to bring the incomes of lower-income classes to a living-wage level. These people, children, families, aged, young folks need adequate income to be healthy and productive in our economy. Stop taxing them into poverty.

Currently our economy enables the wealthy and ignores or punishes the lower-income people who are forced to live in unhealthy and dangerous conditions often, despite their hard work. The Build Back Better bill is not a bill of "entitlement," Senator Manchin. It is a bill that at least tries to temporarily help people of low and low-middle incomes to survive and afford to provide their children and themselves with resources to grow healthy and lead productive lives in our society. These folks are our essential workers! Stop stressing them by underpaying them and hoarding wealth.

Get those "do nothing" Republicans in the Senate to vote for the Build Back Better Bill and add to it with programs of their design. Let all the Senators know that you want to improve the living conditions for our lower-middle income people by making their incomes at least adequate to survive and be healthy, and contribute to our communities.

Get the Build Back Better Bill passed.

- Lorraine Barton-Haas, MD, *Tumwater*

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article257053172.html>



Get to know Congress by participating and communicating

January 10, 2022

When it comes to Rep. Derek Kilmer and his stand on issues, it's simple. Ask him. (Kitsap Sun letters, "Where does Rep. Kilmer stand on immigration issues?" Jan. 6)

Call, write, or attend one of his many public (now Zoom) meetings, and ask him. He is a straight-forward thoughtful person who takes time to listen, consider, and answer. He appreciates hearing from constituents. His support of local and global health issues like COVID relief, the Child Tax Credit, have brought relief in our country, lifting 3.6 million children out of poverty and saving countless suffering. His global support of nutrition, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, along with education, have helped save millions around the world, improving America's standing in the process.

So if you are curious about an issue, give him a call, he will respond.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2022/01/10/get-know-congress-participating-and-communicating/9160580002/>

Push Congress to follow Spokane's example

January 18, 2022

It was great to read about the Spokane City Council allocating money for the housing crisis, one of the major causes of homelessness. In addition, the allocations for child care will help parents get back to work.

Sadly, Congress failed to continue the Child Tax Credit increase that lifted 3.6 million children out of poverty. As part of the Build Back Better legislation that recently stalled in the Senate, in spite of efforts by Washington Sen. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, the Child Tax Credit, along with critical child care funds, housing relief and health care improvements will have to wait.

Spokane's example of taking action on these critical needs can be followed in Congress, if they hear from us. Call (202-224-3121) or email those who represent you and let's move America on to equity and hope for all, instead of pushing our children back into poverty.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2022/jan/18/push-congress-follow-spokanes-example/>

WALLA WALLA

Union-Bulletin

Honor Martin Luther King by passing important initiatives

January 23, 2022

Brenda Kirk's Jan. 9 U-B letter calling for change coincides with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s family saying not to celebrate the holiday honoring their father unless a voters rights bill passes.

Meanwhile, the 3.8 million children that were lifted out of poverty by the temporary increase in the Child Tax Credit are about to fall back unless an extension contained in the Build Back Better Act passes. We can help bring these needed changes, voters rights, continue lifting children out of poverty, and more, by asking Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and our senators to pass these important initiatives.

How about honoring Martin Luther King this year by taking a little time to contact our representatives. The children and America's future depend on our participation.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/honor-martin-luther-king-by-passing-important-initiatives/article_8190f4d0-799d-11ec-bdfa-7f25497a2960.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share

Levy money keeps up quality schools

January 26, 2022

To the Editor:

What a great way to thank our teachers and school staffs for the good job facing the pandemic challenges: pass the February levy.

Of course, education benefits every member of the community, helping each of us get where we are today, and insure a bright future. We are grateful this current levy does NOT increase our taxes.

A quality education is the key to equity all over the world. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated and shined a light on these inequities in our country and around the world. A good education is the first step toward dealing with these current challenges. And in our democracy, voting is the way we promote positive steps toward change. So join me in voting to pass this critical school levy to continue our quality schools in preparing our students to meet and create a better future.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



End of tax credit sets families back

February 9, 2022

It is so encouraging to see community donations and new volunteers step up in the food banks' time of need ("Omicron empties shelves at Clark County food banks," The Columbian, Feb. 2). The recent end to the monthly refundable child tax credit is also setting families back, once again dealing with the terrible choice of buying food or paying rent.

Right now Congress is working quietly on a new proposal to take the place of the former Build Back Better Act that was blocked by 51 senators. We can step up to help by asking our representatives to make sure the child tax credit is included in whatever new legislation comes forward, along with housing relief. These initiatives help slow the need for so much food assistance and give families a ladder out of poverty.

Let's make sure Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Battle Ground, knows how important this new legislation will be, and thank Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell for leading the efforts to pass this legislation.

Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/feb/09/letter-end-of-tax-credit-sets-families-back/>



Child tax credit best option to fight poverty

February 15, 2022

Thanks for the editorial about Washington's oppressive tax system, the current state surplus, and the coming tax reform ("Taxpayers deserve down-payment on tax reforms," The Herald, Feb. 6)

The state tax system has definitely been a factor in widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots, with those experiencing poverty paying a much larger share of their income in taxes. Hopefully, next year's reform will bring a more equitable system. But as for this current surplus, there is really little to be realized from a 1 percent sales tax reduction because of record inflation, especially for those who need it most. The recent federal increase in the child tax credit provides a better example: it reached those most in need immediately, lifted 3.7 million children out of poverty, and brought a ladder out of poverty to millions of families, with dollars used for rent, food, and bills (Columbia University study).

In spite of such great results this monthly refundable tax credit ended, leaving families in a lurch. A perfect opportunity for our state to step in and provide a monthly benefit for families, derived from the current surplus. Meantime each of us can take action to insure these equity builders continue: Calling on Congress to re-instate the increased monthly refundable child tax credit, and asking our state to use the surplus to fill the gap for families in the meantime.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/child-tax-credit-best-option-to-fight-poverty/>



Fighting against poverty is what Congress should be doing

February 22, 2022

Seeing the letter to the editor entitled "The irony and the embarrassment," I assumed it would be about the 51 senators blocking the Build Back Better Act. (Kitsap Sun letters, Feb. 10)

The irony is these Senators represent millions of ordinary Americans who would have benefitted from the Child Tax Credit and other provisions in the legislation. The embarrassment is we finally found a way to lift 3.7 million children out of poverty, and millions of families finally being able to pay for food and rent, and then these 51 senators stand in the way of continuing this proven initiative.

Thanks to Washington House Representatives for passing it and voting rights, and for Senators Murray and Cantwell for backing both in the Senate. Keep pushing! Sadly, Mr. Golbeck's letter wasn't about that, instead issues of less importance that often cover America's real embarrassing issues of hunger, homelessness, and lack of equity, therein lies the irony.

Let's use our voices to make sure Congress stays with the real issues.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2022/02/22/fighting-against-poverty-what-congress-should-doing/6899057001/>



Build Back Better legislation would help families

February 23, 2022

Glad to see legislation to help renters in this time of quickly rising rents and low vacancy rates. ("More time needed for rental evictions" by Strom Peterson, Mukilteo Beacon, Feb. 16, 2022) Refreshing to see a member of the Legislature explain his answer in response to this situation.

It also makes the need for the passage of Build Back Better (BBB) by the Senate even clearer. BBB addresses the housing crisis and extends the Child Tax Credit, which has helped 90% of families with children to pay rent, buy food, and begin to dig themselves out from the pandemic.

Unfortunately, this bill is currently blocked by 51 senators, many of whom claim to have family values, but in this case are voting against families, and the proven help that reached them monthly.

We can help by thanking our Senators Murray and Cantwell for their consistent efforts to pass this and other initiatives that help families and ease the housing crisis.

At the same time encouraging their efforts to pass these important pieces of legislation, by telling them our personal stories of why it matters, and encouraging our friends in other states to do the same.

Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2022/02/23/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-build-back-better-legislation-would-help-families/22657.html>



Take action on homelessness

February 26, 2022

Sad to see the homelessness crisis on display in Wenatchee as it is across the country. ("Wenatchee homeless camp given 72 hours to relocate, residents say they don't have anywhere else to go" by Sydnee Gonzalez, The Wenatchee World, Feb. 11).

Worsened by the pandemic and being experienced by real people, as The World's story illustrates, it is time for action. "There but for fortune go you or I" as the song goes.

We need a national effort with creative local solutions to end this crisis. The Build Back Better Act has money to address this crisis, but is being held hostage in the Senate. Senators Murray and Cantwell are working to pass this and other initiatives to address the housing and homelessness crises.

A good thing for each of us to do is send them this article, thank them for their efforts, and encourage them to work on this challenge until there is no more crisis of where people can live in the world's richest country.

– Willie Dickerson, Snohomish

https://www.wenatcheeworld.com/opinion/safety-valve-letters-from-readers/article_efcf1be2-99b5-11ec-b6d7-bfc82023f536.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Congress should act to help working parents and their children

March 2, 2022

I agree with Willie Dickerson in ""Letter to the Editor: Build Back Better legislation would help families" (Feb. 22 - <https://bit.ly/3Mbwcm>) that we need action by Congress to address rising costs, such as rents and rising gas costs. This tax season, millions of low-wage workers previously taxed into poverty will get a break because of the 2021 expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

However, the 2021 CTC and EITC changes have expired and so far, it has not been extended. Just when Americans face additional financial hardships from higher costs and pandemic disruptions, our Congress is not responding with any help. Lifting millions of children and workers out of poverty creates immeasurable benefits for them and society as whole. It's also the right thing to do. I hope that Congress will address this growing problem very soon.

– Sarah Miller, *St. Louis, Missouri*

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2022/03/02/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-congress-should-act-to-help-working-parents-and-their-children/22686.html>



Restore federal Child Tax Credit to save kids from poverty

March 6, 2022

A recent article ("For homeless parents, search for housing is long and traumatic," The Herald, Feb. 20) is another reminder of just how important measures by the federal government are to help families with small kids.

As a country, we should be investing in our future, which are our kids. However, millions of Americans who work full-time jobs do not earn enough to keep a stable roof over their heads for their children. In 2021, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) kept more than 3 million children from poverty each month the payments went out. However, that extension expired on Dec. 31, 2021, and has yet to be renewed. Winter weather, rising inflation costs and covid-19 quarantines have put significant strains on already strained budgets.

If an extension to the CTC were to pass, Congress could help millions of children in our country access a safe, stable roof and adequate nutrition. Lifting millions of children and workers out of poverty creates immeasurable benefits for them and society as whole. It's also the right thing to do. I call on all of Congress to pass an extension to the CTC.

– Sarah M. Miller, *University City, Mo.*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/restore-federal-child-tax-credit-to-save-kids-from-poverty/>

WALLA WALLA

Union-Bulletin

Let's teach children how our democracy works

March 6, 2022

Kudos for the inside look at a fourth grade class, their “wall of wonder” and the year of the tiger as reported on by Annie Charnley Eveland in the Feb. 20 edition of the U-B.

Helping students appreciate differences helps them connect with others and learn tolerance. The wall of wonder gives air to student questions and thoughts.

An interesting topic in our democracy could be looking at current problems like the housing crisis and hunger. Teaching students the process of communicating with their representatives, asking questions and giving opinions would take the mystery out of our democracy.

Senator Murray once spent most of her coffee meeting one time listening to a 12 year old and his ideas, and she is not unique in welcoming input from children and adults. Our democracy depends on active citizens, so let's teach our children how it works.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

https://www.union-bulletin.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/lets-teach-children-how-our-democracy-works/article_ac11d2c0-9c06-11ec-aced-dbb88196fc04.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Let's pursue the policy that proved to help families

March 14, 2022

President Biden has called on Congress to extend the Child Tax Credit (CTC). I wholeheartedly agree.

In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC for millions of American families and sent it to them in monthly payments. Surveys show they spent this money on food, utilities, clothing, and rent. But 51 U.S. senators let the payments expire in December. As a result, this child poverty rate jumped by 41 percent in January.

Pushing children and families into poverty is unacceptable. And with all of us feeling the pinch at the grocery store, the gas pump, and our utility bills, why is Congress not racing to extend the CTC payments?

I urge our members of Congress to immediately extend the 2021 CTC with permanent full refundability and to resume the monthly payments as soon as possible. And pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

Note: If you qualified for CTC monthly payments last year, go to www.childtaxcredit.gov to learn how to claim the rest of your credit.

- Judy Arbogast, *Olalla*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2022/03/14/lets-pursue-policy-proved-help-families/7011263001/>



Renew child tax credit

March 18, 2022

Kind gestures always make a difference, from personal stories to legislation from Congress ("Kind gestures, big results," The Columbia, March 5). Lou Brancaccio's story reminds us of the difference it can make on a personal level. Last year's increase in the child tax credit felt kind to the 90 percent of families who received it, especially with the ones whose kids were lifted out of poverty. Unfortunately, those 4 million children are now back in poverty, since the increased child tax credit was not renewed when Build Back Better was held up in the Senate.

We can help with a kind gesture, asking our members of Congress to renew the child tax credit. Our children deserve it.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/mar/18/letter-renew-child-tax-credit/>



Taking care of our children

March 24, 2022

I feel compelled to comment on the letter published March 18 ("Renew child tax credit," Our Readers' Views). Child poverty in the U.S. increased 41 percent in January because the 2021 provisions of the child tax credit were not renewed. Meanwhile, the rich and large corporations don't pay their fair share of taxes. We can afford to take care of our kids.

In 2020, more than 50 of the largest U.S. companies paid no federal taxes at all (forbes.com, April 2, 2021) In the 1950s, corporations accounted for over 30 percent of federal revenue. Today it's about 7 percent. President Joe Biden acknowledges our broken system, and tax reform looms large on his agenda.

President Biden, our U.S. Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell work hard for every one of us. For now, we can call their offices and thank them and could they also button-hole a couple of naysaying senators to try to bring the Senate vote to "yes" on renewing the child tax credit provisions?

Note: If you qualified for the child tax credit monthly payments last year, go to www.childtaxcredit.gov to learn how to claim the rest of your credit.

– **Donna Schindler Munro, *Bremerton***

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/mar/24/letter-take-care-of-our-children-2/>



Bring back Child Tax Credit

April 6, 2022

It was a beautiful day to watch my grandson run in the Wenatchee Relays last Saturday, so many young people working hard in the friendly surroundings of Wenatchee High.

Children with support excel and this is a good example. I found myself thinking about the 4 million children who fell back into poverty when the expanded expanded Child Tax Credit wasn't renewed.

This was unnecessary, but 51 senators (not ours) stood in the way and blocked the renewal.

The latest news says one of those senators is calling for a new recovery package this spring. Let's add our voices and bring this ladder out of poverty back.

Our senators need to hear from us so they know how important it is to renew the Child Tax Credit; insuring a better future for the children insures a better future for America.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

https://www.wenatcheeworld.com/opinion/safetyvalve/safety-valve-letters-from-readers/article_e17a4d5a-b602-11ec-9303-a7eeeb51c86b.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Speak up to make a difference for millions

April 9, 2022

Sad to see COVID-19 funding dry up for the 465,000 Washingtonians without health insurance. Fortunately, your article, explaining what the state is doing about it, offers some hope ("State, local agencies seek to fill COVID funding gap," April 2).

This is the second effective program to run out, following the failure of Congress to renew the increased Child Tax Credit, which had lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty. No wonder families are suffering, with housing and food insecurity threatening.

Right now Congress is in the appropriations process for next year's budget and we can weigh in with our representatives asking for more COVID-19 funding and a renewal of the Child Tax Credit. In addition to helping nearly half a million of our fellow uninsured Washingtonians, 90% of families received the monthly payments from the Child Tax Credit, spending it on rent, food and paying off debt.

So let's use our voices to continue to offer a ladder out of poverty to millions, call your representative and both senators today: (202) 224-3121.

– **Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish***

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2022/apr/09/letters-for-april-9-2022/>



CTC is a tool to help families survive inflation

April 19, 2022

As Americans file their taxes, it's important to remember how important the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) has been for children and families.

According to a new study from the Brookings Institution, the 2021 changes to the CTC, including sending it as a monthly payment, had a profound impact. Child poverty dropped by 40 percent. CTC recipients lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education, and were less likely to rely on payday loans. Families spent their CTC payments on rent, food, and clothes for their kids - the same costs going up for us all now.

But some lawmakers stopped an extension of the CTC payments. As a result, 3.7 million children fell below the poverty line in January. And 1.4 million CTC households have left their jobs because they can no longer afford childcare.

Economists say extending the CTC is critical to help families facing rising costs from inflation. How much more evidence do lawmakers need before they do the right thing?

I call on our members of Congress to extend the CTC with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments immediately.

- Leslie Boyer, *Bremerton*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2022/04/19/ctc-tool-help-families-survive-inflation/7372237001/>

Power of people

Appreciation that DelBene has ear to global health needs

April 20, 2022

To the Editor:

Meeting with Rep. Suzan DelBene recently on Zoom reminded me of the power citizens have to speak to those who govern us.

Congresswoman DelBene and I have been meeting since she was elected 10 years ago, working together on issues of hunger, poverty, housing, global health, and the oppression that surrounds these issues. This time we were talking about the new pandemic and the ones that still kill at least

2 million people a year: AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. I am grateful the President pledged \$2 billion a year for the next three years to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, with the Congresswoman's full support. With any disease only a plane flight away, the Global Fund's work with middle and low income countries strengthens their health care systems, which in turn protects us locally. We also spoke of her work to renew the Child Tax Credit and creating more affordable housing. A champion of the Child Tax Credit, she was instrumental in it being included in the early COVID relief package. This tax fairness initiative lifted 3.7 million children out of poverty and helps families to afford both food and rent. Her efforts to renew this ladder out of poverty continue, and even include lobbying in the Senate to make sure families once again have this relief. So thanks for listening and all of your hard work to benefit families, Congresswoman, your efforts and willingness to listen to constituents are appreciated.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<http://snoho.com/html/letters.html>



Don't lose focus on our need for action on climate change

April 22, 2022

Ruby Eagan-Heffernan's heartfelt letter to the editor about saving the earth is a worthy call to action for all of us. ("If you love Earth, help save it," The Herald, April 10). The latest United Nations report says we have eight years till we pass the point of no return at the rate we are going.

So much stress with covid, inflation, the war in Ukraine, especially with 465,000 Washingtonians without health insurance. Not to mention the failure of Congress to renew the Child Tax Credit that had lifted 4 million children out of poverty and helped families to afford both food and rent.

Hard to think about climate change when you are sick, stressed about having enough food, or being able to pay rent. So let's speak up to our members of Congress, thanking them for supporting the Child Tax Credit, funding for covid, and more. At the same time tell them it just isn't enough. We need to deal with these equity issues and climate change based on the facts. Send them Ruby's letter, and ask them to step up once again to deal with the issues that determine if America's future will be equitable and better for all, doing what needs to be done now and before the deadline in eight years.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/dont-lose-focus-on-our-need-for-action-on-climate-change/>



Some senators work for solutions

April 24, 2022

Sad to see Congress standing in the way of climate action, even as the U.N. publishes a report that in eight years we will reach the point of no return. ("This Earth Day, Biden faces 'headwinds' on climate agenda," Associated Press, April 21). Fifty-one senators have stood in the way of this and the renewal of the child tax credit that lifted 4 million children out of poverty, as well as housing and child care solutions.

Fortunately, Washington and Oregon senators are not a part of this problem, but working hard for these solutions. Take a minute to thank them (202-224-3121) and encourage them to keep up the good work. Ask your friends in other states to find out if their senators are standing in the way or working for equity for all with these important initiatives.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/apr/24/letter-some-senators-work-for-solutions/>



Congress must resume Child Tax Credit immediately

April 25, 2022

As Americans file their taxes, it's important to remember how important the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) has been for children and families.

According to a new study from the Brookings Institution, the 2021 changes to the CTC, including sending it as a monthly payment, had a profound impact. Child poverty dropped by 40 percent. CTC recipients lived healthier lives, invested more in their children's education, and were less likely to rely on payday loans. Families spent their CTC payments on rent, food, and clothes for their kids, the same costs going up for us all now.

But some lawmakers stopped an extension of the CTC payments. As a result, 3.7 million children fell below the poverty line in January. And 1.4 million CTC households have left their jobs because they can no longer afford childcare.

Economists say extending the CTC is critical to help families facing rising costs from inflation. How much more evidence do lawmakers need before they do the right thing?

I call on our members of Congress to extend the CTC with permanent full refundability and resume the monthly payments immediately.

- Leslie Boyer, *Bremerton*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/congress-must-resume-child-tax-credit-immediately/>



Respect democracy by getting involved

May 20, 2022

Ann Giantvalley's recent letter demonstrates how to take action in our democracy that both supports our democracy and basic human rights. ("Democracy in the U.S. is in dire straits," Kitsap Sun, May 16)

The demonstration she mentioned, her letter to the editor, and writing elected officials are all good ways to support your views. Whether it is reproductive rights, renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cuts child poverty nearly in half and helps families, the housing and child care crises relief, and/or the climate crisis, letting your representatives know these issues matter to you makes a difference. Then follow-up, follow-up, follow-up.

As the elections approach, ask candidates questions about these issues and vote based on the answers. These critical issues need follow-up before and after the elections. RESULTS (results.org) teaches this kind of active citizenship and has active groups locally, across the state and the country, welcoming people of all ages to be involved. By taking these steps we show our representatives these issues matter and the process shows a "deep respect" for our democracy.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2022/05/20/respect-democracy-getting-involved/9856773002/>



Ask questions of representative

May 29, 2022

Thanks to The Columbian for doing its part in connecting residents of the 3rd Congressional District to their representative, Jaime Herrera Beutler, in “Herrera Beutler plans telephone town hall” by Lauren Ellenbecker (The Columbian, May 24).

Perfect time to ask questions of Rep. Herrera Beutler about Congress’ work to battle COVID, lack of health care, tax fairness, homelessness, gun regulation and more. For example, is she working to extend the Child Tax Credit that lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty? Are there finally enough gun deaths to do what 84 percent of voters wish for: better gun regulation? And what action does she support to battle climate change?

The representative’s answers can help voters make their choices for November and give them a chance to follow up on the answers they are given. Don’t miss this chance to ask questions of an elected representative, an important part of our democracy.

– **Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish***

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/may/29/letter-ask-questions-of-representative/>

The Seattle Times

Readers share what Juneteenth means to them

June 17, 2022

"I am grateful for the federal holiday that provides an opportunity for celebration and contemplation. America finally acknowledges its deadly hypocrisy of its tragic past of slavery and celebrates step one on the long road to equity, finally ending slavery. Sadly, over 150 years later, there is still a long way to go, which also makes this day one of contemplation: What can I do to move America towards the equity this holiday symbolizes? The pandemic spotlighted and exacerbated many of the inequities in America ... As we enter midterms, ask the hard questions of candidates and incumbents: Will you lead on the road to equity? How? Then vote accordingly and follow up. So, let's make Juneteenth a day of celebration, evaluation and action."

– Willie D. (*Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA*)

https://www.seattletimes.com/life/it-is-about-that-feeling-of-coming-home-to-family-readers-share-what-juneteenth-means-to-them/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_inset_1.1



Vote to right America's path

July 3, 2022

Leonard Pitts reminds us there are Americans like Ruby Freeman, her daughter, and Rusty Bowers who have the courage to speak the truth in a time of lies ("You choose: Simple values, or no values at all," *The Columbia*, June 27). And then Cassidy Hutchinson, former White House aide, gave us the true picture of what happened on Jan. 6, 2021. These four and others remind me of John F. Kennedy's book, "Profiles in Courage." The inspiration of these courageous truth-tellers can lead us to a stronger democracy.

Time to ask candidates their stance on American crises: hunger, housing, gun violence, climate change, tax equity, and more. Ask the hard questions and vote accordingly. Examples: What will you do to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit? Where do you stand on a woman's right to choose? Our votes can then put America back on the road to equity.

-Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.columbia.com/news/2022/jul/03/letter-vote-to-right-americas-path/>



Support Ukraine, but also American families

July 7, 2022

I agree with Sun columnist Larry Little that our commitment to Ukraine is critical on many levels and should remain strong. ("Trying not to be driven to distraction," July 2)

However, I believe our domestic challenges are "the bigger picture." With the loss of the expanded Child Tax Credit, millions of families and children were dumped back into poverty. Add to this the lack of affordable housing and child care. This at a time when our commitment to Ukraine is driving inflation, via gas, food, and other essentials that families were already struggling to cover. Too many are asking questions like should we pay rent or buy food this month? This is more than distracting, a real matter of health and hope for the future.

So let's support our commitment to Ukraine, but also to families. Our members of Congress working for families need our support and votes. Those who vote only to extend tax cuts for the rich do not. Be an informed voter by being an active citizen, speak up for families and support for Ukraine, we can and must do both!

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2022/07/07/support-ukraine-but-also-american-families/10006656002/>

Reprinted in:

yahoo!news

https://news.yahoo.com/support-ukraine-american-families-191009956.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma

yahoo!finance

https://finance.yahoo.com/news/support-ukraine-american-families-191009956.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma



Ask candidates how they will work to keep America on the equity path

July 8, 2022

Kudos to history teacher and Congressional candidate Chris Byrd for showing his students how to participate in democracy. ("3rd Congressional candidate Byrd: Let's overcome political polarization," by Lauren Ellenbecker, The Daily News online version, June 17, 2022).

At the same time, it is good to ask him and the other candidates questions about how they will work to keep America on the equity path. Will you work to renew the Child Tax Credit? What will you do to create more affordable housing? How will you end homelessness? That is our opportunity now: ask questions, vote for the best, then follow up. Democracy in action, be inspired.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-ask-candidates-how-they-will-work-to-keep-america-on-the/article_17ae2fce-f30f-11ec-b470-ffb78b2e6ed8.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Ask questions of the candidates, then vote, and follow up

July 13. 2022

Couldn't help but notice something missing from the editorial cartoon for the week of June 29: us. We may have a "do-nothing Congress, a do-little President, and a do an about-face Supreme Court" but we still have "we the people," and WE can take action. Begin by contacting our members of Congress to follow up on the recent bi-partisan gun legislation with more bipartisan work. The recent talk about the child tax credit by Senators Romney and Rubio, shows there is interest in renewing this expanded tax credit that lifted millions of children and families out of poverty. Legislation is also due on the housing crisis, the child care problems that make it unfeasible for parents to work, and the climate change clock is ticking. As election season is upon us, all candidates need to answer the hard questions about what they offer to get America back on the equity track. Let's do our part and ask the questions, vote, and follow up.

– Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2022/07/13/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-ask-questions-of-the-candidates-then-vote-and-follow-up/23277.html>



Rep. Rick Larsen a leader many issues besides World Cup bid

July 18, 2022

Not surprised to see U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash., being a part of the effort to bring the 2026 World Cup to Seattle. ("How Rep. Rick Larsen helped Seattle secure its 2026 World Cup bid," The Herald, July 4).

The congressman lends his considerable efforts to many critical initiatives: affordable housing, renewing the Child Tax Credit, the support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, along with legislation to battle climate change and more. And in transportation matters like the recently passed infrastructure bill, Larsen played a key role, being a senior part of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Why not take a moment to drop a note of thanks for his effective work? Thanks, Rep. Larsen, keep working for what matters to families!

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/rep-rick-larsen-a-leader-many-issues-besides-world-cup-bid/>



How democracy works best

July 28, 2022

Ginny Hauser's recent letter is an example of active citizenship, using a candidate's record to make a decision of how to vote ("Send Hill to the Hill," Daily News, July 23). Asking questions of candidates works as well. For example, what is your position on the Child Tax Credit being renewed? Did you know its failure to renew dumped 4 million children into poverty? Then vote based on the answers. Be an informed voter. That's how democracy works best.

Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Wash.*

https://dnews.com/opinion/july-28-letters-to-the-editor/article_5f7d26fc-95a1-52f3-a9d0-7e305fd34fc6.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



The Child Tax Credit Helps Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren

August 2022

The number of grandparents caring for grandchildren is significant and continues to grow. In general, the reasons include the opioid crisis, increasing gas prices and rising inflation.

Many grandparents will tell you that their lives have been enhanced by providing full-time care to their grandchildren. But caring for a child is expensive. Just like parents, grandparents raising their grandchildren face additional expenses for food, clothing, medical care, and other necessities. To help with these increased costs, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has certain tax benefits, including tax credits to help these grandparents who take on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren.

One tax credit that has helped these grandparents tremendously has been the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Knowing the nation would face continued economic strain from the pandemic, the U.S. government passed and implemented an ambitious policy agenda—the American Rescue Plan—last year, which included an expanded CTC. In just six months, this historic initiative significantly reduced child poverty by providing much-needed payments to help families with the costs of raising children, including grandparents raising their grandkids.

What is a key reason for the CTC's success? For the first time since the CTC began in the 1990s, the credit was delivered as a monthly payment (instead of a lump-sum refund when they filed their taxes). In addition, all low-income households received the full credit. Before 2021, low-income families got a partial credit, at most, with the lowest-income families (earning less than \$2,500 per year) getting nothing. These monthly checks consistently helped grandparents raising their grandchildren by providing additional resources to pay for the many necessities their grandchildren needed.

Sadly, this expansion was temporary, only applying to tax year 2021. The monthly payments ended in December 2021. According to a Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy analysis, when the payments ended, 3.7 million children were once again plunged back into poverty the very next month.

Advocates for the CTC are working to revive it and make the expansion permanent, with full refundability and the monthly payment option. The House passed a one-year CTC extension late last year, but 51 senators have so far refused to follow suit. When rising costs from inflation have put an even greater strain on family budgets, the fact that one senator—only one more vote is needed—can stand in the way of relief for millions of Americans is more than frustrating.

But all is not lost. We may have one last chance to get this expansion through Congress this year. How? Congress is likely to pass a tax bill after the election, extending some tax breaks to wealthy corporations. These “tax extenders” bills are typically bipartisan. This year’s tax bill could be a vehicle to help grandparents and other struggling low-income families, by resuming the expanded CTC with full refundability and monthly payments. But there are no guarantees. We, as constituents, need to put constant pressure on our members of Congress to get this done.

Right now, businesses are pushing for the continuation of a research and development (R&D) tax break that allows them to immediately deduct expenses to help with cash flow. If Congress is willing to help wealthy corporations, they should be willing to do the same for grandparents and other struggling families raising children. If we apply enough pressure, we may just get the help that grandparents, raising their grandchildren, so desperately need.

Write a letter to your elected members of Congress telling them to help grandparents who have taken on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren. The answer is staring them right in the face—expand the Child Tax Credit now.

Zelda Foxall *serves on the Seattle-King County Advisory Council for Aging & Disability Services. In addition, she volunteers for RESULTS, an anti-poverty organization, and AARP, where she advocates for Medicaid, economic security, housing, hunger, fraud, health care, and safety net programs that support older adults.*

<https://www.agewisekingcounty.org/publications/agewisekingcounty/august-2022/the-child-tax-credit-helps-grandparents-raising-their-grandchildren/>



Expand the Child Tax Credit

August 3, 2022

Come on, really?

The U.S. Senate just voted to support chip manufacturers with government subsidies and tax credits for U.S. semiconductor production and research, to the tune of \$52 billion.

Yet support for a permanent extension of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) — a tax credit that reduced child poverty by 40% last year — languishes for lack of Senate support.

Reducing child poverty doesn't have to compete with chip manufacturers. We could support both. But the Senate is not.

Twenty-seven million children living in low-income families were lifted out of poverty last year — July to December 2021 — by the expansion of the CTC. Families used those tax credits, in the form of monthly payments, to pay for food, rent, and other essentials.

Now those millions of children have fallen back into poverty — an increase of 41% in one month — as the expanded CTC expired in December. And the Senate has refused to take this up.

We recently had excellent meetings with Rep. Marilyn Strickland, and with Patty Murray's and Maria Cantwell's aides. All support expanding the CTC permanently. All were frustrated by the Senate's refusal to take action.

Sen. Mitt Romney has proposed a new "child allowance" similar to the expanded CTC. This is encouraging, and though there are serious concerns with parts (it excludes the lowest-income children, and cuts other important programs to finance the plan), release of the plan helps foster efforts to build Republican support for an expansion.

Somehow, the Senate needs to figure out how to choose chips AND children.

– **Carolyn Prouty, *Elma***

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article264066951.html>

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane, Washington Est. May 19, 1883

Ask questions, vote answers

August 4, 2022

With the primary results in, it is time to ask Natasha Hill and Cathy McMorris Rodgers the questions that will determine your vote. ("Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers will face Natasha Hill in November election for Congress" by Kip Hill, The Spokesman-Review, Aug. 2).

A good example is what would they do to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that lifted \$4 million children out of poverty and gave families a breather from the choice of which bill to pay. How about an affordable housing or child care question?

This is our best opportunity to get questions answered to inform our votes. Then of course follow up to make sure promises are kept.

Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2022/aug/04/saturday-letters/>



Use your vote wisely; be inspired by Bill Russell

August 12, 2022

Thanks for printing a brief story of a true hero: Bill Russell. ("Bill Russell was a champion of basketball and social justice" by Michael Paul Williams, The Daily News online, August 3, 2022)

Russell was never afraid to stand up for what was right, a true inspiration. With the multiple crises of poverty in the world's richest country, it is time for us to take a stand as well. Ask questions and vote for candidates who work to move us forward to an equitable country for everyone. Affordable housing, child care, and health care, plus a permanent expanded Child Tax Credit, and more. If the candidates don't support these equity initiatives, they don't earn our votes. Use your vote wisely; be inspired by Bill Russell.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-use-your-vote-wisely-be-inspired-by-bill-russell/article_173ec262-17f7-11ed-84d2-938239c2c3cb.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share



Support equity for all

August 28, 2022

Great to see the number of uninsured in America decreasing and the Inflation Reduction Act helping to keep it that way. ("Biden bill to help millions escape higher health care costs," Associated Press, Aug. 19). With over 26 million (including over 500,000 children) still uninsured, there is more to be done. Let's be sure we elect people willing to make sure everyone is insured. Asking candidates questions helps us vote wisely. What will you do about the multiple crises in America: housing, hunger, child care, still unaffordable for millions? It is time to vote for candidates who support solving these crises and working for equity for all.

– **Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish***

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/aug/28/letter-support-equity-for-all/>



Bravo to Rep. Strickland for Housing Allowance Proposal

August 31, 2022

Accolades to Rep. Marilyn Strickland for introducing a Department of Defense measure addressing inequities in calculating the housing allowance for our members of the military. It would provide one year for the department to re-examine its current system with the hope for periodic updates.

Because Rep. Strickland's proposal is part of the national defense bill that passed the House in July and is currently awaiting Senate approval, we must look to our Senators Cantwell and Murray to support.

Let us remind our elected representatives that struggling to find affordable housing is a problem shared by many constituents, especially those of fixed or low incomes.

By way of the short-term solution found in the Children's Tax Credit, many of us were able to reckon with rent payments with the increased CTC monthly payments. Coincidentally the CTC is the most significant investment in reducing child poverty in a generation. Removing it was counterproductive.

We can address the housing and rent dilemma now by both re-examining housing allowance calculations by the Defense Department, and extending an expanded CTC for the families with the lowest incomes. The current year-end tax package holds both opportunities. Nancy Curtiss, Olympia

- Nancy Curtiss, *Olympia*

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article265048584.html>



The Child Tax Credit Has One Last Chance for Expansion in 2022

by Zelda Foxall

September 1, 2022

Chardonnay Beaver's recent article for the South Seattle Emerald, "The Call for a National Moral Revival – Part 1: The Poor People's Campaign Then and Now" reminds us that more than 50 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King led the Poor People's Campaign to put the focus on poverty. The aim was to bring together all races through this common struggle of being poor in America. And yet, here we are today, still fighting poverty.

Tax policies have continued to drive inequality over the years by benefiting the wealthy while failing to reduce hardship and helping the lowest-income families.

However, in 2021, we did make some real progress in the fight against child poverty when Congress passed the American Rescue Plan which included a larger or expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC). The CTC helps with the costs of raising children. Taxpayers can claim a break on their taxes each year based on the number of children in their households and their household earnings.

The 2021 CTC expansion was historic because it made the biggest impact on the reduction of child poverty in a generation. A key feature of the expanded CTC was that it was made fully refundable so that it could help the families who needed it the most. Full refundability means that children in families with no or low incomes will get the full value of the CTC, not a partial value. Prior to the CTC expansion, 27 million children in this country were left out of this benefit, and this included approximately half of Black and Latino children, who received only a partial credit or no credit at all. But thankfully, this inequity was reversed by the American Rescue Plan.

According to the Census Household Pulse survey data, the impact of these monthly CTC payments, which started in July of 2021, was immediate. These payments helped Black and Latino families, who had been dealing with food shortages and other hardships at twice the rate of white families. These payments helped parents buy food, pay utility bills, buy clothing, and pay for educational needs.

But the bad news is that all the gains brought on by the expanded CTC for families, including Black and Latino families, disappeared as soon as the monthly payments stopped. Sadly, in January 2022, when the payments stopped, 3.7 million children were plunged back into poverty. And it gets worse, because throughout 2022 the number of children plunged back into poverty will grow from 3.7 to 4.1 million. This means that poverty for Black children will rise from 13% to 22%. And Latino children's poverty rate will rise from 12% to 21%. Poverty will also increase among white children, but will remain almost two-thirds lower than that of Black and Latino children. This needs to change.

Congress needs to reinstate the expanded monthly and fully refundable CTC and restore eligibility to immigrant children. In 2021 we saw a more than 40% reduction in child poverty! We need to continue this trend because in addition to reducing child poverty, the CTC will help families manage their dwindling budgets in the wake of increasing costs. The average American household, according to Moody's Analytics, is spending an extra \$327 per month due to inflation, but lower- and middle-income families are being hit even harder. A single monthly CTC payment of \$300 per child under six would bring welcome relief to these struggling families.

Advocates for the CTC are working to bring back the expanded CTC with full refundability and the monthly payment option. The House passed a one-year CTC extension late last year, but 51 senators have so far refused to follow suit. When rising costs from inflation have put an even greater strain on family budgets, the fact that one senator — only one more vote is needed — can stand in the way of relief for millions of Americans is more than frustrating.

But we have one last chance to get this expansion through Congress this year. Congress is likely to pass a tax bill after the election, giving some tax breaks to wealthy corporations. Giving tax breaks to the wealthy generally has bipartisan support. If Congress is willing to help wealthy corporations, they should also be willing to help

the lowest-income families by resuming the expanded CTC with full refundability and monthly payments. If we apply enough pressure, we may just get the help that low-income parents so desperately need. So one way to impact Dr. King's legacy of the Poor People's Campaign is to write a letter to your elected members of Congress telling them to expand the Child Tax Credit now. There are 140 million poor or low-income people in this country who desperately need the help.

<https://southseattleemerald.com/2022/09/01/opinion-the-child-tax-credit-has-one-last-chance-for-expansion-in-2022/>

Congress must extend the Child Tax Credit now

Our legislatures need to support American families.

September 12, 2022

I am pleased that the Inflation Reduction Act will help hard working Americans by reducing health care costs and making corporations pay a fairer share of taxes. I appreciate the work of representatives like Rep. Kim Schrier that helped make that happen.

But there is one big thing missing from the bill – the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC).

The 2021 CTC expansion with monthly payments was nothing less than extraordinary. After payments began in July 2021, child poverty dropped by 40%, food security increased, and families finally made ends meet. But Congress let the expanded CTC expire at the end of last year. With child poverty again on the rise and families still struggling with higher costs for rent and food, Congress must to bring it back. In Washington state alone, over 1,433,000 children under 18 benefited from the expanded CTC. Broken down by race/ethnicity, the number of children that benefited from the expanded CTC were as follows (According to U.S. Census Bureau's March 2019 Population Survey):

- 791,000 White
- 332,000 Latinos
- 59,000 Black
- 85,000 Asian
- 165,000 Other race or multiple race children

Congress is expected to pass a bipartisan tax bill at the end of this year, which will include tax breaks for corporations. That bill must prioritize children and families first. I urge our members of Congress to pass an expanded Child Tax Credit that reaches the lowest-income families and includes monthly payments in any tax legislation this year.

- Amber Walker, *Lake Tapps*

<https://www.courierherald.com/letters/congress-must-extend-the-child-tax-credit-now/>



Congress must pass an expanded Child Tax Credit

September 22, 2022

The results are in: new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau this month shows that the 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC), passed by both houses of Congress, reduced child poverty by 46% in one year. The expanded CTC pushed the child poverty rate to the lowest level ever recorded.

The enhanced CTC was among the Federal Relief programs with the biggest impact. Without the CTC expansion, more than 2 million additional children would have been living in poverty. Additionally, data from the Census Bureau showed most people spent this money on food, utilities, clothing, rent or mortgage, school supplies and education.

This data shows that the 51 senators who let the CTC expansion expire last December made a huge mistake. In November, Congress will be discussing whether to extend tax credits for corporations set to expire. It would be outrageous for Congress to pass tax cuts for corporations without expanding the CTC for low income families.

For us, these are not just statistics. We have a personal connection to a family for whom the CTC monthly income lifted the burden of stress and anxiety associated with the inability to meet basic expenses.

Helping low income families changes children's life trajectories.

We implore Representative Kilmer, Senators Murray and Cantwell to continue their unwavering commitment to expanding the CTC.

– Mike and Leslie Boyer, *Bremerton*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2022/09/22/congress-must-pass-expanded-child-tax-credit/8085124001/>



Extend Child Tax Credit

September 22, 2022

The Columbia's Sept. 13 article "Census: Inequality last year grew, but child poverty dropped" discussed a recent Census Bureau report about poverty in the U.S.

The report showed that temporary expansion of the child tax credit, which was part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, helped reduce childhood poverty from 9.7 percent in 2020 to 5.2 percent last year. That is a stunning 46 percent decrease in just one year. In Washington alone, nearly 1.4 million children in nearly 800,000 families benefited from the expanded child tax credit.

Surveys of households that received the credit indicate the extra money was used to pay household expenses, buy clothing and essentials for children, pay for child care and save for emergencies. In essence, lower-income families used the money the same way middle-income families do — to provide a healthy, safe and stable environment for their children.

Unfortunately, Congress let the expansion expire in December. Poor families who had been given a lifeline had it jerked away. I urge our congresswoman and senators to take a significant step toward eliminating childhood poverty in the U.S. by making the credit expansions permanent

– Tonnie Cummings, *Vancouver*

<https://www.columbia.com/news/2022/sep/22/letter-extend-child-tax-credit/>



How about a renters' tax credit to help low-income renters?

September 30, 2022

The detailed story shows millions of renters in America are in trouble. ('Renters' pain: Brunt of housing crisis hits folks not even looking to buy homes' by Lee Enterprises, The Daily News, online version, Sept. 20.).

One answer would be a renters' tax credit that provides low-income renters with a monthly refund to make up the difference between the high cost of rent and the one-third of their income they can afford.

Ask candidates how they stand on this solution and what other solutions they offer for renters, then vote accordingly.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-how-about-a-renters-tax-credit-to-help-low-income-renters/article_51e55e5c-3b5c-11ed-9072-7fc074f38d10.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share



Support child tax credit

October 1, 2022

In response to Tonnie Cummings' letter "Extend child tax credit" (Our Readers' Views, Sept. 22), I'm taken with the fact that this successful tactic served to benefit so many children in Washington. That's 1.4 million of our kids. Cummings points to the research that showed that their parents used their monthly benefits to provide a healthy, safe and stable environment for their families.

I would suggest we all request that Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler consider the value of restoring this legislation for the well-being of those constituents in need of such a hand up. She surely knows it will be of benefit and a great action on her part.

– Nancy Curtiss, *Olympia*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/oct/01/letter-support-child-tax-credit/>



Child tax credit makes a difference

October 8, 2022

Thanks for the report on the debate for candidates for Congress in the 3rd District ("Kent, Perez joust in 3rd District debate in Vancouver," The Columbian, Sept. 28). In addition, the announcement of another debate on Oct. 15 gives another chance for questions, this time from journalists, including The Columbian.

How about a question about renewing the expanded child tax credit that lifted millions out of poverty and cut child poverty by over 40 percent? Would candidates support a renewal of this ladder out of poverty? Families across the 3rd District want to know. It makes a difference in who to vote for.

– Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2022/oct/08/letter-child-tax-credit-makes-a-difference/>



U.S. House, 1st District: DelBene helped cut child poverty

October 16, 2022

Thanks for the clear picture of the race in the Washington's 1st Congressional District and the evidence-based conclusion to recommend voters cast their ballots for DelBene ("DelBene a proven bipartisan legislator, leader," The Herald, Dec. 9) by The Herald Editorial Board.

Working with the congresswoman for the last 10 years as a volunteer with RESULTS (results.org) focused on ending hunger and poverty, I heartily agree with this recommendation. Rep. DelBene listens and takes action. Her efforts were critical to make sure the expanded Child Tax Credit was included in the covid relief package. This tax initiative resulted in cutting child poverty by nearly 40 percent and helping families across Washington and the nation.

Congresswoman DelBene continues to work to renew this life-changing legislation. Her efforts to work across the aisle and doing what benefit families are important reasons for us to send her back to Congress to continue her effective representation of our district.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/u-s-house-1st-district-delbene-helped-cut-child-poverty/>

YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

Extend child tax credit now

By the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Editorial Board

November 10, 2022

Lobbyists are lining up to push Congress to approve more corporate tax breaks before Jan. 1, including extending deductions for research and development. Supporters argue that U.S. businesses need such incentives to keep the nation competitive in the world economy.

But nothing boosts the nation's ability to compete as much as a direct investment in the health and security of its children. As members of Congress negotiate a year-end budget package, they should not approve more incentives for big business, without also extending an expanded Child Tax Credit.

Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation — including U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey, a Republican, and Bob Casey Jr., a Democrat; as well as U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, an Allegheny County Democrat — ought to make sure an extension of the expanded Child Tax Credit becomes part of any bipartisan year-end budget package. Ideally, Congress should make the expanded CTC permanent. At minimum, Congress should extend it for two years, and make it retroactive for this year.

No federal program has been more effective. The expanded CTC benefited 60 million children and helped reduce U.S. child poverty rates by 46%, said Ken Patterson of RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocacy group. Not surprisingly, Columbia University researchers found a 41% increase in child poverty, after expanded monthly Child Tax Credits stopped in January.

In Pennsylvania, the program helped an estimated 1.4 million families with 2.4 million children. Children in the poorest of those families face hunger, instability and prospects nearly as dim as those of the displaced children of Ukraine. Middle- and working-class families also received the expanded CTC; in fact, they got most of the benefits.

Under last year's American Rescue Plan, the maximum Child Tax Credit increased to \$3,000, or \$250 a month, for each child aged 6 to 17; and to \$3,600, or \$300 a month, for younger children. More than 90% of all families with children received an average benefit of \$4,380, reports the Tax Policy Center. The CTC became the largest federal cash-support program for children in 2021. Monthly installments enabled families to budget for food, utility and housing costs. Some families opened their first bank account.

The former child tax credit program left out millions of poor children whose families did not earn enough to qualify. By making the CTC fully refundable, low-income families got the full benefit.

Expanded monthly CTC payments, however, applied only to 2021. (Families who didn't file taxes for 2021 can still claim a full Child Tax Credit for last year.) Shamefully, the U.S. Senate failed to renew the CTC expansion for 2022, tossing nearly 4 million children back into poverty.

Owing to congressional inaction, 19 million children in the lowest income families no longer get the full value of the CTC, said Meredith Dodson of RESULTS. Galloping inflation rates of roughly 9% this year worsened the economic plight of children and families.

Any version of the Child Tax Credit approved before Jan. 1 should not include work requirements. Work requirements sound reasonable, but they withhold money from the children who most need it and aggravate racial disparities. They also fail to account for circumstances common in poor families, such as children living with retired grandparents; and interfere with education and training that are essential to making families self-sufficient.

Extending an expanded Child Tax Credit this year is a moral, social and economic imperative. Historically, nearly 20% of U.S. children live in poverty, a figure close to Mexico's rate, reports the international Organization for Economic Development. The attendant impacts of poverty on a child's development, health and safety are formidable: They influence how the body and mind develop, widen academic achievement gaps, undermine health, reduce access to educational resources, and put children in proximity to crime, violence and environmental toxins.

Extending the expanded Child Tax Credit would alleviate all of those problems for the key to the nation's future — its children. Shame on members of Congress if they adjourn for the holidays without first taking care of their most important priority.

https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/other-views-extend-child-tax-credit-now/article_c0058c3e-5fdf-11ed-b961-4351d7003a29.html



Support bills that help families

November 15, 2022

As jobless benefit applications rise slightly, the connections to other challenges we face must be considered ("Slightly more Americans apply for jobless benefits last week," Associated Press, Nov. 10). Affordable housing, child care costs, and poverty all have solutions waiting to be passed that can help families through this time of crisis.

The expanded child tax credit was proven to work, slashing child poverty by 40 percent and helping families have enough for both food and rent. This ladder out of poverty needs to be renewed.

A renters' tax credit modeled after the child tax credit could help millions of families who pay more than 50 percent of their income in rent. Both tax credits would help with paying for child care.

So, no matter who has been elected to representative in the 3rd Congressional District, we need to call on them to support passing these programs that give families hope and a road to self-sufficiency.

– **Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish***

<https://www.columbia.com/news/2022/nov/15/letter-support-bills-that-help-families/>

YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

Congress should extend the child tax credit

November 15, 2022

To the editor — I agree with your editorial, "Extend Child Tax Credit Now." Too many families don't have the money for adequate housing and food for their children. With Thanksgiving only two weeks off, and inflation driving up the cost of food and housing, I don't know how some families cope.

Despite all the attention on the next Congress, the current Congress can make history again this year. In 2021, the expanded Child Tax Credit with monthly payments helped cut child poverty by 46% — the largest reduction in history. The CTC payments gave parents the money to pay for necessities when they needed it most — monthly bill time.

When the payments expired last December, child poverty increased, parents couldn't work because they couldn't afford childcare, and global inflation has made basic necessities more expensive.

Congress wants to extend tax breaks for corporations in December. It would be unconscionable to do that while ignoring millions of American families struggling to make ends meet.

Last year, we achieved a historic reduction in child poverty. We can do it again. I urge Congressman Newhouse to reject any corporate tax cuts this year unless an expanded, monthly CTC for all low-income families is also included.

– **Beth Wilson, Olalla**

https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-congress-should-extend-the-child-tax-credit/article_58551bc4-63bb-11ed-803a-d3fdd93b7301.html



Time remains to restore Child Tax Credit to fight childhood poverty

November 24, 2022

Thanks to Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson for explaining House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's efforts and "legislative triumphs" over the last two decades that helped create "a more perfect union."

Pelosi is still speaker until the first of next year and no one knows better that there is still work to be done; like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that lifted millions out of poverty and cut child poverty in half. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, called it the best legislation ever passed in his 20-year career. So let's take a moment to be grateful to this amazing Speaker of the House and ask her and those who represent us to renew this incredible ladder out of poverty. (Note: both Reps. Suzan DelBene and Rick Larsen support this effort, but still need to hear from us.)

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/time-remains-to-restore-child-tax-credit-to-fight-childhood-poverty/>

Child Tax Credit

November 24, 2022

Do you know a family struggling to afford necessities such as rent, food, gas, utilities, childcare and clothes for their kids? I sure do, and support for families seems to be in short supply.

In 2021, the expanded Child Tax Credit helped raise nearly 350,000 children out of poverty in Washington state and helped families afford necessities such as rent, food, gas, utilities, childcare and clothes. Ending the CTC expansion sent those children back into poverty, and inflation is sending more families into poverty every day.

Congress is headed back to work and expected to take up a corporate tax bill during the lame-duck session. Please contact U.S. Representatives Marilyn Strickland and Derek Kilmer and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to insist that the legislation also include an expansion of the CTC.

Families must come first.

- Jennie Vano, *Fircrest*

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/article269059242.html>

The Seattle Times

Child Tax Credit: Make it permanent

December 8, 2022

Re: "3 things for Congress to prioritize before control of the House changes" [Dec. 4, Opinion]:

Advocates for the Child Tax Credit (CTC) all over the nation are calling for a heartfelt holiday gift in the remaining days of the 117th Congress.

For the sake of struggling families, Congress needs to pass an expansion of the CTC. The CTC has already proven itself to be highly effective in reducing poverty — in 2021 it helped reduced childhood poverty by 40%. When something works well, make it permanent.

With budget busting inflation, families need help now more than ever. If congress is willing to provide tax breaks for corporations, it should be willing to expand the CTC for people to feed, clothe and house their families.

Zelda Foxall, *Seattle*

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/child-tax-credit-make-it-permanent/>



Speak up, follow Pitts' lead

December 18, 2022

'Tis bittersweet to read Leonard Pitts' last column. ("I'm signing off, but the good fight continues," The Columbia, Dec. 16).

Always speaking up for equity and calling out injustice, Mr. Pitts' columns have been a gift to America. I used his columns in my high school English classes to teach persuasive writing, was a lucky recipient of a copy of "The New Jim Crow," when he gave out hundreds, and have been inspired to work to guide Congress to act with commonsense legislation that makes a difference. Like the expanded child tax credit that reached 90 percent of families with children, cut child poverty nearly in half, and now needs to be renewed, providing millions with a ladder out of poverty.

It is true "the good fight continues" and while we will miss our champion of equity, we can all speak up to help our members of Congress pass legislation that makes a difference.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

https://www.columbia.com/news/2022/dec/18/letter-speak-up-follow-pitts-lead/?utm_source=ground.news&utm_medium=referral



Rep. DelBene's leadership post is no surprise

December 29, 2022

Not surprising to see U.S. Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., selected to yet another post of leadership in the House ("DelBene to lead House Democrats' pursuit of majority in 2024," The Herald, Dec. 21). She has shown her abilities as the head of the New Democrat Coalition, as well as leading the charge to get the expanded Child Tax Credit included in the covid relief package.

She continues to work to get this ladder out of poverty renewed, affordable housing increased and global health issues funded that protect us locally. She has worked closely with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and at the same time works across the aisle to keep Congress moving to make a difference for the American people. Thanks to our hard working representative!

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/rep-delbenes-leadership-post-is-no-surprise/>

West Virginia media

THE REGISTER~HERALD.

Beckley, West Virginia

Continue the fight against pandemics

March 29, 2022

As Covid detection shifts to a new phase, so does uncertainty. ("Experts worry about how U.S. will see next Covid surge coming" by Mike Stobbe, The Register- Herald, March 25, 2022).

Continuing what works will help, but sadly Congress has not continued to fund the battle against the pandemic. Like the lack of renewal for the increased Child Tax Credit, which lifted 4 million children out of poverty, Congress easily forgets how important it is to fund initiatives that work.

Thanks to the president for hosting the Global Fund replenishment and 137 members of Congress for supporting a bold pledge to this life-saving organization that battles pandemics, including Covid, globally, protecting us locally. Thus Congress will have another opportunity to continue a proven initiative that works. We can help by reminding our members of Congress to fund these efforts that work to help families and protect us in this continuing pandemic.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, WA*

https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/continue-the-fight-against-pandemics/article_9d62ff6a-afd9-11ec-9b7e-afd2482d0a10.html

Assistance needed to build ladders out of poverty

October 21, 2022

Food is often called the greatest medicine, and fresh vegetables, along with grains and non-processed foods, can make a difference in our health. ("Food for thought: Can diet prevent Alzheimer's disease?" by Connie Gottshall, The Register-Herald, Oct. 16, 2022).

Sadly, not all Americans have access to fresh food, either because of lack of stores nearby or not enough money to pay rent and food. The fact that 11 million Americans spend over half their income for rent is a big problem.

The expanded Child Tax Credit reached 90 percent of families, cutting child poverty by 40 percent and helping them pay rent and buy food. Sadly it was not renewed, but it is not too late. A renter's tax credit could help as well. Both of these ladders out of poverty could make a big difference for American families and give them the opportunity to eat healthier. Ask candidates for Congress to support these initiatives and then vote according to their answers.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, WA*

https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/assistance-needed-to-build-ladders-out-of-poverty/article_dc2d7594-ebd0-50f7-90e1-54ab3dda6699.html

Assistance needed to build ladders out of poverty

October 24, 2022

Food is often called the greatest medicine, and fresh vegetables, along with grains and non-processed foods, can make a difference in our health. ("Food for thought: Can diet prevent Alzheimer's disease?" by Connie Gottshall, The Register-Herald, Oct. 16, 2022).

Sadly, not all Americans have access to fresh food, either because of lack of stores nearby or not enough money to pay rent and food. The fact that 11 million Americans spend over half their income for rent is a big problem.

The expanded Child Tax Credit reached 90 percent of families, cutting child poverty by 40 percent and helping them pay rent and buy food. Sadly it was not renewed, but it is not too late. A renter's tax credit could help as well. Both of these ladders out of poverty could make a big difference for American families and give them the opportunity to eat healthier. Ask candidates for Congress to support these initiatives and then vote according to their answers.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, WA*

https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/assistance-needed-to-build-ladders-out-of-poverty/article_dc2d7594-ebd0-50f7-90e1-54ab3dda6699.html



'End Hunger' initiative will help people eat healthy

December 6, 2022

Editor:

We were so pleased to read Agricultural Commissioner Kent Leonhardt's op-ed in support of Joe Biden's "End Hunger" initiative.

He rightly highlights many of the excellent programs already in West Virginia aimed at combatting hunger and also highlights the need for expansion of such initiatives in the face of inflation, rising energy prices and supply chain issues.

In spite of the many programs already in existence, West Virginia suffers from food deserts, and increasing cost makes buying food even more challenging for people in the state.

While one of Biden's pillars of ending hunger is to "empower consumers to make healthy choices," when asking the people of West Virginia what keeps them from eating healthy, they consistently say cost is a barrier.

It has serious health consequences, such as obesity, but in children, it's even more damaging because of the lasting impact of nutrition on children's future growth and development – including the growth of their brains.

The expanded child tax credit helped families feed their kids through the pandemic, and reinstating the tax credit would help families provide healthy food for which cost is a barrier. There is nothing more pro-family than ensuring that families and kids have the food they need.

– Cara Sedney, *Core*

– Treah Haggerty, *Morgantown*

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-end-hunger-initiative-will-help-people-eat-healthy/article_b73810de-edee-559e-9f60-23976a05d7bf.html

Wisconsin media



Tax credit reduces child poverty rate

March 26, 2022

In 2021, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit for millions of American families and sent it to them in monthly payments. Surveys show they spent this money on food, utilities, clothing and rent.

But last year, Congress let the payments expire. As a result, the child poverty rate jumped by 41% in January. This is unacceptable.

By not expanding the tax credit, Congress is making a decision that will lead to children suffering. Families in Wisconsin are struggling to put food on the table, pay their bills, and access housing every day. We must prioritize the needs of children and families living in poverty right now. There is no more time or excuse for Congress to delay.

I urge our members of Congress to immediately extend the 2021 Child Tax Credit with permanent full refundability and to resume the monthly payments as soon as possible. Investing in our children is an investment in our community and future -- there is no more important issue than this.

- Mary Domingo, *Mount Horeb*

https://madison.com/ws/opinion/letters/tax-credit-reduces-child-poverty-rate---mary-domingo/article_621863cd-94a3-5ec8-8744-51660bcc371e.html

Wyoming media



RESULTS sets aside partisan identities to help end poverty

January 23, 2022

I really appreciated Ron Rabou's Sunday essay about learning to give up things we treasure; how Rabou's father-in-law had blessed his son by giving the boy a Cadillac the grandfather could no longer use.

As I reread the first paragraph of the article, talking about how politics turned as cutthroat as ever as soon as the holidays were over, I couldn't help thinking (and I feel sure Rabou would agree) that we could bless ourselves and others by giving up a lot of the angry, bitter politics we cling to.

WTE's recent "Our Faces" section highlighted my efforts with RESULTS, a nonpartisan organization working to end poverty by advocating for policies that affect health, education and economic opportunity around the world – including here in the U.S. While our work is nonpartisan, that doesn't mean individual members don't have partisan identities! It means that we give up those roles when we meet or call or email our members of Congress as RESULTS volunteers.

We bring problems to their attention and offer solutions. We build relationships with them and their staffs to better understand their perspectives and concerns so that we can help them embrace the solutions we offer.

If you are interested in having your voice heard, but reluctant to get involved in the hatefulness you hear about in the news, "Our Faces" offered the volunteer intake link at RESULTS.org. I would certainly encourage using that avenue – or go to the website and poke around to get a better idea of our work. If you are leery of just jumping in like that, contact us through "RESULTS Wyoming" on Facebook. I don't bite, and I am glad to "give up" a few minutes of my time to talk about RESULTS.

– Anne Erdmann, *Cheyenne*

https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/results-sets-aside-partisan-identities-to-help-end-poverty/article_21d7944e-c119-5890-b553-ceddc127fb95.html



Congress needs to make Child Tax Credit changes permanent

April 13, 2022

I know the Constitution's Second Amendment seems to be the favorite amendment for a lot of people right now. Along with the 19th Amendment, ensuring my right to vote, the First Amendment stirs my passion – especially the clause that keeps the government from passing laws based on a belief (even a majority belief) in what God or gods ordain.

On the other hand, I am equally passionate that our personal religious faith should inform our political beliefs and actions.

As a Methodist, I hear John Wesley saying, "One reason the rich, in general, have so little sympathy for the poor is because they so seldom visit them. Hence ... one part of the world does not know what the other suffers. Many of them do not know because they do not care to know; they keep out of the way of knowing it ..."

Mostly, our society is not set up to make "visiting the poor" a real possibility in the way Wesley meant it. But the attitudes of the more comfortable parts of our society have changed little since Wesley's time. They hadn't changed a hundred years later when Charles Dickens wrote works like "Oliver Twist." People who were not impoverished saw poverty as some kind of saintly virtue (for other people) or a sign of sloth. Anecdotes of such sloth led to "work requirements" in the form of slavery in workhouses where, like Oliver Twist, families were separated, people were starved, large numbers died of epidemics that raced through wretched living conditions, but at least they didn't sleep or beg or die in full view of "better" people.

Today, we drive past derelict trailer courts or through ramshackle neighborhoods and think, "How can anyone live like that?" To our shame, we make the leap to believing

that, because our homes are better, we are better. Everything from ads on TV to argument in Congress encourages us to measure human worth in terms of worldly well-being. And we are encouraged to believe that, if people are in need, helping them leads them to remain in need.

That is the argument Congress uses for not extending the expansion and refundability of the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

We know that people in our community experience food insecurity. People of faith and others donate generously to food drives or even serve in “soup kitchens” and think themselves virtuous for doing so. But when a change in tax policy reduces childhood food insecurity by at least 40%, we complain that just giving people the money to feed their families makes them lazy. How can we square those two attitudes? I don’t get it.

Data shows that the bulk of the monthly CTC payments in the last part of 2021 were spent on food, housing, clothing, child care, health care and education – as well as transportation expenses for getting to and from jobs. The National Bureau of Economic Research has concluded that parents did not quit work as a result of those monthly payments.

And data also shows that food insecurity and other indicators of poverty bumped up sharply in January with the end of the monthly CTC payments.

Did you know that infant care in a licensed center in Wyoming, the cheapest in the country, costs more than tuition at the University of Wyoming or any of the community colleges? It is a third of the average income for a single mother in the state. If you add a toddler, she could easily pay two-thirds of her income in order to be able to work. The remaining third is all she has to feed, clothe and house her family. The same is true for a married couple with two children earning at the bottom of the income ladder. That is just craziness!

Since these people probably don’t earn enough to pay income tax, they don’t get any benefit at all from the CTC now that it has reverted to a credit against taxes, instead of a monthly, fully refundable payment. On the other hand, couples earning up to \$400,000 adjusted gross income get at least partial credit.

Wesley also says, "... I account him a rich man who has food and raiment for himself and his family without running into debt." Beyond that, including spending on expensive clothing and accumulation of property, he calls theft.

At the height of the pandemic, we talked about learning who the truly essential workers are. Now we complain about paying them a living wage – or even helping them raise their children by a change in tax policy – for fear our fast food prices will go up or, for a few of us, our taxes might go up. We would, of course, still be able to feed and clothe and house our families, even if those things happened.

I live a very comfortable life, one that would outrage John Wesley for its excess. But my faith calls on me to ensure that others can provide food and clothing and housing for their families without running into debt.

The hard economics say it can be done. When my faith and the facts coincide so clearly, I call on Congress to act – not in defiance of the First Amendment, but as a matter of good government. I ask you to join me. Make expansion and full refundability of the Child Tax Credit permanent.

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-congress-needs-to-make-child-tax-credit-changes-permanent/article_18f8e1bd-11fb-56ef-9ed8-6efa7a9f1817.html#tncms-source=article-nav-prev



Congress should permanently expand Child Tax Credit

December 1, 2022

Good grief, it's tax time! Not time to file just yet, and I'm not talking about making those end-of-year donations in hopes of getting some tax benefit for being a decent person.

No, it's tax time for Congress. Congress must act before the end of the year to extend tax breaks for embattled corporations to help them survive their record profits.

Of course, most of us are struggling with higher costs for food, fuel, heating and so on. But Congress doesn't seem as concerned with that now that the election is (almost) over. Some of them say they will make sure families keep more of their hard-earned dollars in their own pockets. But they actually threaten to ensure that a lot of the hardest working families don't even have enough to guarantee food on the table. If you don't earn enough to pay hefty taxes, Congress probably won't be looking at anything in tax policy to help you and your children.

Or maybe they will be.

The COVID-19 relief packages expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to make it fully refundable, meaning that even if you didn't earn enough to owe taxes, you could receive the full amount of CTC as a tax refund. It put money directly into the pockets of lower-income families. And it wasn't a one-time windfall; the credits were spread out as monthly payments to help with budgeting for recurring needs like food and rent.

Research by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities found that is exactly what happened. Ninety-one percent of the households used the monthly payments on things like food, utilities, rent or mortgage payments, clothing or education costs. Significant percentages used the income for vehicle payments and child care. Food

insecurity fell significantly during the months of expanded, fully refundable CTC payments, and the workforce grew.

Then, in January 2022, the payments stopped. Food insecurity across the country jumped. Large numbers of people dropped out of the workforce because they couldn't afford to go to work – often because they needed child care or couldn't afford transportation just to get to work.

For households (many headed by single mothers) earning less than \$10,000 a year, 54% said the loss of that tax rebate made it much harder to meet monthly needs. Even among families earning between \$50,000 and \$75,000, 18% found it significantly harder to meet monthly needs, and another 28% found it somewhat more difficult.

The benefit extended to households making as much as \$400,000, so it wasn't exactly charity! It just meant that higher-earning families would get a credit on taxes they might owe and receive a refund of any excess beyond their tax liability. They probably weren't experiencing food insecurity, but kids can be expensive. Who knows?

Congress often wails about the cost of such programs. And yet they will make sure the corporations keep the tax breaks for their record profits. And much of those profits are coming from you and me and the pockets of other households that are having to pinch pennies or actually suffering from unmet basic needs.

Asking those who could afford more to pay more in taxes built our middle class and fueled the economic expansion that gave us the ability to build highways and grow a public education system that was the envy of the world. We understood that investment is different from cost, and that those who invest more will reap greater dividends. We seem to have forgotten; and bridges collapse and public schools struggle and increasing numbers of households aren't sure they will have enough to eat or a place to live.

When you make a donation to a food bank or volunteer in a "soup kitchen" at this season of giving, look at the families you help. Do you think to yourself, "Look at these lazy people. They don't deserve my time or the food I give them. It isn't my problem if their kids are hungry." I bet you don't. So do something that will help parents have food for their children on their own tables all year long.

If you want to invest in the families you see, contact Sens. Barrasso and Lummis and Rep. Cheney, and tell them to invest in our children now through permanent expansion and full refundability of CTC. Tell them to stand with those in Congress who have sworn not to vote for a tax package that doesn't recognize the need to invest in our future.

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-congress-should-permanently-expand-child-tax-credit/article_7f8e3572-70e5-11ed-939c-8b38f20e7e31.html

National media



Why are we torching our best tool to end child poverty?

My daughter and I were on the verge of homelessness before the Child Tax Credit. What's going to happen to vulnerable families now?

By Clara Moore

January 26, 2022

Ada Mae's beautiful blonde curls are wild on this sunny, mild winter afternoon.

I've just picked her up from the homeschool co-op that supplements the first-grade lessons we've been doing at home, and we're hanging out at the park. This is my favorite time of the week, watching her play with other kids.

But I'm also remembering my own childhood — cold Missouri winters without boots, hats, or mittens. The grind of poverty was tough on my family, and that trauma pursued me into adulthood.

I would do anything to keep my child from that fate, but we've had our close calls.

We were nearly homeless when the pandemic struck. I'd tried to pull myself out of poverty so many times by then — I'd even just finished graduate school. But trying to enter the job market as COVID-19 shut down the economy proved difficult. There wasn't going to be enough money for rent.

Fortunately, the COVID-19 relief programs Congress passed — like the stimulus checks and those monthly Child Tax Credit payments — helped me keep our apartment.

With this help, I could look for work while homeschooling my daughter. I was even able to put a few dollars into a savings account for the first time in my life, which was a huge relief. My family wasn't just surviving — we were on our way to thriving.

That's exactly what a safety net is for. But now what's going to happen?

The credit expired last December because Republicans, plus Democrat Joe Manchin, have stalled efforts to extend this tax relief to working families. Millions of families like mine missed our check in January — and we won't get another unless they're renewed.

Those monthly Child Tax Credits allowed Ada Mae to attend her beloved homeschool co-op, so necessary for her social well-being. They provided financial stability that helped me be more present with her, when I wasn't worrying about how the next bill would be paid. And they gave me space to look for — and get — better-paying work in the field in which I'm now qualified.

There are lots of stories like ours. A Columbia study found that the December payments alone kept 3.7 million children out of poverty, reducing the monthly child poverty rate by about 30 percent.

But in the first month without payments, Columbia experts project that the monthly child poverty rate may rise from the current 12 percent to over 17 percent — the highest it's been in over a year.

As these numbers show, parents weren't squandering these payments on luxuries. They used them to live less precariously.

A quarter of parents used the credit on child care so they could return to work. A third of the payments went to essential school expenses. And at least 90 percent of families were using the credits on necessities for their families.

Perhaps most dramatically, new research has found that cash payments to low-income families significantly improve infant brain development and learning later in life.

This is the sort of lifeline that changes children's lives. So why are we taking a torch to it? Why would we lift children out of poverty only to slam them back into it a few months later?

The failure to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit isn't just cruel and short-sighted — it's economically unsound. For the economy to fully recover, workers and families

must be able to survive inflation and other pandemic-related hardships. The enhanced Child Tax Credit was arguably our best tool for that.

It certainly was for me and my beautiful, confident Ada Mae

All of our children deserve the best chance in life, free from the brutal precariousness of poverty. The enhanced Child Tax Credit is that best chance. Let's not miss it.

***Clara Moore** is a researcher and mom who lives in Newark, New Jersey. She shares her experiences in poverty as an advocate with RESULTS Educational Fund. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://otherwords.org/why-are-we-torching-our-best-tool-to-end-child-poverty/>

Reprinted in:



https://www.commondreams.org/views/2022/01/29/child-tax-credit-improves-lives-why-congress-killing-it?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_campaign=echobox&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1643543917

INEQUALITY^{org}

<https://inequality.org/research/child-tax-credit-poverty/>



<http://www.smirkingchimp.com/thread/clara-moore/100119/why-are-we-torching-our-best-tool-to-end-child-poverty>

counterpunch

Tells the Facts, Names the Names

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/01/28/why-are-we-junking-our-best-tool-to-end-child-poverty/>



Fighting against poverty is what Congress should be doing

February 22, 2022

Seeing the letter to the editor entitled "The irony and the embarrassment," I assumed it would be about the 51 senators blocking the Build Back Better Act. (Kitsap Sun letters, Feb. 10)

The irony is these Senators represent millions of ordinary Americans who would have benefitted from the Child Tax Credit and other provisions in the legislation. The embarrassment is we finally found a way to lift 3.7 million children out of poverty, and millions of families finally being able to pay for food and rent, and then these 51 senators stand in the way of continuing this proven initiative.

Thanks to Washington House Representatives for passing it and voting rights, and for Senators Murray and Cantwell for backing both in the Senate. Keep pushing! Sadly, Mr. Golbeck's letter wasn't about that, instead issues of less importance that often cover America's real embarrassing issues of hunger, homelessness, and lack of equity, therein lies the irony.

Let's use our voices to make sure Congress stays with the real issues.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

https://sports.yahoo.com/fighting-against-poverty-congress-doing-214055543.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma&guccounter=1



As Evictions Rise Nationwide, These People Are Doing Something About It

by Dana George | Published on March 18, 2022

Key points

- The government does not keep track of the number of evictions.
- According to advocates, evictions were on the rise, even before COVID-19 hit.
- RESULTS is an organization that helps people get involved in making changes in the fight against poverty and homelessness.

There is no denying that it can be tough to be a landlord with tenants who can't or won't pay rent. While we acknowledge the stress and particular challenges associated with being a landlord, we want to take a closer look at the number of Americans facing life on the street and the everyday people working to make homelessness in the U.S. a thing of the past.

The reality

The U.S. government does not keep track of the number of evictions in any given year, and most state governments keep no records either. Eviction records are kept in county court systems and can be challenging to access. It is left to activists to dig through county records to figure out how many people have been evicted. Figuring out how many of those who are evicted end up living on the streets is nearly impossible.

State of evictions and homelessness

The majority of low-income families in the U.S. spend over half of their income to keep a roof over their heads. Once eviction hits, it can be nearly impossible for some to come up with enough money in the bank to rent another home.

The Eviction Lab at Princeton University does what it can to track how many people have been displaced through eviction. The Lab currently tracks evictions from 31 cities across the country. It found that there have been over 790,000 evictions in those cities since mid-March 2020, including 8,300 evictions in the last week alone.

We don't have a national database that informs us of how many people are homeless in this country. What we have are various groups that gather homeless data. For example, the National Alliance to End Homelessness puts together a State of Homelessness report. The last time a report came out was in January of 2020, just a few weeks before COVID-19 was declared a national emergency. It does not reflect the number of people who have been evicted since the eviction mandates ended last summer.

According to the 2020 report, more than 580,000 were homeless in America. 30% of those homeless were families with children. Another 6% were unaccompanied youth under the age of 25.

The power of everyday people

Sam Daley-Harris is the founder of RESULTS, an organization with more than 100 chapters in the U.S. and an additional 40 chapters in eight other countries. RESULTS is a movement of everyday people working together to influence political decisions to end issues like poverty and homelessness. If it sounds pie in the sky, that may be because we are so conditioned to believe one person cannot effect change.

In his book, *Reclaiming Our Democracy: Healing the Break Between People and Government*, Daley-Harris writes, "We are haunted by this secretly held, and for many, unconscious belief: while we know we can love and nurture those close to us and can

make a difference in our communities, most of us mistakenly believe that we don't make a difference in the larger world."

Through RESULTS, ordinary people are finding their voice. For example, Anita Lee is a publicist from Sherman Oak, California. She's also a RESULTS volunteer. It was in 2011 that Lee lost her home and came face-to-face with the lack of affordable housing. Though she landed on her feet, Lee says the sense of desperation she once felt led her to grassroots advocacy with RESULTS. She found that doing something -- anything -- to help others provided her with hope. Rather than deplete her emotionally, actively working toward change charges Lee's batteries and allows her to see what's possible.

Lee points to real-life people impacted by eviction. She tells the story of Debbie (not her real name) who worked her entire life, including as a business owner. She was divorced and for 45 years took care of a son with special needs. Much of her earnings went to looking after her child. But then her son died, Debbie was diagnosed with cancer, and her money was gone. Today, Debbie is 75 and has been on a waiting list for Section 8 or senior housing for six years. She has spent that time couch surfing, staying with one friend after another. It's stories like this that fuel Lee's passion to see changes made.

Preparation makes a difference

Asked how working with RESULTS differs from other grassroots work she's done, Lee answered, "It's the first place I've worked with that trains and supports you as you go in to speak with elected representatives."

Lee shares a story of running into her congressman in a parking lot. She approached him about an upcoming bill regarding the earned income tax credit. Because of her training through RESULTS, Lee knew to name the specific bill and clearly state her position. Lee says that the congressman's entire demeanor changed when he realized how prepared she was. He ended up agreeing with her position and supporting the bill.

Your voice matters

Given all that's going on in the world, a single interaction may feel like a drop in the bucket, but enough drops eventually fill that bucket. And that's the point of grassroots advocacy.

For anyone interested in helping those who've been touched by food insecurity, evictions, or homelessness, Lee offers the following advice:

- Write to your representatives
- Get your pitch ready so you know what you're advocating for
- Help with your city's homeless count
- Donate to a food bank

According to Lee, the point is to do something. If you're feeling discouraged, worried that the world is a mess, add your voice to the thousands of other voices calling for change. It's enough to make you feel hopeful.

<https://www.fool.com/the-ascent/personal-finance/articles/as-evictions-rise-nationwide-these-people-are-doing-something-about-it/>



Respect democracy by getting involved

May 20, 2022

Ann Giantvalley's recent letter demonstrates how to take action in our democracy that both supports our democracy and basic human rights. ("Democracy in the U.S. is in dire straits," Kitsap Sun, May 16)

The demonstration she mentioned, her letter to the editor, and writing elected officials are all good ways to support your views. Whether it is reproductive rights, renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cuts child poverty nearly in half and helps families, the housing and child care crises relief, and/or the climate crisis, letting your representatives know these issues matter to you makes a difference. Then follow-up, follow-up, follow-up.

As the elections approach, ask candidates questions about these issues and vote based on the answers. These critical issues need follow-up before and after the elections. RESULTS (results.org) teaches this kind of active citizenship and has active groups locally, across the state and the country, welcoming people of all ages to be involved. By taking these steps we show our representatives these issues matter and the process shows a "deep respect" for our democracy.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish*

This article originally appeared on Kitsap Sun: [Respect democracy by getting involved](https://news.yahoo.com/respect-democracy-getting-involved-164816630.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma)

https://news.yahoo.com/respect-democracy-getting-involved-164816630.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=ma



Inspirational quotes

September 2022

Thanks for running the poll "What is your favorite inspirational quote?" in the August issue. I would add American anthropologist Margaret Mead's "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." My 30 years as a volunteer with RESULTS (results.org) have proven the truth of these words.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

No online link



REVIVE THE CHILD TAX CREDIT. OUR CHILDREN DESERVE NOTHING LESS.

Those monthly payments made the American Dream possible for millions of families, including mine.

By Maureen Bowling

October 5, 2022

I like to think I'm an American success story.

I was born into homelessness, grew up in the foster care system, and suffered unthinkable domestic abuse as an adult. Now I'm on track to graduate with a Master's degree in social work next spring.

But don't mistake my story for the "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" trope that conservative lawmakers like to call the American Dream. That idea is mythical, and my own success story proves it.

I'm one hero of my story, certainly. My children, friends, and community members are, too.

But so are the well-funded foster care services I received growing up in Michigan. And the publicly funded therapy and recovery services that helped me overcome the trauma of my early years spent on the street.

Also essential? The Section 8 federal housing program and public programs in Lexington, Kentucky, where my kids and I now live. Those services kept a roof over my children's heads, put food on the table, and provided child care assistance so I could work and enroll in college as a single parent.

Finally, the big hero that helped me and my children survive the pandemic and thrive through loss of employment, child care, and in-person school was the enhanced

monthly Child Tax Credit, passed as a cornerstone of the pandemic relief American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

That credit put monthly payments directly into the bank accounts of nearly every parent and guardian in this country.

Like over 90 percent of all parents who received this benefit, I spent the money on necessities for my family — the first check alone nearly paid off my back rent. I experienced a notable reduction in stress and anxiety, which helped me focus on being a good student and mom.

The Child Tax Credit brought 30 percent of children out of poverty in its very first month. Over its year-long duration, it eventually lifted nearly half of all poor children out of poverty, bringing child poverty to a stunning historic low.

Research connects getting out of poverty to much better health and cognitive development in children, with life-long impacts on educational success, income, and well-being. But despite the overwhelmingly positive effect on nearly all families with children — no matter where we live, our household income, or what we look like — conservative federal lawmakers refused to continue this critical lifeline.

They falsely claimed that helping children out of poverty incentivized their parents not to work. Recent Census data destroys this argument. It shows a large increase in working-age adults' employment for the duration of the 2021 enhanced Child Tax Credit benefits. The rise in employment was virtually the same for adults with and without dependent children.

Similarly, claims that the expanded Child Tax Credit spiked inflation lack evidence. On the contrary, the very necessities that families used the credit to pay for — including heat, housing, and food — are those that have increased in price. Continuing the expanded credit would have eased the effects of inflation on families.

Instead, the expanded Child Tax Credit payments expired at the end of 2021. And child poverty immediately began to shoot back up.

We all want our children to be safe, happy, and healthy. We want to provide the foundation from which they can pursue their dreams. That's the real American Dream,

right? But life presents us all with obstacles, from the unpredictable winds of fate to lawmakers who all too predictably vote to destroy the programs that helped families like mine succeed.

Yet if we come together, raise our voices, and exercise our democratic power at the ballot box, we can elect representatives that will vote in favor of supporting our children's dreams, not against them.

Revive the expanded monthly Child Tax Credit and make it permanent. Our children deserve nothing less.

***Maureen Bowling** is a social worker and mom from Lexington, Kentucky. She shares her experiences living in poverty as an advocate with RESULTS Educational Fund. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

Reprinted in:



<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2022/10/06/our-kids-and-our-future-we-must-fight-extend-childhood-tax-credit>

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Congress's lame-duck priorities

November 17, 2022

The Nov. 13 editorial on the lame-duck session suggested that action to reinstate the enhanced child tax credit (CTC) is business better left to the 118th Congress. Because it enjoys bipartisan support, this particular legislation can wait until a more advantageous time, it seems.

Though it has been treated as such for generations, child poverty is not a kick-the-can issue. If the issue is put off until after the first of the year, inevitably other matters more “necessary” will relegate this to the back burner once more. Child poverty continues to be a problem in this country only because it is allowed to be. There will never be a convenient time to give it the attention it deserves unless we make it a priority.

A growing list of Democrats and Republicans now acknowledge that monetary allowances for children are remarkably effective in confronting poverty. Precisely for this reason, the issue should be taken up now.

That the expanded CTC was allowed to lapse is shameful. Its reinstatement before the end of the year would truly make this lame-duck session a mighty one.

– **Joanna DiStefano, Morgantown, W.Va.**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/11/17/congresss-lame-duck-priorities/>



We reduced child poverty by historic rates. Congress can do it again, but it must act now.

Last year saw the largest one-year reduction of child poverty in history. It is important to note, however, that these child tax credit provisions expired at the end of 2021.

By Brendan Bow and Ruhani Sansoya

Picture it: The holidays are just around the corner. While most people are searching online for "holiday gift guides," some families are looking up "local holiday meal distribution free" and "utilities assistance."

Despite all the recent attention on who will control the next Congress, the current Congress can still make history again this year and address these issues by using a method that has been implemented before, is proven to work and is already on the table.

Last year, the expanded child tax credit with monthly payments became available to 65 million children in a record nearly 40 million families across the United States. This single piece of legislation helped lift 5.3 million Americans out of poverty, including 2.9 million children.

Child poverty fell by a miraculous 46% last year

An expansion took into account a household's number of children and income from the prior tax year and provided a monthly income boost dispersed throughout the year from half of a family's child tax credit. In prior years, families had to wait until tax season and would struggle to make ends meet until they could receive the full one-time tax break.

According to U.S. census data, child poverty fell by a miraculous 46% last year. In fact, this was the largest one-year reduction of child poverty in history. It is important to note, however, that these child tax credit provisions expired at the end of 2021.

Despite some serious misgivings from some prominent members of government fueled by negative stereotypes, studies have shown that the monthly child tax credit payments worked as intended. It helped to mitigate financial burdens for low-income families, which often disproportionately harm marginalized communities.

The new provisions helped to accommodate for historic economic injustices: The percentage of children living below the federal poverty line fell to the lowest rates on record for non-Hispanic white (2.7%), Black (8.1%) and Hispanic (8.4%) children. Many parents used this freedom and flexibility to cover things such as child care, clothes and transportation costs.

In 2021, the expanded child tax credit with monthly payments became available to 65 million children in a record nearly 40 million families across the United States. This single piece of legislation helped lift 5.3 million Americans out of poverty, including 2.9 million children.

According to the Census Household Pulse Survey:

- 30% of families receiving the child tax credit spent it on school expenses.
- About 25% spent it on child care costs.
- 40% of households were able to pay down debt.
- Half the participants spent at least some of the credit on food.
- 40% spent it on things such as rent, mortgage or utilities.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that more than 90% of families making less than \$35,000 a year used their monthly child tax credit payments for the most basic of expenses, including food, clothing, shelter, utilities and education.

What's the bad news?

The fact of the matter is this program worked! It did exactly what it purported to do, and it did it well. So, what's the bad news?

Since these provisions expired in December 2021, nearly a year ago, parents are now less able to afford child care, forcing some of them to leave the workforce to care for their children. To top it all off, global inflation has made the most basic necessities (including food and utilities) more expensive – something we’re sure you’ve probably already noticed.

The high cost of living, amplified by inflation, combined with the looming will-they-won’t-they threat of a recession and a housing crisis, is not looking to magically improve on its own any time soon.

All of these things are having devastating effects on those already experiencing financial hardship. When comparing the first half of September 2021 (with the expanded child tax credit in effect) to the first half of this October (without the expanded credit), the number of adults who reported that they were not working chiefly because they were caring for a child not in school or day care increased from 4.4 million to 4.5 million.

Furthermore, the number of families with children who reported sometimes or often not having enough to eat increased from nearly 9 million to more than 11 million nationwide.

How’s that for a holiday season?

Big Business wants Congress to extend tax breaks for wealthy corporations. This has bipartisan support, but it would be unconscionable to forget about the tens of millions of American families struggling to make ends meet.

Last year, we achieved a historic reduction in child poverty. We can do it again.

Brendan Bow volunteers with RESULTS to advocate against poverty, works as a program analyst at the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy and serves as adjunct faculty at IUPUI (Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis). Ruhani Sansoya is a third-year medical student at IU School of Medicine and advocates with RESULTS. RESULTS is an organization committed to ending poverty.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2022/12/05/congress-expand-child-tax-credit-reduce-poverty/10797503002/>



Congress: Help Struggling Families Before It's Too Late

Lawmakers are considering year-end tax breaks for corporations. A little help for families like yours and mine would go much further.

By Sarah Izabel

December 7, 2022

Right around the time I heard lawmakers were considering a year-end package of tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations, my 12-year-old son's bike broke. It felt like just another thing I couldn't fix for him.

Yet here are our lawmakers "fixing" things for those with the fewest problems. That's unacceptable when there are so many ordinary families who need help.

I know what it's like to pull myself up by my bootstraps — I've had to do it again and again. But I also know how far even a little help can go.

I grew up in Brazil, where my mother instilled in my siblings and me the value of hard work and education. I worked my way into law school, where I met a man from the United States. We fell in love, married, and had a child. I moved with him to Virginia to go to college and raise our family.

It felt like I was doing everything right... but things went wrong. When my husband developed a substance abuse problem and became aggressive, I had to flee with my child to a local YWCA for refuge.

I dropped out of school to get more jobs and scraped together enough to pay for rent, apply for Pell grants, and get back into school. But when I got back together with my husband during a period of sobriety for him, we ended up worse off than before. He lost our money and the car, leaving me with car payments and no transportation.

Yet I kept going with classes and work, biking my son to his school. I house-sat, couch-hopped, got a cheap car, and worked for DoorDash. I finally graduated and started work as a research fellow in neuroscience.

But the bills kept coming, not least for my \$58,000 in student loans. I still didn't have enough to feed my child properly or buy those little extra things he wanted or needed. I lived in constant fear of any small financial emergency. The food pantry became a saving grace for us.

Then, in 2021, Congress passed an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

Suddenly I had a reliable, monthly infusion of cash that meant we could eat consistently. It meant we didn't face repeated eviction notices. It meant I could put gas in the car, buy my son dress pants for choir, and apply to graduate schools. It meant something I could finally count on.

It meant everything. I got into Stanford's Ph.D. program in neuroscience, where I got childcare subsidies on campus, a full-tuition scholarship, and campus jobs.

Those payments sent us on our way. But they stopped suddenly a year ago, when all 50 Senate Republicans plus Democrat Joe Manchin refused to extend this program that had cut child poverty in half in just six months.

So, my son's bike is broken and I can't get it fixed. The food pantry is again our lifeline — and we're not alone in that. The loss of the expanded Child Tax Credit is associated with a 25 percent rise in food insecurity nationally.

I again live in fear of any emergency. I'm stressed out and my child feels so much guilt that he won't ask for basic things he needs.

This is a policy choice, affecting tens of millions of struggling American families who've done all they can to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. But Congress has a chance to right this grievous wrong by restoring the critical enhancements to the Child Tax Credit.

If lawmakers want to cut taxes for corporations and the rich, then they'd better do the right thing and give ordinary working families a boost, too. A little help makes all the difference in the world.

Sarah Izabel is a Neurosciences Doctoral Student at the Stanford School of Medicine. As an anti-poverty advocate, she's the Silicon Valley Group Leader at RESULTS and the RESULTS Educational Fund. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

<https://otherwords.org/congress-help-struggling-families-before-its-too-late/>



Making a difference

December 31, 2022

Thanks for the inspirational articles in the December issue ("World changers") about people "being the change they wish to see in the world." We may not all have the time to do these things, but everyone can do something to address these problems: Ask our members of Congress to pass legislation to end hunger and make sure a quality education is available to all. In this way we can use our voices to make a difference.

- Willie Dickerson, *Snohomish, Washington*

No online link