

The logo for 'results' is contained within a white speech bubble shape with rounded corners and a tail pointing towards the bottom-left. The word 'results' is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font in a dark red color.

**results**

# **RESULTS Print Media: U.S. Poverty**

January 1 – December 31, 2023

Date	State	Article	Outlet	Media Type	Topic
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Alaska media</a></u></b>					
3/20/23	AK	<a href="#">Tax credit changes</a>	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/29/23	AK	<a href="#">Work requirements</a>	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, TANF
8/21/23	AK	<a href="#">Restore expanded child tax credit</a>	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/15/23	AK	Expand the Child Tax Credit	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Arizona media</a></u></b>					
1/3/23	AZ	<a href="#">Congress can save people, too</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
2/12/23	AZ	<a href="#">There's more to the Child Tax Credit than meets the eye</a>	Arizona Daily Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
2/20/23	AZ	<a href="#">Families in poverty</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/10/23	AZ	<a href="#">Make the tax code fair for everyone</a>	Daily Independent	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/25/23	AZ	<a href="#">Poverty</a>	The Miner	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/25/23	AZ	<a href="#">Congress needs to expand child tax credit</a>	Daily Independent	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/25/23	AZ	<a href="#">Congress must act on Child Tax Credit</a>	Lake Havasu News-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

4/30/23	AZ	<a href="#">Reauthorize the Child Tax Credit now</a>	Arizona Republic	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
5/20/23	AZ	<a href="#">The real issues</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/26/23	AZ	<a href="#">Kids need our help</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, budget cuts
7/25/23	AZ	<a href="#">Democracy and responsibility</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/10/23	AZ	<a href="#">Speaking up for a better live for all</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
10/20/23	AZ	<a href="#">Re: the Oct. 12. article "National opinion: A wake up call on poverty"</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/28/23	AZ	<a href="#">An easy way to stop child poverty</a>	Arizona Republic	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/19/23	AZ	<a href="#">Argument made to expand Child Tax Credit</a>	Arizona Daily Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/25/23	AZ	<a href="#">Re: the Nov. 24. article "Local opinion: Change has to happen"</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/28/23	AZ	<a href="#">Demand action lift children from poverty</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/29/23	AZ	<a href="#">Demand Action Now</a>	Lake Havasu News-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit
12/10/23	AZ	<a href="#">NPA students' activism applauded</a>	Arizona Daily Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/21/23	AZ	<a href="#">The importance of home</a>	Arizona Daily Star	Op-ed	Housing

[Go to California media](#)

1/18/23	CA	<a href="#">A culture of universal worth</a>	Bakersfield Californian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
2/15/23	CA	<a href="#">Congress should bring back Child Tax Credit</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
2/15/23	CA	<a href="#">Congress should bring back Child Tax Credit</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
3/22/23	CA	<a href="#">Honor Carter by standing up for equity</a>	Bakersfield Californian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/5/23	CA	<a href="#">Renters' credit could help crisis of SF's unhoused</a>	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
4/9/23	CA	<a href="#">Tax Credit</a>	The Sacramento Bee	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
5/5/23	CA	<a href="#">Debt is not the issue for GOP gamesmanship</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/5/23	CA	<a href="#">Debt is not the issue for GOP gamesmanship</a>	The Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/7/23	CA	<a href="#">Not the time to cut anti-poverty programs</a>	Enterprise-Record	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/9/23	CA	<a href="#">The painful costs of the debt ceiling standoff</a>	Los Angeles Times	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/15/23	CA	<a href="#">It's time for Congress to make poor families a priority</a>	Los Angeles Times	Letter to the editor	SNAP
5/15/23	CA	<a href="#">It's time for Congress to make poor families a priority</a>	Los Angeles Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/20/23	CA	<a href="#">Punishing the poor</a>	The Press Democrat	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/23/23	CA	<a href="#">Targeting poor families and children over debt ceiling politics is wrong</a> (first letter)	San Diego Union-Tribune	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts

5/23/23	CA	<a href="#">Targeting poor families and children over debt ceiling politics is wrong</a> (second letter)	San Diego Union-Tribune	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/28/23	CA	<a href="#">Budget Cuts Will Hurt Americans</a>	Modesto Bee	Letter to the Editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/31/23	CA	<a href="#">Congress has responsibility to pay the bills it runs up</a>	The Ceres Courier	Letter to the Editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
7/5/23	CA	<a href="#">U.S. must do more to feed out children</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
7/5/23	CA	<a href="#">U.S. must do more to feed out children</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/13/23	CA	<a href="#">Report on soaring child poverty in U.S. must be seen as a call to action</a>	San Diego Union-Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit. Earned Income Tax Credit
9/15/23	CA	<a href="#">When Lawmakers Chose a Poverty Surge Path Chosen</a>	LA Progressive	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/21/23	CA	<a href="#">Country can't afford not to renew CTC</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/21/23	CA	<a href="#">Country can't afford not to renew CTC</a>	The Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/2/23	CA	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped— and it was no accident</a>	The San Bernadino American	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
10/4/23	CA	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit will help nation prosper</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/4/23	CA	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit will help nation prosper</a>	The Mercury News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/4/23	CA	<a href="#">Bring tax credit back</a>	The Press Democrat	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/10/23	CA	<a href="#">Housing: Build Community, Not Wealth</a>	LA Progressive	Op-ed	Housing

12/15/23	CA	<a href="#">The importance of home</a>	The Californian	Op-ed	Housing
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Colorado media</a></u></b>					
1/19/23	CO	<a href="#">Re: 'Dive to survive'</a>	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
2/3/23	CO	<a href="#">Don't let politicians cut housing aid</a>	Colorado Times Recorder	Op-ed	Housing, hunger
3/2/23	CO	<a href="#">Re: 'History will be kind to Jimmy Carter'</a>	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/12/23	CO	<a href="#">Many are falling short chasing the American dream</a>	Boulder County News	Op-ed	Poverty
4/12/23	CO	<a href="#">Address housing federally</a>	Post Independent	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/28/23	CO	<a href="#">Yes to renters' credit</a>	Post Independent	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/8/23	CO	Keeping the price of housing in check	Denver Post	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
5/24/23	CO	<a href="#">A manufactured crisis</a>	Denver Post	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Child Tax Credit
5/25/23	CO	<a href="#">Solution to Homeless = Child Tax Credit</a>	Boulder County News	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
10/2/23	CO	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit should be expanded</a>	Post Independent	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/11/23	CO	Poverty is a policy choice	Denver Post	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/13/23	CO	<a href="#">Elect leaders who support Child Tax Credit</a>	Daily Camera	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

12/5/23	CO	<a href="#">Tell Congress to make CTC fully refundable</a>	The Daily Sentinel	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/10/23	CO	<a href="#">Housing should be seen as a human right</a>	Daily Camera	Op-ed	Housing
12/15/23	CO	<a href="#">The Importance of Home</a>	El Semanario	Op-ed	Housing
12/31/23	CO	<a href="#">Celebrating the resilience of low-income women</a>	Daily Camera	Op-ed	Renter Tax Credit

**Go to Connecticut media**

2/28/23	CT	<a href="#">Housing Vouchers and Food Stamps Helped My Family, Will Families Today Get the Same Chance?</a>	Connecticut Examiner	Letter to the editor	Housing, hunger
12/20/23	CT	Child poverty is everywhere	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**Go to Florida media**

3/20/23	FL	<a href="#">Congress can help families</a>	South Florida Sun Sentinel	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/18/23	FL	Poverty Fix	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/20/23	FL	Systemic Disparities	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/21/23	FL	<a href="#">Many are falling short chasing the American Dream</a>	Florida Courier	Op-ed	U.S. poverty
4/30/23	FL	Tax Credits	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/10/23	FL	<a href="#">House GOP takes debt ceiling hostage</a>	Sarasota Herald-Tribune	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts

5/21/23	FL	<a href="#">Don't punish people</a>	South Florida Sun Sentinel	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
9/20/23	FL	Child Poverty	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/22/23	FL	<a href="#">Renew the Child Tax Credit</a>	Tampa Bay Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/3/23	FL	Prioritize Kids	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/12/23	FL	<a href="#">Expand child tax credit</a>	South Florida Sun Sentinel	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/20/23	FL	Senators Scott, Rubio: Bringing back the expanded Child Tax Credit should be our priority	Tallahassee Democrat	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/22/23	FL	<a href="#">The importance of home</a>	Journal Courier	Op-ed	Housing

**[Go to Georgia media](#)**

2/18/23	GA	<a href="#">Don't let politicians bargain with our basic human needs</a>	Albany Herald	Op-ed	Housing, hunger
5/7/23	GA	<a href="#">Renter's tax credit policy a better approach to housing problems</a>	Albany Herald	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit

**[Go to Hawai'i media](#)**

5/22/23	HI	<a href="#">Don't cut key services for debt ceiling deal</a>	Star Advertiser	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
11/17/23	HI	<a href="#">When it comes to tax priorities, kids come first</a>	The Maui News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**[Go to Idaho media](#)**



5/3/23	ID	<a href="#">Toward equity for all</a>	Moscow-Pullman Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
8/13/23	ID	<a href="#">Help for families still needed</a>	Idaho Press	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/29/23	ID	<a href="#">Renters Tax Credit Would Stabilize Housing</a>	Idaho Press	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
11/28/23	ID	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit Should Be Expanded</a>	Idaho Press	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/10/23	ID	<a href="#">Crapo Should Back Child Tax Credit</a>	Idaho Statesman	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**[Go to Illinois media](#)**

3/14/23	IL	<a href="#">Congress can level the tax playing field for families, renters</a>	Chicago Sun-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/10/23	IL	<a href="#">Dealing with child poverty</a>	Chicago Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/14/23	IL	<a href="#">American dream is falling short</a>	Journal Courier	Op-ed	U.S. poverty
5/18/23	IL	<a href="#">Lift the debt ceiling</a>	Chicago Sun-Times	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/20/23	IL	<a href="#">Reject House cuts to anti-poverty programs</a>	The Southern Illinoisan	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
9/20/23	IL	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped, and it was no accident</a>	Journal Courier	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing

**[Go to Indiana media](#)**

3/15/23	IN	<a href="#">Start putting everyday Americans first</a>	Daily Reporter	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
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4/19/23	IN	<a href="#">Renter's tax credit would make housing more affordable</a>	Indianapolis Business Journal	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
4/28/23	IN	<a href="#">Support for families can make America greater</a>	Journal Gazette	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
10/1/23	IN	<a href="#">Congress: Change Child Tax Credit to help more families</a>	The Herald-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/8/23	IN	<a href="#">Congress should renew, expand Child Tax Credit</a>	The Herald-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**[Go to Iowa media](#)**

4/22/23	IA	<a href="#">Expand the Child Tax Credit</a>	Newton Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/23/23	IA	<a href="#">Congress must expand the child tax credit</a>	Fearless	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
9/20/23	IA	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped — and it was no accident</a>	Times-Republican	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/29/23	IA	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped — and it was no accident</a>	Storm Lake Times Pilot	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
11/9/23	IA	<a href="#">Congress must work together for a fairer Child Tax Credit</a>	Des Moines Register	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**[Go to Kansas media](#)**

5/5/23	KS	<a href="#">Asking Jake LaTurner, Roger Marshall and Jerry Moran to stand up for Kansans</a>	Topeka Capital Journal	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
9/19/23	KS	<a href="#">Poverty rates just jumped - and it was no accident</a>	Courier Traveler	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing

**[Go to Kentucky media](#)**

10/25/23	KY	<a href="#">Monthly tax credit would help low-income renters</a>	The State Journal	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
12/13/23	KY	<a href="#">Housing should be seen as a community builder, not a wealth builder</a>	Eastern Progress	Op-ed	Housing
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Louisiana media</a></u></b>					
2/22/23	LA	<a href="#">Don't let politicians cut housing aid</a>	The Daily Star	Op-ed	Housing, hunger
10/2/23	LA	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped – and it was no accident</a>	The Daily Star	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Maine media</a></u></b>					
10/20/23	ME	<a href="#">Restore social safety net of federal child tax credit</a>	Portland Press-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Maryland/Washington, DC media</a></u></b>					
2/8/23	MD	<a href="#">Child Tax Credits needed more than ever</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/5/23	MD	<a href="#">Expand Maryland's child tax credit</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
5/7/23	MD	<a href="#">Biden needs to reject House plan</a>	Capital Gazette	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/12/23	MD	<a href="#">In defense of community gardens and other programs that promote well-being</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/12/23	MD	<a href="#">Struggling families ought to be spared federal budget cuts</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
7/16/23	MD	<a href="#">Child tax credit should be a federal priority</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit

9/25/23	MD	<a href="#">Expanded child tax credit can help offset rising poverty</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Massachusetts media</a></u></b>					
2/9/23	MA	<a href="#">Poor American families need better support</a>	The Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor	SNAP, Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit
2/25/23	MA	<a href="#">Housing aid is vital – don't let pols cut it</a>	Boston Herald	Op-ed	Housing, hunger
4/18/23	MA	<a href="#">Use the tax code to help children and families</a>	The Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/19/23	MA	<a href="#">Adult stress equals child stress</a>	Greenfield Recorder	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/20/23	MA	<a href="#">Congress must reinstate Child Tax Credit, consider renter's credit</a>	Greenfield Recorder	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/26/23	MA	<a href="#">The poor shouldn't be punished for Congress' debt-ceiling dawdling</a>	The Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/28/23	MA	Adding hardship to most needy	The Springfield Republican	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
6/5/23	MA	<a href="#">Safety net hasn't just been frayed — it's been torn asunder</a>	The Boston Globe	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Child Tax Credit
11/20/23	MA	<a href="#">Support a renewal of the expanded child tax credit</a>	The Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/20/23	MA	<a href="#">Expand the child tax credit for children in poverty</a>	The Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Michigan media</a></u></b>					
4/23/23	MI	<a href="#">Expanded child tax credit kept kids out of poverty</a>	Detroit Free Press	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

5/21/23	MI	<a href="#">House GOP being irresponsible</a>	Macomb Daily	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
12/19/23	MI	<a href="#">The importance of home</a>	Midland Daily News	Op-ed	Housing
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Minnesota media</a></u></b>					
1/20/23	MN	<a href="#">Tax credits can help keep King's dream alive</a>	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
2/8/23	MN	<a href="#">In honor of the Carters, make the world better</a>	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/3/23	MN	<a href="#">Congress blind to constituents' plight</a>	Morrison County Record	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/29/23	MN	<a href="#">Speak up for tax breaks that help families</a>	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
6/26/23	MN	<a href="#">Congress can follow Minnesota in helping kids</a>	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/2/23	MN	<a href="#">Let's make Dr. King's call a reality</a>	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
8/31/23	MN	<a href="#">We can turn the world's future around</a>	Morrison County Record	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/29/23	MN	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped - and it was no accident</a>	Detroit Lakes Tribune	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
10/17/23	MN	<a href="#">Continue conversations with elected officials</a>	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, housing
11/28/23	MN	<a href="#">For equity, act both locally and nationally</a>	Detroit Lakes Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/6/23	MN	<a href="#">Federal tax credits promise positive change</a>	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit

## Go to Missouri media

1/14/23	MO	<a href="#">Powerful Missouri lawmakers need input from voters</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Global TB, tax policy, housing
1/17/23	MO	<a href="#">It's time for Congress to support child tax credit legislation</a>	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
1/23/23	MO	<a href="#">Bring Back Child Tax Credit</a>	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
2/6/23	MO	<a href="#">In Support Of Child Tax Credit</a>	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, advocacy
2/12/23	MO	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit should be expanded to fight poverty</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
2/18/23	MO	<a href="#">U.S. should pass renter's tax credit</a>	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
3/15/23	MO	<a href="#">Congress should pass tax credit for renters</a>	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
3/21/23	MO	<a href="#">Let's ease the burden on buying food in the U.S.</a>	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	SNAP
3/27/23	MO	<a href="#">Ending Child Poverty In The World's Wealthiest Country</a>	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/30/23	MO	<a href="#">Housing Needs</a>	Kansas city Start	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
4/10/23	MO	<a href="#">Congress should pass the Renter's Tax Credit</a>	Phelps County Focus	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/17/23	MO	<a href="#">Support expanding the Child Tax Credit</a>	Phelps County Focus	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
5/10/23	MO	<a href="#">Holding Hostage</a>	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling; SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts

5/12/23	MO	<a href="#">Don't cut anti-poverty programs</a>	Phelps County Focus	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling; SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/17/23	MO	<a href="#">Let's do more to 'Stamp Out Hunger'</a>	West Magazine	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, SNAP
5/17/23	MO	<a href="#">Congress should approve tax credits for Americans</a>	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/23/23	MO	<a href="#">Farm bill could build more equitable food systems</a>	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor	SNAP
7/31/23	MO	<a href="#">Support Our Senior Citizens</a>	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/4/23	MO	<a href="#">Congress needs to fully fund SNAP program without obstacles</a>	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor	SNAP
8/9/23	MO	<a href="#">Expanding Child Tax Credit would be one way to close the 'achievement gap' in schools</a>	Columbia Missourian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/10/23	MO	<a href="#">St. Louis' D.C. delegation should support fully funding SNAP</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	SNAP
8/14/23	MO	<a href="#">Access To Nutritional Food</a>	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor	SNAP
8/14/23	MO	<a href="#">Expanding Child Tax Credit will help close achievement gap</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/21/23	MO	<a href="#">Expand Child Tax Credit</a>	Webster-Kirkwood Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/17/23	MO	<a href="#">Proven to Help</a>	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/28/23	MO	<a href="#">Jason Smith should expand the Child Tax Credit</a>	Phelps County Focus	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/1/23	MO	<a href="#">Congress must extend Child Tax Credit</a>	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

11/5/23	MO	<a href="#">Federal Child Tax Credit should be monthly, and expanded</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/6/23	MO	<a href="#">Jason Smith should expand Child Tax Credit</a>	Phelps County Focus	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/13/23	MO	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit needs to be expanded</a>	Phelps County Focus	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/19/23	MO	<a href="#">Expanded Child Tax Credit would be holiday gift for families</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/24/23	MO	<a href="#">Rent tax credit program would help reduce homelessness</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Montana Media</a></u></b>					
7/2/23	MT	<a href="#">Find time to talk to Congress</a>	Billings Gazette	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
7/2/23	MT	<a href="#">Find time to talk to Congress</a>	Missoulian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Nevada media</a></u></b>					
1/15/23	NV	<a href="#">Elected leaders answer to us</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/4/23	NV	<a href="#">Put pressure on to pass tax credit</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/16/23	NV	<a href="#">Take a moral stand for kids</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/21/23	NV	<a href="#">Aid to children benefits nation</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
5/24/23	NV	<a href="#">GOP toys with global economy</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts



5/25/23	NV	<a href="#">Congress needs moms' empathy</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	SNAP
6/3/23	NV	<a href="#">No reason for poverty in US</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
6/29/23	NV	<a href="#">Help each other be a better nation</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/15/23	NV	<a href="#">Demand help for Nevada families</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
10/7/23	NV	<a href="#">Families need child tax credit</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/22/23	NV	<a href="#">Demand action from Congress</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/2/23	NV	<a href="#">Housing crisis needs attention</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
12/7/23	NV	<a href="#">Put politicians in holiday spirit</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
12/13/23	NV	<a href="#">Housing should be seen as a community builder, not a wealth builder</a>	Nevada Current	Op-ed	Housing

**Go to New Hampshire media**

9/18/23	NH	<a href="#">Are corporations more important than our children?</a>	Concord Monitor	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/20/23	NH	<a href="#">Use the tax code to help children and renters</a>	Concord Monitor	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit

**Go to New Mexico media**

5/22/23	NM	<a href="#">Renters Tax Credit deserves support</a>	Albuquerque Journal	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
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10/28/23	NM	<a href="#">Bring back the Child Tax Credit for good</a>	Albuquerque Journal	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to New York media</a></u></b>					
3/2/23	NY	<a href="#">Rent relief</a>	NY Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/17/23	NY	<a href="#">Our tax code needs to be fair for everyone</a>	Finger Lakes Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
8/13/23	NY	<a href="#">Family Values</a>	NY Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
9/22/23	NY	Poverty just jumped, and it was no accident	Lockport Union-Sun & Journal	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/22/23	NY	Poverty just jumped, and it was no accident	Niagara Gazette	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
10/2/23	NY	<a href="#">For the children</a>	NY Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
10/21/23	NY	<a href="#">Asks Rep. Stefanik to support Child Tax Credit</a>	The Post Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global TB, global education
12/6/23	NY	<a href="#">Expand the Child Tax Credit for those living in poverty</a>	The Buffalo News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/8/23	NY	<a href="#">The Importance of Home</a>	Roosevelt Island Daily News	Op-ed	Housing
12/15/23	NY	<a href="#">Lack Of Affordable Housing Is A Big Obstacle To Thriving In America</a>	Black News	Op-ed	Housing
12/24/23	NY	<a href="#">Unfinished business</a>	NY Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit, global TB, global education

**[Go to North Carolina media](#)**

3/19/23	NC	<a href="#">Renter Tax Credit</a>	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/19/23	NC	<a href="#">Here's where your refund may have gone</a>	The Mountaineer	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
5/10/23	NC	<a href="#">Dangerous Ploy</a>	Greensboro News & Record	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/12/23	NC	<a href="#">Dangerous Ploy</a>	Winston Salem Journal	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/28/23	NC	<a href="#">Debt ceiling is a dangerous game</a>	Asheville Citizen Times	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, Child Tax Credit
6/7/23	NC	<a href="#">Stop using debt ceiling for political purposes</a>	Asheville Citizen Times	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, budget cuts
6/18/23	NC	<a href="#">GOP needs to stop obsession with culture wars</a>	Asheville Citizen Times	Letter to the editor	Poverty, anti-oppression
9/20/23	NC	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped, and it was no accident</a>	The Triangle Tribune	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
10/15/23	NC	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit</a>	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/10/23	NC	<a href="#">Put children first</a>	Winston-Salem Journal	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/10/23	NC	<a href="#">Put children first</a>	Greensboro News & Record	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/14/23	NC	<a href="#">Put kids first</a>	Winston-Salem Journal	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**Go to North Dakota media**

3/2/23	ND	<a href="#">Time to reinstate Child Tax Credit</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
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4/26/23	ND	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit should be expanded</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, SNAP
5/10/23	ND	<a href="#">Child tax credit must be expanded</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/13/23	ND	<a href="#">Playing Russian roulette with America's credit</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
6/3/23	ND	<a href="#">Housing crisis becomes more dire</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
8/5/23	ND	<a href="#">Expand the Child Tax Credit to end child poverty</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
10/10/23	ND	<a href="#">Reduce child poverty, expand the federal child tax credit</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/11/23	ND	<a href="#">Expansion of Child Tax Credit crucial</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/12/23	ND	<a href="#">Expansion of Child Tax Credit must happen</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**Go to Ohio media**

2/23/23	OH	<a href="#">We need a renter's tax credit</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
4/3/23	OH	<a href="#">Reader reacts to Knox County housing shortage</a>	Knox County News	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
4/8/23	OH	<i>No title</i>	Dayton Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/28/23	OH	Revive Child Tax Credit to help fight poverty in the U.S.	Elyria Chronicle Telegram	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/30/23	OH	<a href="#">The tax code must be fair</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

4/28/23	OH	Call Congress to support the Child Tax Credit	Elyria Chronicle Telegram	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
5/6/23	OH	<a href="#">No title</a>	Dayton Daily News	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
6/10/23	OH	Congress should work to help families out of poverty	Elyria Chronicle Telegram	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, Child Tax Credit. Renter Tax Credit
7/26/23	OH	Government must do a better job helping families	Elyria Chronicle Telegram	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/31/23	OH	The Child Tax Credit should be renewed to help families	Elyria Chronicle Telegram	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/10/23	OH	<a href="#">Tax credit can help end child poverty</a>	Tribune Chronicle	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/24/23	OH	<a href="#">Renew the expanded Child Tax Credit</a>	Marion Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/24/23	OH	<a href="#">Tell them to do their jobs</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/5/23	OH	<a href="#">Why the loss of child tax credit is catastrophic for American children</a>	Cincinnati Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**Go to Oklahoma media**

10/14/23	OK	<a href="#">Elected leaders need to work to raise up Oklahomans living in poverty</a>	The Oklahoman	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
10/27/23	OK	<a href="#">Affordable housing not so affordable anymore</a>	Tulsa World	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
11/25/23	OK	<a href="#">Expand the Child Tax Credit and establish a Renter's Tax Credit</a>	The Oklahoman	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
12/16/23	OK	<a href="#">Wage war against hunger, poverty</a>	The Oklahoman	Letter to the editor	Hunger, poverty

**Go to Oregon media**

1/4/23	OR	<a href="#">Tracks to '26</a>	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
2/9/23	OR	<a href="#">Let's pass a renters' tax credit</a>	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
2/22/23	OR	<a href="#">Inspirational read</a>	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/17/23	OR	<a href="#">Val Hoyle should live up to promise</a>	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
3/17/23	OR	<a href="#">Val Hoyle should live up to promise</a>	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
3/19/23	OR	Val Hoyle should live up to promise	The Oregonian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/7/23	OR	<a href="#">Oregonians shouldn't be stuck solving the housing crisis alone—the federal tax code can help</a>	Portland Tribune	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/12/23	OR	<a href="#">We can bring about positive change</a>	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/12/23	OR	<a href="#">We can bring about positive change</a>	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/16/23	OR	<a href="#">Make the tax code fair for everyone</a>	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/16/23	OR	<a href="#">Make the tax code fair for everyone</a>	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/25/23	OR	<a href="#">The Tax System Can Help The Homeless</a>	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
6/14/23	OR	<a href="#">Three cheers</a>	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit

7/8/23	OR	<a href="#">Ask reps to pass the American Family Act</a>	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
7/8/23	OR	<a href="#">Ask reps to pass the American Family Act</a>	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
7/25/23	OR	<a href="#">Expanded CTC will help the homeless</a>	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, housing
7/25/23	OR	<a href="#">Expanded CTC will help the homeless</a>	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, housing
8/31/23	OR	<a href="#">Ask reps to pass American Family Act</a>	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/31/23	OR	<a href="#">Ask reps to pass American Family Act</a>	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/5/23	OR	<a href="#">Recognize poverty's impact on learning</a>	The Oregonian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/19/23	OR	<a href="#">Increase Child Tax Credit to help poor</a>	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/19/23	OR	<a href="#">Increase Child Tax Credit to help poor</a>	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/25/23	OR	<a href="#">Congrats on General Excellence</a>	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/16/23	OR	<a href="#">Renew the Child Tax Credit</a>	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global education
11/25/23	OR	<a href="#">A renter tax credit would help families</a>	Corvallis Gazette-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/25/23	OR	<a href="#">A renter tax credit would help families</a>	Albany Democrat-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/13/23	OR	<a href="#">Help battle poverty</a>	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit

12/21/23	OR	<a href="#">Thanks for Giving Us an Opinion Forum</a>	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global tuberculosis
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Pennsylvania media</a></u></b>					
3/10/23	PA	<a href="#">Congress, expand child tax credit and add a renter tax credit</a>	Daily Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/28/23	PA	<a href="#">Working families: Brace for more cuts</a>	The Sentinel	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/3/23	PA	<a href="#">Hungry Pittsburgh</a>	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/1/23	PA	<a href="#">Startling new figures on child poverty could have been avoided if Congress had acted</a>	Lehigh Valley Express-Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/3/23	PA	<a href="#">Replay the Child Tax Credit</a>	York Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/18/23	PA	<a href="#">The Importance of Home</a>	Bucks County Beacon	Op-ed	Housing
12/21/23	PA	<a href="#">Affordable housing should be a human right everyone enjoys</a>	The Patriot-News	Op-ed	Housing
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Rhode Island media</a></u></b>					
5/14/23	RI	Housing is a dire need nationally as well	Providence Journal	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
12/13/23	RI	<a href="#">The importance of home</a>	Progressive Charlestown	Blog feature	Housing
<b><u><a href="#">Go to South Carolina media</a></u></b>					
10/1/23	SC	<a href="#">SC Sen. Tim Scott, other lawmakers need to extend Child Tax Credit to fight child poverty</a>	Greenville News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit



10/11/23	SC	<a href="#">End child poverty</a>	Post and Courier	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Tennessee media</a></u></b>					
3/18/23	TN	<a href="#">Seeking rental, child subsidies</a>	Chattanooga Times Free Press	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/21/23	TN	Congress should expand Child Tax Credit again	Knoxville News-Sentinel	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/29/23	TN	<a href="#">Expand full Child Tax Credit to help low-income families</a>	Oak Ridger	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/22/23	TN	Provide more assistance for families in poverty	Knoxville News-Sentinel	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/19/23	TN	How Congress can reduce child poverty	Knoxville News-Sentinel	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Texas media</a></u></b>					
4/18/23	TX	<a href="#">Many Are Falling Short While Chasing The American Dream</a>	Texas Metro News	Op-ed	U.S. poverty
6/3/23	TX	<a href="#">We should handle the debt crisis responsibly, but it shouldn't be at the expense of the poor</a>	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, budget cuts
8/27/23	TX	Our congressional representatives should support expanding the Child Tax Credit	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/15/23	TX	<a href="#">Poverty Just Jumped – And It Was No Accident</a>	The Gilmer Mirror	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
11/4/23	TX	<a href="#">Poverty is fixable</a>	Cleburne Times-Review	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/9/23	TX	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped, and it was no accident</a>	Hill County News	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing

12/6/23	TX	<a href="#">The Importance of Home</a>	Gilmer Mirror	Op-ed	Housing
12/15/23	TX	<a href="#">Importance of home</a>	Dallas Examiner	Op-ed	Housing
12/21/23	TX	<a href="#">The importance of home</a>	Hill Country News	Op-ed	Housing

**[Go to Utah media](#)**

5/4/23	UT	<a href="#">Realtors shouldn't solve housing shortage on their own</a>	Standard-Examiner	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
5/9/23	UT	<a href="#">Debt ceiling: Utah lawmakers weren't hired to play chicken with our economy or use extortion</a>	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, budget cuts
5/19/23	UT	<a href="#">Shopping smart is not going to solve food insecurity — here's what will</a>	Deseret News	Letter to the editor	SNAP
5/21/23	UT	<a href="#">America's deficit must be addressed. But not irresponsibly.</a>	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, budget cuts
9/24/23	UT	<a href="#">We know how to alleviate child poverty. Why did we stop?</a>	Deseret News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/1/23	UT	<a href="#">Bring the expanded child tax credit back</a>	Deseret News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/19/23	UT	<a href="#">Child poverty is a political choice. We can do better.</a>	Salt Lake Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**[Go to Vermont media](#)**

9/28/23	VT	<a href="#">Focus on ending poverty, not making it worse</a>	VT Digger	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/4/23	VT	<a href="#">Support Vermont Families</a>	Seven Days	Letter to the editor	Child Tax credit, Renter Tax Credit

### Go to Virginia media

5/4/23	VA	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit</a>	Daily News-Record	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
5/11/23	VA	<a href="#">Congress can aid in housing crunch</a>	Star-Tribune	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
7/1/23	VA	<a href="#">Bring back tax credits for Virginia families</a>	Richmond Times-Dispatch	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit
10/11/23	VA	<a href="#">Learn how to support poverty programs</a>	The Winchester Star	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/10/23	VA	<a href="#">Child tax credit</a>	The Virginia-Pilot	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/19/23	VA	<a href="#">Our Children</a>	Daily News-Record	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

### Go to Washington media

1/2/23	WA	Goodwill from Congress	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
1/4/23	WA	<a href="#">Thanks, call to action</a>	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, US poverty
1/9/23	WA	<a href="#">Let's trash our worries and get to work in 2023</a>	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
1/17/23	WA	<a href="#">Congress needs to keep working to ease housing crisis</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
1/18/23	WA	<a href="#">Martin Luther King, Jr.</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, housing
2/2/23	WA	<a href="#">Tax justice means looking out for children</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

2/9/23	WA	<a href="#">Reach out to your influential federal lawmakers</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, advocacy
2/13/23	WA	<a href="#">Speak up to make a difference</a>	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
2/17/23	WA	<a href="#">A tax credit for renters is one option to make housing affordable</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
2/18/23	WA	<a href="#">Hunger among US soldiers is 'unbelievable'</a>	The Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
2/28/23	WA	<a href="#">Congress needs to pass a renters' tax credit</a>	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
2/28/23	WA	<a href="#">Ladders out of poverty are needed</a>	The Columbian	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
3/2/23	WA	<a href="#">Follow Carters' example and work for a better world</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/11/23	WA	<a href="#">Hunger among US soldiers is 'unbelievable'</a>	The Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
3/15/23	WA	<a href="#">Kudos</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/19/23	WA	<a href="#">Tax Credit, adopt Renter Tax Credit</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/26/23	WA	<a href="#">Fight poverty by offering tax credits for kids, rent</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/13/23	WA	<a href="#">Renter tax credit would be a boon to local families</a>	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/26/23	WA	<a href="#">Renter Tax Credit Proposal</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
4/26/23	WA	<a href="#">Cut flow of evictions, homelessness</a>	The Columbian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit

4/26/23	WA	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit needs to be expanded</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/30/23	WA	Tax fairness creates equity	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/3/23	WA	Homeless Prevention	The Olympian	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
5/17/23	WA	<a href="#">Good ideas needs support; contact your members of Congress</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/21/23	WA	<a href="#">Expand the SNAP food aid program</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	SNAP
5/24/23	WA	Hungry children pay the price	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, hunger
6/1/23	WA	<a href="#">Don't cut vital safety net programs in debt ceiling deal</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, TANF
6/1/23	WA	<a href="#">Pay heed to Tom Hanks' wise advice, graduates</a>	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
6/3/23	WA	<a href="#">Congress must do its job</a>	The Columbian	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP
6/16/23	WA	Thanks Rep. Newhouse	Tri-City Herald	Letter to the editor	Global child nutrition, Global education, Child Tax Credit
Summer 2023	WA	<a href="#">Finding your voice</a>	3rd Act Magazine	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
6/18/23	WA	Expand Tax Credit for Workers and Families	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
6/21/23	WA	<a href="#">Homelessness</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
6/23/23	WA	<a href="#">Enumclaw is addressing affordable housing</a>	The Courier-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit

7/6/23	WA	<a href="#">Renter tax credit, other measures offer housing relief</a>	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
7/21/23	WA	<a href="#">Let's encourage our reps to help us achieve affordable housing</a>	The Courier-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
8/1/23	WA	Help for renters makes a difference to families across the country	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
8/2/23	WA	<a href="#">Housing</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
8/10/23	WA	<a href="#">Letter points out serious problems seniors faces</a>	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
8/18/23	WA	<a href="#">Congress should pass expanded child tax credit</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/25/23	WA	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit: Expand to as many families as possible</a>	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
8/30/23	WA	<a href="#">Ask hard questions of candidates</a>	The Columbian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/22/23	WA	<a href="#">Let's get back to addressing child poverty</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/22/23	WA	<a href="#">Resumption of expanded child tax credit can fight poverty</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/29/23	WA	<a href="#">Congress can pass housing tax credit to make housing affordable</a>	Everett Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
9/30/23	WA	<a href="#">Child tax credit works against child poverty; renew it</a>	Everett Herald	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
9/30/23	WA	<a href="#">Government Shutdown</a>	The News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/16/23	WA	<a href="#">Make an inspired difference</a>	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

10/29/23	WA	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit Reduces Poverty</a>	Tri-City Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/2/23	WA	<a href="#">Warden SD right to address mental health</a>	Columbia Basin Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/7/23	WA	<a href="#">Congress needs to get back to work for us now</a>	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/8/23	WA	<a href="#">No title</a>	Cascadia Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/8/23	WA	<a href="#">Poverty</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/12/23	WA	<a href="#">Congress Must End the Bickering and Get to Work</a>	The Olympian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/17/23	WA	<a href="#">As Congress confronts spending, don't forget the kids in poverty</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
11/17/23	WA	<a href="#">Rep. Derek Kilmer: Thank you</a>	The Seattle Times	Letter to the editor	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, Malaria, global TB, global education, Child Tax Credit
11/30/23	WA	<a href="#">Honor Carter's legacy of caring for people in need</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global education, global TB
12/1/23	WA	<a href="#">Poverty in the richest country in the world</a>	The Spokesman Review	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/8/23	WA	<a href="#">Help families by expanding credit for children</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, SNAP
12/13/23	WA	<a href="#">Engaging the public in decisions will improve voter turnouts</a>	Yakima Herald-Republic	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/14/23	WA	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit</a>	The News Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/14/23	WA	<a href="#">Thanks to Rep. Kilmer for standing up on behalf of kids</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global tuberculosis, global education

12/16/23	WA	<a href="#">The Importance of Home</a>	FāVS news	Op-ed	Housing
12/20/23	WA	<a href="#">No title</a>	Cascadia Daily News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, global tuberculosis, global education
12/20/23	WA	<a href="#">Preventing Homelessness</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/29/23	WA	<a href="#">Reducing homeless deaths</a>	The Columbian	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
12/31/23	WA	<a href="#">Headlines readers would like to see in 2024</a>	Seattle Times	Editorial	Child Tax Credit

**Go to West Virginia media**

5/28/23	WV	<a href="#">Debt ceiling fight hurts vulnerable people the most</a>	Dominion Post	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, poverty
9/20/23	WV	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped — and it was no accident</a>	Bluefield Daily Telegraph	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/21/23	WV	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped, and it was no accident</a>	Fayette Tribune	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/30/23	WV	<a href="#">Reader wants CTC expansions restored</a>	The Inter-Mountain	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/29/23	WV	<a href="#">State's federal lawmakers must fund government, expand Child Tax Credit now</a>	The Fayette Tribune	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
11/4/23	WV	<a href="#">Poverty is fixable</a>	The Register-Herald	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**Go to Wisconsin media**

5/11/23	WI	<a href="#">Expand child tax credit</a>	The Cap Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
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5/26/23	WI	<a href="#">Renters tax credit would help solve housing issues</a>	The Cap Times	Letter to the editor	Renter Tax Credit
9/19/23	WI	<a href="#">Child Tax Credit raised children out of poverty</a>	Wisconsin State Journal	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/24/23	WI	<a href="#">A redeemed Scrooge would expand the Child Tax Credit</a>	Wisconsin State Journal	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit

**Go to Wyoming media**

3/15/23	WY	<a href="#">Congress should do two things to make tax code more fair</a>	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
3/22/23	WY	<a href="#">Quinlivan was right about permanent expansion of Child Tax Credit</a>	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit, Renter Tax Credit
5/17/23	WY	<a href="#">Congress looking at the wrong people to deal with debt</a>	Wyoming Tribune Eagle	Op-ed	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts
5/18/23	WY	<a href="#">US leaders must pay bills without cuts to poverty assistance programs</a>	Cap City News	Letter to the editor	Debt ceiling, SNAP, Medicaid, budget cuts

**Go to National media**

2/1/23	US	<a href="#">Don't let politicians cut housing aid</a>	Other Words	Op-ed	Housing, hunger
2/2/23	US	<a href="#">Don't let politicians cut housing aid</a>	Inequality.org	Op-ed	Housing, hunger
2/3/23	US	<a href="#">Don't let politicians cut housing aid</a>	Counter Punch	Op-ed	Housing, hunger
3/30/23	US	<a href="#">Day care waitlists are so long, moms are quitting their jobs or choosing to stop having kids</a>	The 19th*	News article	Child care
4/5/23	US	<a href="#">Many Are Falling Short Chasing The American Dream</a>	Other Words	Op-ed	U.S. poverty

4/8/23	US	<a href="#">Chasing American Dream Many Fall Short, Face Financial Insecurity</a>	Black Star News	Op-ed	U.S. poverty
4/8/23	US	COVID Care	AARP Bulletin	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
4/12/23	US	<a href="#">Many Are Falling Short Chasing the American Dream</a>	The Good Men Project	Op-ed	U.S. poverty
4/16/23	US	<a href="#">Many are falling short while chasing the American Dream</a>	Afro American News	Op-ed	U.S. poverty
4/19/23	US	<a href="#">Don't Shred the Safety Net - Expand It</a>	Other Words	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
4/19/23	US	<a href="#">Don't Shred the Safety Net - Expand It</a>	Inequality.org	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
4/20/23	US	<a href="#">Don't Shred the Safety Net - Expand It</a>	Coalition on Human Needs	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
4/20/23	US	<a href="#">Lawmakers: Expand the Social Safety Net, Don't Shred It</a>	Common Dreams	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
4/21/23	US	<a href="#">Expand-Don't Shrink-the Safety Net</a>	Counter Punch	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
5/1/23	US	<a href="#">Many are falling short while chasing the American Dream</a>	Progressive Populist	Op-ed	U.S. poverty
5/2/23	US	<a href="#">Don't Shred the Safety Net - Expand It</a>	The Good Men Project	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit
9/13/23	US	<a href="#">Poverty Just Jumped - And It Was No Accident</a>	Other Words	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/14/23	US	<a href="#">Poverty Just Jumped - And It Was No Accident</a>	Inequality.org	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/14/23	US	<a href="#">When a Poverty Surge Is the Path Chosen by Lawmakers</a>	Common Dreams	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing

9/14/23	US	<a href="#">Poverty Just Jumped: And It Was No Accident</a>	Eurasia Review	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/15/23	US	<a href="#">Poverty Just Jumped. It Was No Accident</a>	Counter Punch	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/22/23	US	<a href="#">U.S. poverty is soaring, and it's easy to see why</a>	People's World	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/24/23	US	<a href="#">We know how to alleviate child poverty. Why did we stop?</a>	MSN.com	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/24/23	US	<a href="#">We know how to alleviate child poverty. Why did we stop?</a>	Yahoo News	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/24/23	US	<a href="#">E.J. Dionne was right on child poverty</a>	Washington Post	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
9/27/23	US	<a href="#">Poverty Just Jumped – And It Was No Accident</a>	Coalition on Human Needs	Blog post	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
9/29/23	US	<a href="#">Poverty Just Jumped — And It Was No Accident</a>	The Good Man Project	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
10/3/23	US	<a href="#">Poverty just jumped— and it was no accident</a>	Afro News	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, SNAP, housing
10/3/23	US	<a href="#">The expanded child tax credit should be reinstated</a> (Jos Linn)	Washington Post	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/3/23	US	<a href="#">The expanded child tax credit should be reinstated</a> (Joanna DiStefano)	Washington Post	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
10/30/23	US	<a href="#">No title</a> ( <i>Willie Dickerson letter</i> )	New York Times	Letter to the editor	Child Tax Credit
12/6/23	US	<a href="#">The Importance of Home</a>	Other Words	Op-ed	Housing
12/10/23	US	<a href="#">Housing Should Build Community, Not Wealth</a>	Common Dreams	Op-ed	Housing

12/13/23	US	<a href="#">In the World's Wealthiest Country, Housing Should Be a Human Right and a Community Builder</a>	Inequality.org	Op-ed	Housing
12/13/23	US	<a href="#">Celebrating the Resilience of Low-Income Women</a>	Other Words	Op-ed	Child Tax Credit, housing
12/13/23	US	<a href="#">Housing should be seen as a community builder, not a wealth builder</a>	News From The States	Op-ed	Housing
12/15/23	US	<a href="#">It's Time We Declared Housing A Human Right</a>	Progressive Hub	Blog feature	Housing
12/18/23	US	<a href="#">The Importance of Home</a>	The Good Man Project	Op-ed	Housing
12/16/23	OK	<a href="#">Wage war against hunger, poverty</a>	Yahoo News	Letter to the editor	Hunger, poverty

# **Alaska media**

## Tax credit changes

By John M. Kennish

March 20, 2023

Many Alaskans are in desperate need as our current economic changes and many programs designed to help those in financial need are being terminated. Please ask Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, and Congresswoman Mary Peltola, to help enact immediate changes that would make a huge difference.

First, expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC). In 2021, the expanded CTC gave families with low incomes a financial breather and helped cut child poverty by 46%. Frustratingly, Congress did not extend it past one year. Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit (RTC). Rental costs are skyrocketing. Today, 19 million American renters are “rent-burdened” — paying more than 30% of their total income for housing.

The RTC would provide these households with a refundable tax credit to help make rent more affordable. Additionally, we have a significant number of military families who are also impacted by these programs. On a national level, nearly 5 million children of military families are also affected by these program changes.

**- John M. Kennish, Anchorage**

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2023/03/20/letter-tax-credit-changes/>

## Work requirements

May 29, 2023

As politicians discuss national debt, I am yet again hearing talk of expanding “work requirements” tied to our social safety net — SNAP, TANF, Medicaid — as a solution to federal spending. The thing is: Work requirements don’t work. They do not increase employment.

They do not put people on a path to self-sufficiency. Instead, they take life-sustaining necessities like food and health care away from our most vulnerable community members while increasing the cost to administer assistance due to red tape. And in doing so, they stunt our economy and place the burden on our communities and state to meet unmet needs.

And here’s the other thing — it’s all for naught! The vast majority of people enrolled in social safety net programs eligible to work do indeed work. Those who don’t work often face significant barriers to employment — health issues, caregiving responsibilities, transportation difficulties, educational limitations.

So, what does work? Our social safety net! And employment and training programs, affordable child care, cash assistance, and an increased minimum wage.

I urge Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, as well as Rep. Mary Peltola, to work with congressional leadership and the White House and stop toying with Alaskans’ lives. Reject cuts that increase poverty and hurt Alaskans.

– **Sara Buckingham, Eagle River**

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2023/05/29/letter-work-requirements/>

## Restore expanded child tax credit

August 21, 2023

Back to school — I remember the excitement and trepidation that the first day brought. One thing I don't remember is having to spend so much on starting back. The school supplied the necessities: pencils, paper, crayons, scissors, and folders. I didn't need a second pair of shoes and expensive extras. The cost of getting an education in public school can be burdensome when a family is on a very tight budget.

That is one reason the Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) of 2021 was such a blessing. Based on the number of children in a family and their ages, this money was sent every month and families could plan ahead. Studies have shown that parents spent that money on food, rent, and child care. It even allowed for a bit of savings.

And who were the children included in this benefit, which ended Dec. 31, 2021? Children were earlier excluded under the prior Child Tax Credit and the one now in place — the children whose families have the lowest income.

And in January 2022, millions of children fell once again below the poverty level. Those who need it the most don't qualify. It is absurd.

Congress will be considering adjustments to tax policy this fall. The CTC does not appear to be very important in current discussions. But our children (and our future) depend on robust support. We need to let Sens. Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Mary Peltola know that the Child Tax Credit needs to be renewed and expanded.

**- Patricia Kennish, Anchorage**

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2023/08/21/letter-restore-expanded-child-tax-credit/>



## Expand the Child Tax Credit

December 15, 2023

The sub-headline of a front-page article in the Dec. 4 issue of AND read, “More than 12,000 Alaskans are waiting on critical food aid.” That article went on to indicate that one in 10 of those depending on federally funded food aid are waiting. How many of them are children, needing essential nourishment for healthy growth?

After reading that, I came across a copy of a letter signed by many members of the House of Representatives to Speaker Mike Johnson, pressing for pro-growth tax changes: “immediate R&D expensing, full capital expensing, and a pro-growth interest deductibility rule.” Nowhere was there a suggestion for robust support for another tax policy, one that would raise millions of children out of poverty (including a surprising number of children in military families) – the Child Tx credit (CTC).

The evidence has been clear, per the Center on Poverty and Social Policy and the U.S. Census Bureau. While in place, the expanded CTC reached the vast majority of families every month and reduced child poverty, decreased food insufficiency, and increased housing stability. When the expanded CTC expired, child poverty nearly doubled.

The expanded CTC would mean fewer Alaska families would be waiting in line for that critical food aid. Congress must take action to help families put food on the table and support an expanded CTC. If we’re serious about “pro-growth,” we need to focus on one of our most valuable resources – our children.

**– Patricia Kennish, Anchorage**

No online link

# **Arizona media**

## Congress can save people, too

January 3, 2023

Re: the online article "Call on Congress to save local news."

I want to add that a functioning democracy is not just about strong local newspapers, but also about its everyday citizens.

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.

In 2021, an expanded Child Tax Credit with monthly payments helped cut child poverty by 46%.

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.

Regardless of their political party, I call on all of our Congress to ensure the health and welfare of all its citizens, not just the wealthiest ones, by passing an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

**- Sarah Miller, Northeast side**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-jan-3/article\\_e38ccc76-7fe7-11ed-961f-e74afc059570.html](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-jan-3/article_e38ccc76-7fe7-11ed-961f-e74afc059570.html)



## **There's more to the Child Tax Credit than meets the eye**

February 12, 2023

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is not just best for struggling families, it is best for the whole community. The research shows that the Child Tax Credit allows families to afford childcare, transportation and rent. This helps those same families maintain employment and contribute to the local economy. When the Child Tax Credit was extended in 2021, child poverty in Arizona and across the rest of the country was cut nearly in half. Since its expiration, those same children fell back below the poverty line once again.

As a student of global health, I am familiar with the long-lasting implication policy interventions such as these can have. Because the CTC helps families afford groceries so they can feed their children, it helps combat child undernutrition. In fact, when the CTC expired at the end of 2021, food insufficiency (a more severe form of food insecurity) spiked by 25%, according to Boston University's School of Public Health. Child undernutrition leads to poor cognitive development, impaired immunity, and even poor health and economic outcomes later in life.

We have an incredible opportunity to alleviate child poverty and promote the health of our communities, but a lack of political will is the only thing stopping us. Our representatives, Sen. Kelly and Sen. Sinema, have power to make this right. If Congress passes tax legislation this year, an expansion of the CTC to all low-income families -- with monthly payments -- must be in it.

**- Rayna Castillo, Flagstaff**

[https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-theres-more-to-the-child-tax-credit-than-meets-the-eye/article\\_c0c2403c-a9ad-11ed-9097-23b78312b79d.html](https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-theres-more-to-the-child-tax-credit-than-meets-the-eye/article_c0c2403c-a9ad-11ed-9097-23b78312b79d.html)

## **Families in poverty**

Re: the Feb. 10 letter "Priorities."

Dear Editor,

The letter writer makes good points about Congress working on and passing legislation that matters, not bickering and pursuing meaningless squabbles. Families breathed a sigh of relief when the expanded Child Care Credit passed, cutting child poverty in half. How about the priority of renewing that ladder out of poverty? Not to mention slowing the slide to homelessness by passing a renters' tax credit that would end millions of people paying 50% of their income and more for rent. Not sure what to do? Send this letter to your members of Congress and ask them to get to work on priorities like these tax credits that lift families out of poverty!

**- Willie Dickerson, Northwest side**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-feb-20/article\\_00e4edfe-ae22-11ed-b98b-93d1b6594d86.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letters-to-the-editor-feb-20/article_00e4edfe-ae22-11ed-b98b-93d1b6594d86.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Make the tax code fair for everyone**

March 10, 2023

President Biden has released his new budget. Among his many priorities, a huge one is making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans.

I agree and there are two things Congress could do right now to make it happen.

First, expand the Child Tax Credit. In 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty immediately plummeted and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit. Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent.

For decades, Congress has skewed the tax code for the wealthy. The president is calling on them to start putting everyday Americans first. I urge our members of Congress to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting an RTC now.

**- Cheryl Martin, Scottsdale resident**

<https://www.yourvalley.net/stories/martin-make-the-tax-code-fair-for-everyone,375709>

# The Miner

## Poverty

April 25, 2023

It's tax time and, sadly, millions of families with low incomes are going to see their tax refunds drop this year or disappear altogether. That's because Congress let the expanded Child Tax Credit expire last year.

In 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty dropped and parents got more freedom to make ends meet. But the Senate let the expansion expire. Now, 19 million children in families with low-income will receive a much smaller CTC this year, including 2 million who will get nothing. Meanwhile, families making \$400,000 per year will get their full CTC.

Children should not have to grow up in poverty so we can make the rich richer. We need a tax code that works for all Americans. Congress must start right now by expanding the CTC to families with low incomes in any tax legislation this year.

**- Katherine Yabut, Phoenix**

<https://kdminer.com/news/2023/apr/25/letter-poverty/>



## **Congress needs to expand child tax credit**

April 25, 2023

Another tax season has passed where families will not receive the full benefits of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) due to the inaction of Congress. The previously expanded CTC that expired at the end of 2021 provided the vital economic relief that families needed to survive in the face of the pandemic, but despite these improvements to livelihoods and reductions in child poverty (by about 50%), it was not renewed by Congress.

While we have moved beyond the peak of the pandemic (knock on wood), those same financial constraints are still being felt by Arizonans and other people across the U.S. Now, 19 million children in families with low-income will receive a much smaller CTC this year, including 2 million who will get nothing. Meanwhile, families making \$400,000 per year will get their full CTC.

We need a tax code that works for all Americans. Congress, including Sen. Sinema, Sen. Kelly, and our Arizonan Representatives, must start right now by expanding the CTC to families with low incomes in any tax legislation this year.

**- Rayna Castillo, Tempe**

<https://www.yourvalley.net/stories/letter-submission-from-rayna-castillo,388581>



## **Congress must act on Child Tax Credit**

April 25, 2023

Editor: Millions of low-income households who just filed taxes this month did not receive refunds or received much lower ones than previously because Congress failed to reauthorize the expanded Child Tax Credit for 2022. The 2021 expansion of the CTC allowed all low-income families to receive the credit as monthly payments, and as a result, the nation saw a major drop in child poverty rates. But now the families of 19 million children will receive a much smaller benefit, including 2 million who will receive nothing at all. Meanwhile, families earning at the \$400,000 per year level will receive their full CTC. In other words, the children of the wealthiest families benefit at the cost of those in the neediest families. Our tax code must work for all, not merely the wealthiest, Americans. Congress must act immediately to reauthorize the expanded CTC to low-income families.

**- Barbara Rodman**

[https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/barbara-rodman-congress-must-act-on-child-tax-credit/article\\_1c9229d2-e3cd-11ed-bcc8-33b9c43c0ca1.html](https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/barbara-rodman-congress-must-act-on-child-tax-credit/article_1c9229d2-e3cd-11ed-bcc8-33b9c43c0ca1.html)

## Reauthorize the Child Tax Credit now

April 30, 2023

Millions of low-income households who just filed taxes this month did not receive refunds or received much lower ones than previously because Congress failed to reauthorize the expanded Child Tax Credit for 2022.

The 2021 expansion of the CTC allowed all low-income families to receive the credit as monthly payments, and as a result, the nation saw a major drop in child poverty rates.

But now the families of 19 million children will receive a much smaller benefit, including 2 million who will receive nothing at all. Meanwhile, families earning \$400,000 per year will receive their full CTC.

In other words, the children of the wealthiest families benefit at the cost of those in the neediest families. Our tax code must work for all, not merely the wealthiest Americans.

Congress must act immediately to reauthorize the expanded CTC for low-income families.

– **Barbara Rodman, Phoenix**

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/04/30/arizona-transgender-sports-ban-blocks-child-running-track/70160978007/>



## The real issues

May 20, 2023

Re: the May 11 article "The reality of Arizona food insecurity."

Dear Editor,

While food insecurity (hunger) grows in our country, Congress argues over the debt ceiling which shouldn't even be an issue. Meanwhile, hunger, evictions, and homelessness haunt the millions of Americans struggling with poverty. Local efforts, like the one in Arizona, are to be applauded. At the same time, renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit is a proven method of cutting child poverty in half and needs immediate action. Right now, Rep. Suzan DelBene, along with Reps. Rosa DeLauro and Richie Torres, are proposing the American Families Act that includes this Child Tax Credit. A renter tax credit would also relieve families who are paying up to 90% of their income for rent. Let's ask our representatives to join them on this path to equity.

**- Willie Dickerson, Northwest side**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/tucson-speaks-out-may-20-letters-of-the-day/article\\_116afa0a-f504-11ed-8cfb-3f2e5a73a004.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/tucson-speaks-out-may-20-letters-of-the-day/article_116afa0a-f504-11ed-8cfb-3f2e5a73a004.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## **Kids need our help**

May 26, 2023

Re: the May 20 article "The real issues."

As an educator, I want to say that I agree with the letter writer's opinion raising concerns about what some members of Congress are proposing in exchange for raising the debt ceiling. They want to severely cut essential programs, such as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (commonly known as "food stamps"), Medicaid, education, and housing assistance. These proposed cuts are particularly troubling for my students, who already face difficulties staying focused and achieving academic success. With limited access to food assistance and increased stress levels, their ability to thrive will be further compromised.

It is distressing to consider that people in Congress are contemplating actions that could cause such harm to any child. I think it's time for all of us to raise our voices on behalf of the kids of America who need our support right now against those who want to see them go hungry and not have access to health care.

**- Sarah Miller, Northeast side**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/tucson-speaks-out-may-26-letters-of-the-day/article\\_05bb8fe6-f9b2-11ed-abda-c7499642aa33.html](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/tucson-speaks-out-may-26-letters-of-the-day/article_05bb8fe6-f9b2-11ed-abda-c7499642aa33.html)

## **Democracy and responsibility**

July 25, 2023

Re: the July 22 article "An open letter to all elected officials."

Tom Chester offers solid advice to our elected officials. Similar words can be spoken to "we the people." Listen and speak up to those we elect. It is important to vote and follow-up with those in office. In my volunteering with RESULTS (results.org), I have learned to visit my members of Congress and ask them to support equity initiatives like the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families, no matter what party or religion. At the same time it cut child poverty by 46%! The good news is in our democracy we can continue to speak to the people we put in power and make requests, and vote accordingly. So let's all follow Mr. Chester's advice, and keep the communication channels open with each other and our representatives.

**- Willie Dickerson, Northwest side**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-democracy-and-responsibility/article\\_68627f12-2a34-11ee-ba67-7353412d4de2.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-democracy-and-responsibility/article_68627f12-2a34-11ee-ba67-7353412d4de2.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## **Speaking up for a better live for all**

September 10, 2023

Re: the Sept. 2 letter "Great expectations."

The letter writer's good idea to make our country a better place to live doesn't have to wait for the 2024 elections. Congress has the opportunity right now to pass the American Family Act that would use tax fairness measures to cut child poverty and help families buy food and pay bills. Another piece of legislation, a renter tax credit, would slow the flow to homelessness, by insuring families with low incomes no longer pay more than 30% of their income for rent. We can speak up to our members of Congress to pass these bills now. At the same time, we can encourage a federal living wage, asking both the current president and Congress to support and pass it. Let's act now and create a better country for all of us to live in!

**- Willie Dickerson, Northwest side**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-speaking-up-for-a-better-live-for-all/article\\_3670fbd2-4dc5-11ee-8d68-a3637e6eb55a.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-speaking-up-for-a-better-live-for-all/article_3670fbd2-4dc5-11ee-8d68-a3637e6eb55a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Re: the Oct. 12. article “National opinion: A wake up call on poverty”**

October 20, 2023

Dear Editor,

The author explains clearly that we know how to cut the poverty experienced by 40% of Americans. (National opinion: ‘A wake up call on poverty’ by , Oct. 12, 2023) In other words the hunger, homelessness, and even daily deaths of the 135 million Americans living in poverty is a policy choice. Initiatives like the expanded Child Tax Credit made an immediate difference and they can again. What is missing is the political will for Congress to take action. It is our voices that can help create the political will to end this deadly poverty in the world’s richest country. Let’s call those who represent us and tell them it is time to take action now.

**- Willie Dickerson, Northwest side**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-oct-12-article-national-opinion-a-wake-up-call-on-poverty/article\\_46b14a50-6c61-11ee-a66f-3f3c3714d343.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-oct-12-article-national-opinion-a-wake-up-call-on-poverty/article_46b14a50-6c61-11ee-a66f-3f3c3714d343.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## **An easy way to stop child poverty**

October 28, 2023

The current chaos and division in the U.S. House puts millions of families in danger of slipping into deeper poverty. Federal assistance that provides food, education and housing to millions each year is being used as a political weapon.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

We have the power to mitigate the harm caused by these annual funding battles by supporting families through our tax code. In 2021, we witnessed how expanding the Child Tax Credit and including low-income families cut child poverty by almost half. Yet, recent U.S. Census data reveals that when Congress allowed the expansion to expire, child poverty more than doubled.

Stop the tug-of-war over government funding that leaves families in limbo.

Make the Child Tax Credit expansion a permanent solution, ensuring consistent support for families.

**- Chloe Harris, Mesa**

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/10/28/phoenix-unsustainable-sprawl-choose-sustainability/71334809007/>





## **Argument made to expand Child Tax Credit**

November 19, 2023

Congress is back to work, with a lot of items on its agenda as a possible government shutdown looms. One item is taxes. Big corporations are pushing Congress to pass legislation this week to expand corporate tax breaks.

With recent census data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022, it is imperative that any tax package passed this week to avoid a shutdown includes an expansion of the Child Tax Credit for families with low-income. In 2021, the expanded CTC lifted over 3 million children from poverty. By allowing the CTC expansion to expire, lawmakers have abandoned those children. Here is their chance at redemption.

When it comes to tax priorities this year, kids must come first. Rich corporations and CEOs don't get to cut in line. Our members of Congress, including Sen. Sinema and Sen. Kelly, must demand that any tax package this year significantly reduces child poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

**- Rayna Castillo, Flagstaff**

[https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-argument-made-to-expand-child-tax-credit/article\\_5986e830-83d4-11ee-8238-fff89273184.html#tncms-source=internal\\_referral](https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-argument-made-to-expand-child-tax-credit/article_5986e830-83d4-11ee-8238-fff89273184.html#tncms-source=internal_referral)



## **Re: the Nov. 24. article “Local opinion: Change has to happen”**

November 25, 2023

Dear Editor,

Robert Nordmeyer’s thoughtful piece on our current challenges demands thought and action. If like Mr. Nordmeyer, you are not pleased with the world we are in and what we are creating for the coming generations, time to take action. Say what? Yes, take a step to make it better.

There are many members of Congress who care, why not find out where your members stand. Ask them what matters or send them Nordmeyer’s opinion and ask them what they are doing about it. Ask them to pass the American Family Act, which contains ladders out of poverty for millions of Americans who are hurting, stressed, and too often hungry. Child poverty doubled last year, in America, the world’s wealthiest country. That is a policy choice. Ask your representatives to turn that around. And then follow up. Our voices matter. Use yours — it can make a difference to bring about positive change.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-nov-24-article-local-opinion-change-has-to-happen/article\\_df2be832-8af0-11ee-a20c-27b06e5c035e.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/letter-re-the-nov-24-article-local-opinion-change-has-to-happen/article_df2be832-8af0-11ee-a20c-27b06e5c035e.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## **Demand action lift children from poverty**

November 28, 2023

As Congress gets back to work, they have a lot on their agenda — and taxes are a key item.

With shocking numbers from the recent Census data revealing a more than doubling of child poverty in 2022, it is crucial that any tax package Congress passes includes an expansion of the Child Tax Credit for low-income families. In fact, the expanded CTC in 2021 successfully lifted over 3 million children out of poverty.

In Arizona alone, 109,000 children under 18 could be lifted out of poverty, and a staggering 1,507,000 would benefit greatly from this expansion. Additionally, 385,200 working adults in Arizona would benefit from an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

There is now a chance at redemption. When it comes to tax priorities this year, let's hold elected members of Congress accountable to ensuring that any tax package significantly reduces child poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit — creating a tomorrow that empowers our children to thrive!

**- Chloe Harris, Downtown**

[https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/tucson-speaks-out-nov-28-letters-of-the-day/article\\_683731e4-8d36-11ee-9214-73ad5e4de821.html](https://tucson.com/opinion/letters/tucson-speaks-out-nov-28-letters-of-the-day/article_683731e4-8d36-11ee-9214-73ad5e4de821.html)

## **Demand action now**

November 29, 2023

Editor: As Congress gets back to work, they have a lot on their agenda — and taxes are a key item.

With shocking numbers from the recent Census data revealing a more than doubling of child poverty in 2022, it is crucial that any tax package Congress passes includes an expansion of the Child Tax Credit for low-income families. In fact, the expanded CTC in 2021 successfully lifted over 3 million children out of poverty. Yet, by letting this expansion expire, we've taken a major step back for Arizona families.

In Arizona alone, 109,000 children under 18 could be lifted out of poverty, and a staggering 1,507,000 would benefit greatly from this expansion. Additionally, 385,200 working adults in Arizona would benefit from an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit.

There is now a chance at redemption. When it comes to tax priorities this year, let's hold elected members of Congress accountable to ensuring that any tax package significantly reduces child poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit - creating a tomorrow that empowers our children to thrive!

**- Chloe Harris, Mesa, Arizona**

[https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/chloe-harris-demand-action-now/article\\_e857f9be-8f37-11ee-86d7-5beceef30e48.html](https://www.havasunews.com/opinion/chloe-harris-demand-action-now/article_e857f9be-8f37-11ee-86d7-5beceef30e48.html)



## **NPA students' activism applauded**

December 10, 2023

Congrats to the students of Northland Prep for choosing one of the United Nations' sustainable goal to work on: "zero hunger." ('Northland Prep Academy students organize school wide service week' by Abigail Kessler, Arizona Daily Sun, Dec. 4, 2023) Young people working to make a difference is always inspirational. They are reminding us that we can do our part to make a difference. On a national level, we can ask our members of Congress to pass legislation that helps families, whether it be support for renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit or the current legislation to battle tuberculosis, policy decisions make a difference. Our voices calling for these and other initiatives that battle hunger, homelessness and disease are more likely to happen when we speak up. Keep working to make a positive difference, Northland Preppers!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

[https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-npa-students-activism-applauded/article\\_d79003c2-9538-11ee-af42-b325d01bee75.html](https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-npa-students-activism-applauded/article_d79003c2-9538-11ee-af42-b325d01bee75.html)

## **The importance of home**

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 21, 2023

For generations, poor people have relied on each other to keep a roof over their heads. But in the world's wealthiest country, we need more.

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30% of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general.

Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

[https://tucson.com/opinion/column/national-opinion-the-importance-of-home/article\\_bf368796-9ea3-11ee-9579-dff8f8fdc4bb.html](https://tucson.com/opinion/column/national-opinion-the-importance-of-home/article_bf368796-9ea3-11ee-9579-dff8f8fdc4bb.html)

# California media



# The Bakersfield Californian

## A culture of universal worth

January 18, 2023

Rabbi Jonathan Klein's call for "a culture of universal worth" in honor of Dr. King's dream is a great reminder to us all. ("Community Voices: Is Dr. King's message yours as well?", Jan. 15.) His questions demand answers: Like do we believe "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere?."

The best answers are with action: speaking up to those who represent us in Congress to pass equity legislation. Starting with renewing the Child Tax Credit that lifted millions out of poverty, only to fall back in when it expired. A similar credit for renters would help millions not slip into homelessness. Together we can finally create "a culture of universal worth."

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

[https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-a-culture-of-universal-worth/article\\_79746c5a-96b1-11ed-865f-5b8af4210cdd.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-a-culture-of-universal-worth/article_79746c5a-96b1-11ed-865f-5b8af4210cdd.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# EAST BAY TIMES

## **Congress should bring back Child Tax Credit**

February 15, 2023

To the detriment of millions of struggling families, Congress still has not expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

In 2021, the CTC was expanded to include all low-income children, and child poverty dropped an astounding 46%. I saw that in my own family when I was able to pay for child care and purchase groceries without relying solely on the nearby food pantry. Sadly, at the end of last year, senators let the expansion expire, dramatically increasing child poverty.

With families still struggling to make ends meet, it is unconscionable that Congress would let millions of children grow up in poverty, especially considering that this issue is being supported by both sides of the aisle, something rare in Congress these days. I urge Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla to become champions of anti-poverty legislation by reaching out to fellow senators and gathering unwavering support for full reinstatement of the CTC.

**- Sarah Izabel, Stanford**

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/02/14/letters-1160/>

***Reprinted in:***

**The Mercury News**

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/02/14/letters-1160/>

# The Bakersfield Californian

## Honor Carter by standing up for equity

March 22, 2023

President Carter set a high bar, living with "dignity, grace and strength." ("Community Voices: Humanity trumps self-interest," by Robert J. Kretzmer, March 13).

How can we honor this great man? Stand up for equity in America: call on our members of Congress to pass legislation that will give every American hope and a chance at being successful. Start with renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that lifted millions out of poverty, then add a renter tax credit so those in poverty no longer have to pay 30 percent to 90 percent of their income for rent.

Move on from there with other initiatives that will provide ladders out of poverty and hope. In this way we honor a great man and help others as he always did his best to do.

– Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.

[https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-honor-carter-by-standing-up-for-equity/article\\_065a8e74-c74a-11ed-98c6-db945a246a9c.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/letters-to-editor/letter-to-the-editor-honor-carter-by-standing-up-for-equity/article_065a8e74-c74a-11ed-98c6-db945a246a9c.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# Marin Independent Journal

## Renters' credit could help crisis of SF's unhoused

April 5, 2023

I am writing to express my deep concern about the homeless crisis and the suffering of people on the streets of San Francisco. As a resident of the city, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects on the community. It is heart-wrenching to see so many people living in poverty, struggling with addiction and without a roof over their heads.

Homelessness is the root cause of many bad things happening in San Francisco. I think it has led to increased crime, decreased public safety and a significant strain on our health care system. It's unacceptable that, in a city as wealthy as ours, we still have people sleeping on the streets, unable to afford a place to call home and unable to break free from the poverty cycle.

I support a refundable renters' tax credit, similar to the child tax credit, as one way to ease the burden. I am a part of a volunteer organization called Results. It advocates to fight poverty. We are proposing this tax credit as a way to provide financial assistance to those struggling to pay rent and prevent them from becoming homeless.

I urge Rep. Nancy Pelosi, as the representative of the district, to consider this proposal and take action to address the crisis in San Francisco. I believe that, with her leadership and support, we can make a real difference in the lives of those affected by this crisis. By working together, we can create positive change and improve the quality of life for all of us.

– **Malika Nurbekova, San Francisco**

<https://www.marinij.com/2023/04/04/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-april-5-2023/>

# THE SACRAMENTO BEE

## Tax Credit

April 9, 2023

["Sacramento CA homeless encampment signs innovative lease,"](#) (sacbee.com, April 2)

I was heartened to read this article. However, it would be even more encouraging to read about how Congress is working to end homelessness. It's important to note that many homeless people have jobs and contribute to society in various ways. There is a severe shortage of affordable rental homes for individuals with extremely low incomes in the U.S. To address this issue, a Renter's Tax Credit could be introduced to assist low-income households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing expenses.

**- Sarah Miller St. Louis, Mo.**

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article274052035.html>

# EAST BAY TIMES

## **Debt is not the issue for GOP gamesmanship**

May 5, 2023

Re: "House GOP passes debt bill; Biden will likely veto" (Page A4, April 27).

I am exasperated that House leadership is threatening to tank our economy to extract devastating budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty.

As a condition for allowing the United States to pay its bills, the House plan slashes dozens of services including SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and childcare, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

It is dangerous for House leaders to even hint that the United States will not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it on the backs of people experiencing poverty. I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

Readers should invite friends and family in Republican districts to call and write.

**- Sue Oehser, Oakland**

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/05/04/letters-1257/>

***Reprinted in:***

**The Mercury News**

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/05/04/letters-1257/>

# ENTERPRISE-RECORD

## **Not the time to cut anti-poverty programs**

May 7, 2023

I am exasperated that House leadership is threatening to tank our economy to extract devastating budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty.

As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plan slashes dozens of services including SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and childcare, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

It is dangerous for House leaders to even hint that the U.S. will not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it on the backs of people experiencing poverty. I strongly urge President Biden and Congressional leaders to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

**- Cara Warren-Boyd, Magalia**

<https://www.chicoer.com/2023/05/07/letter-not-the-time-to-cut-anti-poverty-programs/>

# Los Angeles Times

## The painful costs of the debt ceiling standoff

May 9, 2023

To the editor: I strongly concur with the author's apprehension about the debt ceiling. I am deeply concerned that both House leadership and Republican senators are exploiting our nation's well-being to engage in partisan politics, seeking substantial reductions in essential programs such as education, food assistance, housing and other vital initiatives that provide millions of people with access to necessities.

The current inflationary trends are exacerbating the financial strain on Americans, while wages remain unresponsive to the escalating costs. Countless individuals are already enduring significant hardships, and it is disheartening to witness further attempts to inflict harm through this process. I harbor profound fears about the potential burden on our already overwhelmed social systems, including food banks, emergency rooms and charities that support families and children.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Mo.**

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/story/2023-05-09/debt-ceiling-deadline-talks-crisis>



# Los Angeles Times

## It's time for Congress to make poor families a priority

May 15, 2023

To the editor: I share concerns for how the House debt ceiling plan would negatively affect food assistance. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is our flagship nutrition program.

This year, we have a chance to improve SNAP when the U.S. Farm Bill is reauthorized. We can improve access to fresh produce for people experiencing poverty. We can eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the SNAP ban for former drug offenders and eliminating work requirements for low-income college students.

SNAP is an effective program that should be expanded, not gutted. I urge Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) to include these improvements and support a Farm Bill that builds healthy and equitable food systems.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, St. Louis, Mo.**

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/story/2023-05-15/letters-to-the-editor-debt-ceiling-families-child-poverty>

# Los Angeles Times

## It's time for Congress to make poor families a priority

May 15, 2023

To the editor: Readers have pointed out the pointless politics surrounding the debt-ceiling debates while American families in poverty face hunger, homelessness and hopelessness. It's time for Congress to address the millions of children and families experiencing these terrible consequences of poverty. Congress knows what works: The expanded child tax credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Time to renew it: Reps. Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.), Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) are introducing the American Families Act that will do just that. We can ask our representatives to join them in pushing this path to equity, then move on to other initiatives that lift families out of the dire straits of poverty, such as a renter tax credit that will keep people housed. This isn't rocket science, just common sense and compassion to end these unnecessary burdens on America's most vulnerable.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/story/2023-05-15/letters-to-the-editor-debt-ceiling-families-child-poverty>

# The Press Democrat

## **Punishing the poor**

May 20, 2023

EDITOR: Congress has a responsibility to pay the bills it runs up. For decades, this was not an issue. But now House GOP leaders are refusing to pay unless they get deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance and core global poverty programs. For them, people struggling to make ends meet are the problem, not reckless tax cuts for the rich that Congress enacted over the past 40 years.

These proposed budget cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and the rising costs of basic needs. Even worse, a default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work.

Instead of being responsible, House leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. This must stop. I strongly urge President Joe Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- Gilia Humrich, Forestville**

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/opinion/saturdays-letters-to-the-editor-552/>

# The San Diego Union-Tribune

## Targeting poor families and children over debt ceiling politics is wrong

May 23, 2023

Re “Suddenly Republicans claim debt reduction is important again” (May 9): I am writing to express my concern that the actions of House leadership could have severe consequences for our economy and the most vulnerable members of our society.

The current threat of tanking our economy to achieve budget cuts, specifically targeting people experiencing poverty, is both distressing and unjust. It is disheartening to see proposed cuts to essential programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, the Child Tax Credit, housing assistance, preschool and child care, and core global poverty initiatives.

I urge all elected representatives to reject these damaging cuts.

– **Daria Flores, Del Mar**

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/story/2023-05-23/opinion-targeting-those-who-are-in-the-most-need-to-politicize-debt-ceiling-is-wrong>

# The San Diego Union-Tribune

## Targeting poor families and children over debt ceiling politics is wrong

May 23, 2023

Congress has a responsibility to pay the bills it runs up. But now House GOP leaders are refusing to pay unless they get deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, and core global poverty programs. For them, people struggling to make ends meet are the problem, not reckless tax cuts for the rich Congress enacted over the last 40 years.

These proposed budget cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs. Even worse, a debt default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work.

Instead of being responsible, House leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. This must stop. I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately!

**- Michele Lagoy, San Diego**

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/story/2023-05-23/opinion-targeting-those-who-are-in-the-most-need-to-politicize-debt-ceiling-is-wrong>

# The Modesto Bee

## Budget Cuts Will Hurt Americans

May 28, 2023

Congress has a responsibility to pay the bills it runs up. For decades, this was not an issue. But now House GOP leaders are refusing to pay unless they get deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance and core global poverty programs. For them, people struggling to make ends meet are the problem, not reckless tax cuts for the rich that Congress has enacted over the last 40 years. These proposed budget cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs. Even worse, a debt default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work. Instead of being responsible, House leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. This must stop. I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- Daniel Marsh, Modesto**

<https://www.modbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article275569476.html>

***Reprinted in:***

**yahoo!finance**

<https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/debt-ceiling-debate-hurts-poor-140000042.html>

## **Congress has responsibility to pay the bills it runs up**

May 31, 2023

Congress has a responsibility to pay the bills it runs up. For decades, this was not an issue. But now House GOP leaders are refusing to pay unless they get deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance and core global poverty programs. For them, people struggling to make ends meet are the problem, not reckless tax cuts for the rich that Congress has enacted over the last 40 years. These proposed budget cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

Even worse, a debt default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work. Instead of being responsible, House leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. This must stop. I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- Daniel Marsh, Ceres**

<https://www.cerescourier.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/congress-has-responsibility-pay-bills-it-runs/>

# EAST BAY TIMES

## **U.S. must do more to feed out children**

Re: "Silicon Valley school sites serve as convenient places to help feed families" (June 30).

Although I am happy that schools are helping families in the Bay Area, I can't avoid thinking about how food insecurity is a solvable problem being ignored by our legislators.

Just last month, House leaders released a trio of tax bills giving tax cuts to the wealthy while ignoring people in the lowest income brackets. Under this plan, the wealthiest 1% would receive an average cut of \$16,560. Americans in the bottom 20% would receive \$40. This is unconscionable and worst of all, we have a tested tax credit proven to reduce child poverty in California and the United States. The expanded child tax credit helped 3.9 million Californian families stay out of poverty. This credit gave my family and many others a chance to buy food and not have to rely on food pantries.

Congress needs to act now and feed the children of this country.

**- Sarah Izabel, Stanford**

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/07/04/letters-bart-accountability-nextdoor-policy/>

***Reprinted in:***

**The Mercury News**

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/07/04/letters-bart-accountability-nextdoor-policy/>



# The San Diego Union-Tribune

## Report on soaring child poverty in U.S. must be seen as a call to action

September 13, 2023

Re “Child poverty in the U.S. jumped and income declined in 2022 as coronavirus pandemic benefits ended” (Sept. 12): How shocking to read that child poverty more than doubled last year, increasing over 7 percentage points. That means that 12.4 percent of children were impoverished in 2022, an increase of more than 5 million!

While this seems due in large part to the expiration of the expanded Child Tax Credit at the end of 2021 and the expiration of other pandemic-related benefits within the past year, there is something that Congress can do now to fix this. I call on all of our San Diego congressional representatives to do everything they can to make both the expired Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit expansions permanent.

**- Daria Flores, Del Mar**

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/story/2023-09-13/soaring-child-poverty-us-5-million-more-pandemic-benefits>



## **When Lawmakers Chose a Poverty Surge Path Chosen**

*Poverty is solvable. We know what works. All we have to do is act.*

By Lakeisha McVey

September 15, 2023

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C.. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me. Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But like other

low-income families, we had to navigate the “benefits cliff.” When my mother made just \$10 more, we’d lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.

I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don’t end. The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100 percent of my health insurance. That’s a rarity. If I’d been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would’ve gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day. But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8 percent — its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.

Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

*Lakeisha McVey is a bereaved mother, social justice advocate, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS.*

<https://www.laprogressive.com/economic-equality/poverty-surge>

***Reprinted in:***

The San Bernardino  
**AMERICAN**  
Newspaper

<https://sb-american.com/2023/10/03/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/>

# EAST BAY TIMES

## Country can't afford not to renew CTC

September 21, 2023

Re: "State keeps title as having nation's highest poverty rate" (Page A6, Sept. 15).

California leads the nation in technology, agriculture, entertainment — and poverty.

More than one in 10 Californians experienced poverty in the United States in 2022, according to newly released Census data. Among them, children saw the worst increases — child poverty levels more than doubled from the previous year.

In 2021, the Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) was passed as a part of the American Rescue Plan and massively curbed child poverty. In a decision that children and families in poverty now bear the brunt of, Congress did not renew the Expanded CTC after 2021.

While some members of Congress ask how we can afford such a policy, I ask them this — how can we afford to ignore important and vulnerable members of our community?

As Californians, we are no strangers to leading the charge. I call on our California U.S. Congress members to elevate this issue and fight for all families and children.

**- Danica Berry, San Francisco**

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/09/20/letters-1418/>

***Reprinted in:***

**The Mercury News**

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/09/20/letters-1418/>

# EAST BAY TIMES

## **Child Tax Credit will help nation prosper**

October 4, 2023

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 Child Tax Credit to die was 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 do not move economies. We believe we should feed, clothe and educate all children.

That is how you make a great and prosperous country.

**- Bill and Tari Nicholson, Martinez**

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2023/10/03/letters-1437/>

***Reprinted in:***

**The Mercury News**

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/10/03/letters-1437/>

## **Bring tax credit back**

November 4, 2023

EDITOR: Congress is back to work, with a lot of items on the agenda. One item is taxes. Big corporations are pushing Congress to pass legislation in a matter of weeks to expand corporate tax breaks.

With recent census data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022, it is imperative that any tax package includes an expansion of the child tax credit for families with low-income. In 2021, the expanded tax credit lifted more than 3 million children from poverty. By allowing the expansion to expire, lawmakers have abandoned those children. Here is their chance at redemption.

When it comes to tax priorities this year, kids must come first. Rich corporations and CEOs don't get to cut in line. Our members of Congress must demand that any tax package enacted this year significantly reduce child poverty through an expansion of the child tax credit.

**- Carol Bostick, Novato**

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/opinion/saturdays-letters-to-the-editor-576/>



## **Housing: Build Community, Not Wealth**

*We can organize toward solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general.*

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 10, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it—especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

In the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up



with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental—or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30% of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable—not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a program manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis.*

<https://www.laprogressive.com/homelessness/build-community-not-wealth>

**Reprinted in:**

**THE CALIFORNIAN**

<https://eccalifornian.com/the-importance-of-home/>

# Colorado media



## **Re: 'Dive to survive'**

January 19, 2023

Kudos to the organizations and individuals that work to help us avoid food waste and hunger ("Dive to survive," by Will Matuska, Boulder Weekly, Jan. 12, 2023). Imagine so much hunger, food insecurity on the rise, and yet 35% of food wasted. Will Matuska's article does a good job explaining the problem in the Boulder area — multiply that by all the areas across the country. Time to send this article to our members of Congress and ask for action. Sen. Bennet's efforts to pass and renew the expanded Child Tax Credit are to be applauded and encouraged, a good step forward to deal with hunger. A renter's tax credit would help millions of families no longer have to choose between food and rent. Our voices matter: Congress listens to those who elect them. If we join together we can guide our government to equity and enough for all.

**- Willie Dickerson/Snohomish, Washington**

<https://boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-jan-19-2023/>

## **Don't Let Politicians Cut Housing Aid**

**By Pamela M. Covington**

February 3, 2023

We all need physical safety before we can do anything else. Without a roof over our heads, that sense of security is impossible. And with two small children in tow, things get scary.

And after fleeing a dangerous domestic situation with my baby and 9-year-old son, with no home but the small moving truck I had rented to escape, I still felt unsafe and terrified.

I left economic security and a beautiful Victorian home overlooking a lush green park in Savannah, Georgia and drove to Jacksonville, Florida — where I discovered the only affordable options for housing for us were uninhabitable apartments.

In my comfortable Savannah neighborhood, I'd been that person who looked down at people who got government help. Maybe because of what I'd heard from the media.

I didn't seek government assistance to find appropriate housing when I left, because I didn't know anything about it. Instead, I settled for an apartment with no appliances, no air conditioning, no heat, dangerous concrete stairs, and suspected asbestos flooring.

Though we had a roof over our heads, we were barely surviving. Then another single mom in our dilapidated tenement building told me about food stamps.

That was a big help, but it wasn't easy. Our stamps only covered pantry staples that could be cooked at home — and we didn't have a stove. Still, in those days, I received cash as change from food stamp purchases and saved it to use for laundry, bath soap, or shoes for my children.

This same neighbor also convinced me to sign up for Section 8 housing vouchers — but warned me to do it immediately, as the waiting list was long.

A year and a half later, we finally got federal assistance to find a better apartment. It was a lifesaver. The kitchen had a stove and a refrigerator, and we had subsidies for heat. I could finally exhale and focus on how to get us out of poverty.

And I did. I went back to college and worked my way up to being one of the few black female journalists in the country in those days, with my big break as a freelance writer for USA Today. I even went on to write a book about my journey into — and out of — poverty.

But will my children's and grandchildren's generations have the same opportunity to get help if they need it?

The new Republican-led House of Representatives is trying to cap all discretionary spending at 2022 levels, despite inflation and rising need. This would cut funding for Housing and Urban Development by over \$8 billion — all at a time when rents are rising at a historic clip. There is no state in the U.S. where a two-bedroom apartment is affordable on the prevailing minimum wage.

This new agenda takes aim at people who are in the same spot I was, just trying to do the right thing for our families and get out of poverty. Cuts to food and housing assistance move us in the wrong direction.

President Biden, on the other hand, has released a new plan to ensure fairness in the rental market as part of the White House's new Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights. It affirms that renters deserve "safe, quality, accessible, and affordable housing." It's not nearly enough, but it's a step in the right direction.

All of us need the basic security of housing and food. We all must come together to protect this critical assistance that's helped folks like me, in temporary need, go on to bigger and better things. Don't bargain with our basic human needs.

**Pamela M. Covington** is the author of *A Day at the Fare: One Woman's Welfare Passage and a RESULTS Expert on Poverty*. This op-ed was distributed by *OtherWords.org*.

<https://coloradotimesrecorder.com/2023/02/dont-let-politicians-cut-housing-aid/51721/>



## **Re: 'History will be kind to Jimmy Carter'**

March 2, 2023

I agree that history will be kind to President Jimmy Carter, a great leader, humanitarian and human being (Letters, "History will be kind to Jimmy Carter," Feb. 23, 2023). His inspiration by leading with his example, in the Carter Center work for peace, his building homes for the homeless, and simple lifestyle. These are some of the reasons our local RESULTS group gave him the Seeds of Hope Award in 2018. We can use his inspiration to take action to encourage our members of Congress to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty in half before it expired. A renters' tax credit would help end the slide of families to homelessness. Hard to believe that poverty and its fallout hurts tens of millions of families in the world's richest country. Let's use our voices to turn this around, speaking up to our members of Congress to pass these and other initiatives to make a difference for families in America.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-march-2-2023/>

# Daily Camera

## Many are falling short chasing the American dream

April 12, 2023

**By Chaila R. Scott**

Most of us have been given the same life directives: go to college, get a good job, get married, have kids, retire. As a former alumni adviser for high school grads, I can assure you that narrative is alive and well.

We get this plan from well-meaning people who love us, often long before we can form a definition of what happiness means to us. There's nothing wrong with these goals, of course. But they may not be for everyone — and in our unequal society, pursuing them can be a big risk that doesn't always pay off.

For my part, I thought following these steps was a direct route to the American Dream.

I earned my bachelor's degree in just three years. By 2012, I'd landed a job in my field that would build my resume. While the pay was modest, I was single with no kids and minimal bills. I was also in graduate school, sure to increase my earning potential.

The American Dream was in sight. But then I hit the infamous glass ceiling, which is doubly thick for Black women. Nationally we're paid only 63 cents on the dollar compared to our white male counterparts.

As my earnings stalled out, life happened. By the beginning of 2014, I was flat broke, divorcing, pregnant and still in grad school. My growing belly gave me motivation, though. The moment my son was born via emergency c-section, I was grabbing my laptop to submit a final.

I pushed past my anxiety about unpaid bills and student loan debt, trusting in the promise that hard work and education added up to security and happiness for my family. But even after obtaining my master's and working in social services for years, that security did not materialize.

I needed a change. In 2019, I switched gears to work in public education.



At first, I absolutely loved it. But eventually I learned that people of color in my workplace were getting paid significantly less than their white counterparts for comparable or even the same work. Our employer claimed outwardly to be anti-racist while gatekeeping raises, promotions and power.

I worked for change within the organization and ran programs for students dealing with similar challenges. But I was severely underpaid for my experience and education, and this additional labor was unpaid too.

Hitting that glass ceiling again and in the wake of George Floyd's death, I heard a message loud and clear: As a Black woman in America, I was supposed to know my place and not complain. I should be grateful just to be in the room.

Eventually, it became too much. After pouring myself into this job while also overwhelmed with debt and raising a young child, I quit my job to explore new career options that could balance fulfillment and stability with my mental health.

I chose to enter the great financial unknown.

My story shows what many Americans already know: It is possible to “do everything right” and still end up in a place of financial uncertainty.

One way or another, it's a story that Americans of every race, color, gender and zip code end up learning the hard way. Some 140 million of us are poor or low-income, while nearly half of us lack the cash on hand to cover an emergency.

But we can change the narrative. Call or write your representative, share your story and ask them what they are doing to counteract rising costs and low wages. Join a political action organization that fights poverty and oppression like RESULTS, the group I now work with.

Our elected officials work for us — and our silence costs us a better future.

*Chaila R. Scott, MPA, is a RESULTS expert on poverty. This op-ed was adapted from a longer account at RESULTS.org and distributed for syndication by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2023/04/12/guest-opinion-chaila-r-scott-many-are-falling-short-chasing-the-american-dream/>

# POSTINDEPENDENT

## **Address housing federally**

April 12, 2023

I would like to respond to “Guest column: Failure to solve the affordable housing crisis is not an acceptable option” (Gail Schwartz, 4/7 PI) and say how much I agree.

We cannot sit back and not address this issue. As the article discusses, it is the backbone of our country that this housing shortage is affecting — people like nurses, teachers, EMS/EMT drivers and bus drivers. We desperately depend on these kinds of people to want to do their jobs — but they are not going into those fields or not going into them in places that rely on them if they can’t afford to pay for basic needs like housing and food.

It is about time that Congress addresses the housing issue on a big scale. One possible piece of legislation they could start with is a Renters Tax Credit. A renters’ tax credit would limit the rent and utilities costs that low-income families must pay, ensuring they can afford a secure place to live without sacrificing basic needs. Additionally, given that constructing affordable housing can be costly and take a lot of time, a renters’ tax credit may be a more cost-effective and time efficient alternative. I urge Congress to pass a renters’ tax credit in 2023.

**- Sarah McVoy Miller, University City, Missouri**

<https://www.postindependent.com/opinion/wednesday-letters-a-couple-of-thank-yous-more-on-ubr-and-a-gruesome-sight-at-the-end-of-the-fence/>

# POSTINDEPENDENT

## **Yes to renters' credit**

April 28, 2023

I join Sarah McVoy Miller's call on Congress to pass a renters' tax credit to assure millions of Americans no longer pay 50% and more of their income for rent ("Address housing federally" by Sarah McVoy Miller, 4/12 letters.

This would slow the flow to evictions and homelessness. If we all call on those who represent us to pass this and other equity initiatives like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit, America will be on its way to a home of hope for all.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.postindependent.com/opinion/friday-letters-drag-shows-rural-housing-renters-credit/>

# THE DENVER POST

## Keeping the price of housing in check

May 8, 2023

Re: "Shortfall a misery across Western Hemisphere," April 29 business story

The headline is no surprise to me since this problem has been ignored for far too long and is now becoming a severe crisis. Although mayors are struggling to find a solution, I believe that the responsibility for addressing this issue lies with Congress rather than local cities. The scale of this problem is too vast for local governments to tackle alone. Nevertheless, local cities can play a role by encouraging residents to express their concerns to Congress and urge them to implement legislation that addresses this issue on a significant scale. One promising policy solution is a Renter's Tax Credit, which could provide assistance to households that spend over 30% of their income on housing expenses. It is crucial that citizens advocate for the passage of this policy by contacting their U.S. legislators before this crisis worsens.

- **Sarah Miller, Universal City, Mo.**

No online link

# THE DENVER POST

## **A manufactured crisis**

May 24, 2023

Re: "COVID-19 era of spending gives way to deficit focus," May 14 news story

Is anyone paying attention to the details of the proposed debt ceiling crisis? Congress wants to cut back food stamp (SNAP) programs, trim senior benefits and reduce the Child Tax Credit. According to the Kids Count Data Center, over 144,000 Colorado children under 18 were living in poverty in 2021; 144,000 children with not enough food and nutrition to lead a healthy life. Do you know what it is like as a child to not have enough food to eat?

We all know that a high debt load is a problem. What I can't understand is why some in Congress think it is OK to take food out of kids' mouths instead of dollars out of the pockets of those that have plenty to eat and drink. Please contact your U.S. representatives and tell them to change their minds. Ask them to support a Child Tax Credit, which lifted over 45% of children out of poverty in one year! Tell them not to cut programs that devastate those people least able to afford it. Ask them to honor promised programs like Social Security. Tell them, if anything, to increase SNAP benefits.

**- Mark Clarke, Highlands Ranch**

[https://enewspaper.denverpost.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=678b872d-3449-4f63-9b60-5a6bb747886f](https://enewspaper.denverpost.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=678b872d-3449-4f63-9b60-5a6bb747886f)



## **Solution to Homeless = Child Tax Credit**

May 25, 2023

Great news that programs for the homeless are receiving funding in Boulder County (News, "Boulder County receives funding for homeless solutions," May 18, 2023). At the same time, we need national solutions to end the crisis of the unhoused. A renter tax credit is being considered by Congress that would end the people trapped in poverty from paying more than 30% of their income for rent. Millions currently pay 50% and more. At the same time, renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit would benefit families across the country — it already cut child poverty by 46% in its initial form. These and other initiatives can help create a better future, stem the flow to hunger and homelessness, and finally create the ladders out of poverty that the road to equity demands.

**- Willie Dickerson/Snohomish, Washington**

<https://boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters-may-25-2023/>

# POSTINDEPENDENT

## **Child Tax Credit should be expanded**

October 2, 2023

Dear Editor,

The chaos and acrimony in the House right now is putting millions of families at risk of deeper poverty by cutting off federal assistance that feeds, educates, and houses millions each year. It is infuriating that the basic foundations of our social safety net are constantly being used as political pawns in Washington.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Supporting families through our tax code can minimize the harm these yearly funding battles inflict. For instance, when we expanded the Child Tax Credit in 2021 and made it available to families with the lowest incomes, we cut child poverty nearly in half. Unfortunately, new Census data shows that child poverty more than doubled when Congress allowed the expansion to expire.

Families shouldn't be caught in the middle of the reckless and childish fights over funding the government. Expand the Child Tax Credit permanently so that families can have consistent support they can count on. Our representatives and senators must fund the government and expand the Child Tax Credit now.

Put yourself in the shoes of these families and do better.

**- Sincerely,**

**Selene Grajales, Glenwood Springs**

<https://www.postindependent.com/adproof/monday-letters-10/>

# THE DENVER POST

## Poverty is a policy choice

October 11, 2023

I'm a new mom of an infant. I don't sleep. I don't know how to describe what I do at night when my brain shuts off. It resembles an overloaded circuit in your house where the breaker trips and shuts everything off to prevent a fire from burning everything down. That, multiple times each night, depending on what kind of night the baby is having.

Being a parent is hard in the best of times. When I went back to work full-time, it got harder. Everything, all the time, lots of tears (from me, not the baby). Did I mention I'm one of the privileged ones? My income pays the bills. I don't worry about housing, food or childcare. This is why the news that, according to the Census Bureau, child poverty doubled last year largely because Congress let expansions to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) expire, and that the people in our country most at risk of facing eviction are babies and toddlers has me fuming.

Poverty is a policy choice. What a tragedy to have a Congress whose choice is to fight with each other to grow their own political power, making life harder for moms, sacrificing the needs of our children. Why not, after all, babies don't have a voice to protest. We need to raise our voices for them. We can do that by electing leaders who are willing to support families through policies like the Child Tax Credit.

**- Amanda Beals, Denver**

No online link

***Reprinted in:***

**Daily Camera**

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2023/10/13/letters-to-the-editor-funding-affordable-housing-supporting-the-child-tax-credit-electing-capable-leaders/>





## **Tell Congress to make CTC fully refundable**

December 5, 2023

Thanks for the article by the Sentinel staff reminding us that the bell ringing season is here.

I appreciate everyone involved with the Salvation Army making an extra effort to help those that need our help the most.

What I don't appreciate is over 100 of the House majority sending a letter to Speaker Johnson to demand keeping tax cuts to corporations without saying a word about returning the Child Tax Credits (CTC) to the 2021 levels. The CTC had a proven record of lifting almost half of the children out of poverty in our country. Congress didn't renew the full refundability of the CTC in 2022. And yet households making up to \$400,000 a year got the full amount of the credit. The unfairness of the tax code is partially responsible for over 130,000 children in Colorado experiencing poverty going to bed hungry. Be upset, be disgusted that Congress talks about lowering our debt on the backs of children while wanting to continue tax cuts to corporations.

Please call our members of Congress and tell them to make Child Tax Credit fully refundable before any more handouts to corporations.

**- Larry Carter, Grand Junction**

[https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/letters/printed-letters-dec-5-2023/article\\_0a30cebe-9305-11ee-9f1f-f75f159985a4.html](https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/letters/printed-letters-dec-5-2023/article_0a30cebe-9305-11ee-9f1f-f75f159985a4.html)

# Daily Camera

## Housing should be seen as a human right

By Kazmyn Ramos

December 10, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among

themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30% of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community that affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2023/12/10/opinion-kazmyn-ramos-housing-should-be-seen-as-a-human-right/>

**Reprinted in:**

THE WEEKLY ISSUE  
**El Semanario**

<https://www.elsemanarioonline.com/the-importance-of-home/>

# Daily Camera

## Celebrating the resilience of low-income women

By Karen Dolan

December 31, 2023

It's been a difficult few years for poor people in this country. Just a year after the pandemic-era safety net expansion saw poverty fall to its lowest level on record, we saw a historic 60% increase as those programs expired.

Women and children have been among the hardest hit. In 2022, the last year we have data for, at least 32 million women and children were living in poverty.

Despite that hardship, I feel some hope.

That's because I've spent the last few years working with poor and low-income people — mostly single moms — impacted by systemic poverty. Through helping them tell their stories, I've learned that they're some of the strongest — and most resilient — members of our society.

Take Amy Adams from rural Kentucky.

She has two associate degrees. Yet with a dearth of child care options, no public transit, and wages too low to afford even a second bedroom, her daily challenges are astounding. She walks to and from work late at night, depends on family for child care, and somehow fits her family of four into a small one-bedroom apartment.

Despite these challenges, Amy still gives her time as a member of a non-profit advocacy board to help other struggling mothers fight for policies that will improve their lives.

Or Joyce Kendrick. Joyce grew up in a middle-income family but suffered abuse as a child that led to lifelong physical and mental health challenges. The increase in food benefits and cash assistance during the pandemic briefly lifted her out of poverty. But when Congress failed to renew those critical supports, she fell right back in.

Yet even as she struggles to make ends meet, Joyce co-leads an Ohio chapter of the Poor People's Campaign, a national coalition of poor and low-income people working together for more just policies.

Growing up poor and escaping an abusive partner later in life, Trish Brown has benefited from safety net support not only to take care of her family, but also her community. She volunteers as a coordinating committee member of the Poor People's Campaign in Florida and gives back as the founder and director of Power Up People in Tallahassee.

Wisconsin mom Kali Daugherty's family was transformed by the expanded Child Tax Credit included in the American Rescue Plan, which cut child poverty by half nationally. With that help, she was able to return to school, get her child new clothes, and take her to a water park for the first time. When Congress let that expansion expire and these advances for families were reversed, Kali advocated for their return as a RESULTS expert on poverty.

Kazmyn Ramos, another RESULTS expert on poverty in Indiana, learned through generational poverty how key housing is to well-being. Believing that "housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder," she founded the affordable housing non-profit Seeking 1610.

My organization, the Institute for Policy Studies, partnered with the Poor People's Campaign to study the increase in suffering since the expiration of the pandemic era supports that helped these women keep their families' heads above water.

Alongside increases in poverty, we found increases in food and housing insecurity, the loss of critical health care and declines in life expectancy — even as billionaire wealth nationally grew by \$2 billion a day between 2020 and 2022. It's clearer than ever that poverty is a policy choice.

But that means we can choose differently. Amy, Joyce, Trish, Kali, and Kazmyn are just a few of the millions of poor and low-income women leading the way against these systemic policy failures that impact all of us. We need to join them and demand our nation make the investments to end structural poverty.

We know what works. Collectively, we have a voice powerful enough to make it happen.

*Karen Dolan directs the Criminalization of Race and Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies.*

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2023/12/31/opinion-karen-dolan-celebrating-the-resilience-of-low-income-women/>

# Connecticut media



## **Housing Vouchers and Food Stamps Helped My Family, Will Families Today Get the Same Chance?**

February 28, 2023

To the Editor:

We all need physical safety before we can do anything else. Without a roof over our heads, that sense of security is impossible. And with two small children in tow, things get scary.

And after fleeing a dangerous domestic situation with my baby and 9-year-old son, with no home but the small moving truck I had rented to escape, I still felt unsafe and terrified.

I left economic security and a beautiful Victorian home overlooking a lush green park in Savannah, GA and drove to Jacksonville, FL — where I discovered the only affordable options for housing for us were uninhabitable apartments.

In my comfortable Savannah neighborhood, I'd been that person who looked down at people who got government help. Maybe because of what I'd heard from the media.

I didn't seek government assistance to find appropriate housing when I left, because I didn't know anything about it. Instead, I settled for an apartment with no appliances, no air conditioning, no heat, dangerous concrete stairs, and suspected asbestos flooring.

Though we had a roof over our heads, we were barely surviving. Then another single mom in our dilapidated tenement building told me about food stamps.

That was a big help, but it wasn't easy. Our stamps only covered pantry staples that could be cooked at home — and we didn't have a stove. Still, in those days, I received cash as change from food stamp purchases and saved it to use for laundry, bath soap, or shoes for my children.

This same neighbor also convinced me to sign up for Section 8 housing vouchers — but warned me to do it immediately, as the waiting list was long.

A year and a half later, we finally got federal assistance to find a better apartment. It was a lifesaver. The kitchen had a stove and a refrigerator, and we had subsidies for heat. I could finally exhale and focus on how to get us out of poverty.

And I did. I went back to college and worked my way up to being one of the few black female journalists in the country in those days, with my big break as a freelance writer for USA Today. I even went on to write a book about my journey into — and out of — poverty.

But will my children's and grandchildren's generations have the same opportunity to get help if they need it?

The new Republican-led House of Representatives is trying to cap all discretionary spending at 2022 levels, despite inflation and rising need. This would cut funding for Housing and Urban Development by over \$8 billion — all at a time when rents are rising at a historic clip. There is no state in the U.S. where a two-bedroom apartment is affordable on the prevailing minimum wage.

This new agenda takes aim at people who are in the same spot I was, just trying to do the right thing for our families and get out of poverty. Cuts to food and housing assistance move us in the wrong direction.

President Biden, on the other hand, has released a new plan to ensure fairness in the rental market as part of the White House's new Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights. It affirms that renters deserve "safe, quality, accessible, and affordable housing." It's not nearly enough, but it's a step in the right direction.

All of us need the basic security of housing and food. We all must come together to protect this critical assistance that's helped folks like me, in temporary need, go on to bigger and better things. Don't bargain with our basic human needs.

**- Pamela M. Covington**

*Covington is the author of [A Day at the Fare: One Woman's Welfare Passage and a RESULTS Expert on Poverty](#). This op-ed was distributed by [OtherWords.org](#).*



<https://ctexaminer.com/2023/02/28/housing-vouchers-and-food-stamps-helped-my-family-will-families-today-get-the-same-chance/>



## **Child poverty is everywhere**

December 20, 2023

To the editor:

Last month in a presentation to social service professionals, Greenwich United Way reported that 20 percent of Greenwich residents are struggling to get by every month. "The need is great, the need is real, the need is growing as inflation hits everything," said Bill Brucker, vice president of Greenwich-based Family Centers.

In September 2023, the Census Bureau reported the child poverty rate more than doubled from 5.2 percent in 2021 to 12.4 percent in 2022. During the pandemic, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) providing assistance which resulted in the lowest national child poverty rate ever. The dramatic spike in the child poverty rate followed the expiration of the CTC expansion at the end of 2021.

While members of Congress are focused on tax cuts for large corporations, it is critical that the tax bill they ultimately pass also provides for a permanent and expanded CTC. The CTC helps address an essential need in our community and throughout the country.

By expanding the CTC, we not only provide immediate relief to struggling families but also invest in the future of our nation. Studies consistently show that children growing up in poverty face increased challenges in terms of education, health, and overall well-being.

Please contact Congressional representatives and urge them to prioritize the well-being of our children and families by supporting and voting for a permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit. This is not just a fiscal policy; it's a moral imperative and a strategic investment in the future prosperity of our nation.

*Phylis Behlen of Greenwich is a volunteer with RESULTS, a movement of everyday people using their voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty.*

No online link

# Florida media



## **Congress can help families**

March 20, 2023

President Biden has released a new federal budget. Among his many priorities is making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans. I agree, and two things Congress could do right now would make that happen.

First, expand the Child Tax Credit. In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty plummeted and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit (RTC). Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rent costs.

While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent. For decades, Congress has skewed the tax code in favor of the wealthy. The President is calling on them to start putting everyday Americans first. I urge our members of Congress to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting an RTC — now.

**- Joan Balfour, Boynton Beach**

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/letters/fl-op-letters-leave-florida-universities-alone-20230320-gvajra5pcrclncry6a6oi3ljea-story.html>

# Miami Herald

## Poverty Fix

April 18, 2023

As the action network manager for RESULTS Advocacy in Miami and a native of Haiti, I am deeply concerned about the financial struggles millions of low-income families are facing because of the expiration of the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Having experienced poverty firsthand growing up in a family of 10 children, I understand the critical need for policies that support struggling families.

This tax season, many families will see their refunds shrink, or vanish entirely, pushing them closer to poverty. In July 2021, Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families, providing a lifeline to countless households. This financial boost helped families cover essential expenses including food, utilities, and rent, significantly reducing child poverty rates.

However, a majority of senators, including Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, refused to extend the expanded CTC last year, leaving 19 million American families with reduced tax credits and 2 million with no support at all.

We need a tax code that works for all Americans, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities. It is crucial for Congress to resume the expanded CTC for low-income families this year.

**- Jean P. Charles, Miami**

No online link

# Miami Herald

## **Systemic Disparities**

April 20, 2023

Jean P. Charles' April 18 letter, "Poverty fix," is spot on. Charles writes that, "We need a tax code that works for all Americans," not just the wealthy who realize millions from the tax cuts enacted under President Trump.

The tax code is the clearest road to equity when initiatives such as the expanded Child Tax Credit are passed and reach families immediately, cutting child poverty in half.

A renter tax credit would reach millions of low-income renters who are paying beyond 30% of their income for rent. This credit would slow the flow of evictions and homelessness.

Let's take inspiration from Charles' suggestion, contact our members of Congress and tell them to pass these and other equity initiatives.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA**

No online link



## Many are falling short chasing the American Dream

By Chaila Scott

April 21, 2023

Most of us have been given the same life directives: go to college, get a good job, get married, have kids, retire. As a former alumni adviser for high school grads, I can assure you that narrative is alive and well.

We get this plan from well-meaning people who love us, often long before we can form a definition of what happiness means to us. There's nothing wrong with these goals, of course. But they may not be for everyone — and in our unequal society, pursuing them can be a big risk that doesn't always pay off.

For my part, I thought following these steps was a direct route to the American Dream.

I earned my bachelor's degree in just three years. By 2012, I'd landed a job in my field that would build my resume. While the pay was modest, I was single with no kids and minimal bills. I was also in graduate school, sure to increase my earning potential.

The American Dream was in sight. But then I hit the infamous glass ceiling, which is doubly thick for Black women. Nationally we're paid only 63 cents on the dollar compared to our white male counterparts. Where I live in Louisiana, it's even lower — just 47 cents.

As my earnings stalled out, life happened. By the beginning of 2014, I was flat broke, divorcing, pregnant, and still in grad school. My growing belly gave me motivation, though. The moment my son was born via emergency c-section, I was grabbing my laptop to submit a final.



I pushed past my anxiety about unpaid bills and student loan debt, trusting in the promise that hard work and education added up to security and happiness for my family. But even after obtaining my master's and working in social services for years, that security did not materialize.

### **Worked for less**

I needed a change. In 2019, I switched gears to work in public education.

At first, I absolutely loved it. But eventually I learned that people of color in my workplace were getting paid significantly less than their white counterparts for comparable or even the same work. Our employer claimed outwardly to be anti-racist while gatekeeping raises, promotions, and power.

I worked for change within the organization and ran programs for students dealing with similar challenges. But I was severely underpaid for my experience and education, and this additional labor was unpaid too.

Hitting that glass ceiling again and in the wake of George Floyd's death, I heard a message loud and clear: As a Black woman in America, I was supposed to know my place and not complain. I should be grateful just to be in the room.

### **Change the narrative**

Eventually, it became too much. After pouring myself into this job while also overwhelmed with debt and raising a young child, I chose to enter the quit my job to explore new career options that could balance fulfillment and stability with my mental health.

I chose to enter the great financial unknown.

My story shows what many Americans already know: It is possible to "do everything right" and still end up in a place of financial uncertainty.

One way or another, it's a story that Americans of every race, color, gender, and zip code end up learning the hard way. Some 140 million of us are poor or low-income, while nearly half of us lack the cash on hand to cover an emergency.

But we can change the narrative. Call or write your representative, share your story, and ask them what they are doing to counteract rising costs and low wages. Join a

political action organization that fights poverty and oppression like RESULTS, the group I now work with.

Our elected officials work for us — and our silence costs us a better future.

*Chaila R. Scott, MPA is a RESULTS expert on poverty from Luling, Louisiana. This op-ed was adapted from a longer account at RESULTS.org and distributed for syndication by OtherWords.org.*

[https://www.flcourier.com/commentaries/many-are-falling-short-chasing-the-american-dream/article\\_4b959524-dfd7-11ed-93be-d31b237390be.html](https://www.flcourier.com/commentaries/many-are-falling-short-chasing-the-american-dream/article_4b959524-dfd7-11ed-93be-d31b237390be.html)

# Miami Herald

## Tax credit

April 30, 2023

Re the April 20 letter "Systemic Disparities:" The tax code is the clearest path to helping those in need. Millions of low-income families didn't get the refund they needed because Congress let the expanded Child Tax Credit expire last year. Meanwhile, other families are spending most of their income on rent because housing is so unaffordable.

No child should have to grow up in poverty while Congress sits back and takes no action. If the wealthy get tax cuts, so should lower-wage earners. They are doing important jobs and they need a place to live. Congress must pass the Child Tax credit and the Renter's Tax Credit. Both benefit our country because losing one's housing can lead to job loss, and taking care of kids is the future of our county. Making sure workers remain housed is in everyone's best interest.

**- Saah McVoy Miller, University city, MO**

No online link

# Herald-Tribune

## House GOP takes debt ceiling hostage

May 10, 2023

It's unfathomable that Rep. Vern Buchanan and other Republicans in the House are threatening to tank our economy – and possibly the world's – by refusing to increase the debt limit to pay our bills.

As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plan would slash dozens of critical services, including SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and child care. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people.

Roughly 1 million older adults would be at risk of losing food assistance, many of them living here in Florida. Why should Floridians go without food, health care and other critical services to raise the debt ceiling, which every Congress has done before?

The Republican and Democratic parties have major differences in how they want to spend our money, but that's what the budget process is for.

Threatening our economy – and doing it on the backs of low-income people – to wrest concessions is the wrong approach. I urge Floridians to call Buchanan and Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott and demand that they pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

**– Lesley Reed, Sarasota and Vashon, Wash.**

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/05/10/gop-lawmakers-pass-bills-desantis-wants/70197373007/>

## **Don't punish people**

May 21, 2023

Congress has a responsibility to pay for the bills it runs up. For decades this was not an issue. But House GOP leaders are now refusing to pay unless they get deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance and core global poverty programs. For them, people struggling to make ends meet are the problem — not the reckless tax cuts for the rich that Congress has enacted over the past 40 years.

These proposed budget cuts would force deep hardships onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs. Even worse, a debt default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work.

Instead of being responsible, House leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. This must stop.

I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- Richard Beaulieu, Tamarac**

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2023/05/21/disney-wipes-out-2000-florida-jobs-surprised-letters-to-the-editor/>

# Miami Herald

## Child Poverty

September 20, 2023

On Sept. 12, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that child poverty had doubled to 12.4% since having reached an all-time low in 2021 of 5.2%.

More than 5 million American children have returned to poverty. With the holidays around the corner, millions are struggling to provide for their family and give their kids a deserving holiday experience.

This surge in poverty is undeniably linked to the expiration of the Child Tax Credit extension received in 2021.

If our representatives care about a pro-family agenda, would they be willing to include an extension of the Child Tax Credit?

**- Nayade Caldes, Hollywood**

No online link

# Tampa Bay Times

## **Renew the child tax credit**

*Child poverty is on the rise*

October 22, 2023

I'm happy that Tampa Bay is attracting many people, but I'm heartbroken that many more families with children are struggling to pay bills and put enough food on the table. Congress had no excuse for letting the expanded child tax credit expire in 2021 and now has no excuse for not renewing it. Oh, the House of Representatives is not functioning. They should do the jobs they were elected to do: Represent and serve the rest of us.

**- Linda Schatz, Tampa**

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2023/10/24/congress-can-cut-child-poverty-tampa-bay-letters/>

# Miami Herald

## **Prioritize Kids**

November 3, 2023

Congress is back to work, with many items on the agenda.

One of these is taxes. Big corporations are pushing Congress to pass legislation in a matter of weeks to expand corporate tax breaks.

With recent Census data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022, it is imperative that any tax package includes an expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) for families with low incomes. In 2021, the expanded CTC lifted more than 3 million children from poverty. By allowing the CTC expansion to expire, lawmakers have abandoned those children. This is their chance at redemption.

When it comes to tax priorities this year, kids must come first. Rich corporations and CEOs don't get to cut in line. Our members of Congress must demand that any tax package significantly reduce child poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

**- Dr. Yanick Perodin, Miami**

No online link



## **Expand child tax credit**

November 12, 2023

Congress is back to work with a lot of items on the agenda, and one item is taxes.

Big corporations are pushing Congress to pass legislation in a matter of weeks to expand corporate tax breaks.

With recent census data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022, it is imperative that any tax package include an expansion of the Child Tax Credit for low-income families. In 2021, the expanded CTC lifted over 3 million children out of poverty. By allowing the CTC expansion to expire, lawmakers have abandoned those children. Here is their chance at redemption.

When it comes to tax priorities this year, kids must come first. Rich corporations and their CEOs don't get to cut to the front of the line. Members of Congress must demand that any tax package this year significantly reduce child poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

**- Donna Friedman, Deerfield Beach**

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2023/11/12/the-hypocrisy-of-a-bulletproof-state-capitol-letters-to-the-editor/>

# Tallahassee Democrat.

## **Senators Scott, Rubio: Bringing back the expanded Child Tax Credit should be our priority**

November 20, 2023

Our Congress has avoided another government shutdown, and I believe it is the best time to remind them about one of the most significant policies – the expanded Child Tax Credit. It was something that reached the most struggling communities in the country and helped to lift so many children out of poverty. And it is something that got lost in the year 2022.

Many people fear that the CTC might not work in the long run – it would make families rely on government assistance and decrease labor participation. However, can these benefits really replace the actual income? I highly doubt it. Studies have proven time and time again that the CTC benefits often go to necessities, such as food, clothes, school expenses, and childcare.

Nearing the end of the year, Congress must decide on the expansion of the CTC. Considering our collective goal to improve the lives of millions of children in Florida and in the country, Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott should voice their support to bring back the refundable CTC with the same benefits as in 2021.

**- Daiana Surkova, Tallahassee, FL**

No online link



## **The importance of home — Kazmyn Ramos**

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

Dec. 22, 2023

In the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves?

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society.

My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did, too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a program manager for a group that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at Results. She lives in Indianapolis. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

# Georgia media



## **Don't let politicians bargain with our basic human needs**

By Pamela Covington

February 18, 2023

We all need physical safety before we can do anything else. Without a roof over our heads, that sense of security is impossible. And with two small children in tow, things get scary.

After fleeing a dangerous domestic situation with my baby and 9-year-old son, with no home but the small moving truck I had rented to escape, I still felt unsafe and terrified.

I left economic security and a beautiful Victorian home overlooking a lush green park in Savannah and drove to Jacksonville, Fla. — where I discovered the only affordable options for housing for us were uninhabitable apartments.

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That was a big help, but it wasn't easy. Our stamps covered only pantry staples that could be cooked at home — and we didn't have a stove. Still, in those days, I received cash as change from food stamp purchases and saved it to use for laundry, bath soap, or shoes for my children.

This same neighbor also convinced me to sign up for Section 8 housing vouchers — but warned me to do it immediately, as the waiting list was long.

A year and a half later, we finally got federal assistance to find a better apartment. It was a lifesaver. The kitchen had a stove and a refrigerator, and we had subsidies for heat. I could finally exhale and focus on how to get us out of poverty.

And I did. I went back to college and worked my way up to being one of the few black female journalists in the country in those days, with my big break as a freelance writer for USA Today. I even went on to write a book about my journey into — and out of — poverty.

But will my children's and grandchildren's generations have the same opportunity to get help if they need it?

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This new agenda takes aim at people who are in the same spot I was, just trying to do the right thing for our families and get out of poverty. Cuts to food and housing assistance move us in the wrong direction.

President Biden, on the other hand, has released a new plan to ensure fairness in the rental market as part of the White House's new Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights. It affirms that renters deserve "safe, quality, accessible, and affordable housing." It's not nearly enough, but it's a step in the right direction.

All of us need the basic security of housing and food. We all must come together to protect this critical assistance that's helped folks like me, in temporary need, go on to bigger and better things. Don't bargain with our basic human needs.

***Pamela M. Covington*** is the author of "A Day at the Fare: One Woman's Welfare Passage" and a RESULTS Expert on Poverty. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

[https://www.albanyherald.com/opinion/pamela-covington-dont-let-politicians-bargain-with-our-basic-human-needs/article\\_1bc9e21c-af9b-11ed-9e70-8f28305cfcfc.html](https://www.albanyherald.com/opinion/pamela-covington-dont-let-politicians-bargain-with-our-basic-human-needs/article_1bc9e21c-af9b-11ed-9e70-8f28305cfcfc.html)





## **Renter's tax credit policy a better approach to housing problems**

May 7, 2023

To the Editor

Regarding Marc Hyden's article "Bidenomics: Robbing Peter to help Paul buy a house," I agree that FHA mortgages may not be the most effective solution to address the housing crisis. However, my reasons differ from Hyden's as I believe that FHA mortgages will not be sufficient in helping millions of Americans afford a home.

I also agree that encouraging people to take on excessive debt is not the solution. Instead, I believe that a more robust approach would be to implement a renter's tax credit policy. This policy could benefit households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing expenses by capping their out-of-pocket costs and offering refunds for those who exceed the threshold.

Moreover, this approach would stimulate the economy by providing greater productivity and incentivizing individuals to pursue low-paying but critical jobs such as nursing, EMT drivers, and factory work. Additionally, it could alleviate concerns that providing loans to individuals could lead to another financial crisis.

Therefore, I urge everyone to reach out to their members of Congress to express their support for a renter's tax credit policy.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Mo.**

[https://www.albanyherald.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-renters-tax-credit-policy-a-better-approach-to-housing-problems/article\\_e32e07a0-ece7-11ed-a1d9-979dae14d2cc.html](https://www.albanyherald.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-renters-tax-credit-policy-a-better-approach-to-housing-problems/article_e32e07a0-ece7-11ed-a1d9-979dae14d2cc.html)

# **Hawai'i media**



## **Don't cut key services for debt ceiling deal**

May 22, 2023

I wholeheartedly agree with the concerns expressed in the letter, "Default on U.S. debt could be catastrophic" (Star-Advertiser, May 17). It is indeed worrying to witness the recent efforts of U.S. House leadership and U.S. Senate Republicans to implement significant cuts to crucial programs such as education, food assistance, housing and other essential initiatives. These programs serve as lifelines for millions of individuals, meeting their basic needs and providing vital support.

I sincerely hope that President Joe Biden will not yield to these demands but instead explore alternative avenues to raise the debt ceiling without compromising these vital programs.

The potential consequences of these proposed cuts are particularly alarming for my students. They already face challenges in maintaining focus and achieving academic success. With reduced access to food assistance and increased stress levels, their ability to thrive will be further hindered.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Mo.**

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2023/05/22/editorial/letters/letter-dont-cut-key-services-for-debt-ceiling-deal/>

# The Maui News

## **When it comes to tax priorities, kids come first**

November 17, 2023

Congress is back to work, with a lot of items on their agenda. One item is taxes. Big corporations are pushing Congress to pass legislation in a matter of weeks to expand corporate tax breaks.

With recent U.S. Census data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022, it is imperative that any tax package include an expansion of the Child Tax Credit for families with low-income.

In 2021, the expanded CTC lifted over 3 million children from poverty. By allowing the CTC expansion to expire, lawmakers have abandoned those children. Here is their chance at redemption.

When it comes to tax priorities this year, kids must come first. Rich corporations and CEOs don't get to cut in line. Our members of Congress must demand that any tax package this year significantly reduce child poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

**- Jacqui Skill, Lahaina**

<https://www.mauinews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/11/when-it-comes-to-tax-priorities-kids-come-first/>

**Idaho  
media**

## **Toward equity for all**

May 3, 2023

Interesting to read about the time of peaceful protest in the 1960s amid the call for the end of the Vietnam War and racial justice, which I was a part of (“Nearby History: A time of tension, protest,” by Mark O’English, Moscow-Pullman Daily News, April 22).

Not mentioned was the fact a new Black studies program was one of the outcomes a year or so earlier. The calls for equity are still with us. A year ago, Congress responded and passed the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty by 46% and helped families pay rent, buy food and pay bills. Sadly, it wasn’t renewed, but there is still hope.

Those peaceful voices can be used now, calling on our members of Congress to renew this ladder out of poverty. Other equity initiatives like a renter tax credit would assist people experiencing poverty to no longer pay up to 90% of their income for rent. The spirit of the 1960s, calling for justice and equity, is needed today. Use your voice to help create a country with equity for all.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

[https://dnews.com/opinion/may-2-letters-to-the-editor/article\\_e2d76526-e8fa-11ed-bd3f-4368c10fbe7f.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://dnews.com/opinion/may-2-letters-to-the-editor/article_e2d76526-e8fa-11ed-bd3f-4368c10fbe7f.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Help for Families Still Needed**

August 13, 2023

This month marks the two-year anniversary of when America prioritized eradicating child poverty. In July 2021, monthly payments for the expanded Child Tax Credit went out for the first time. Because the expansion was targeted to families with little or no income, over 3 million children were lifted from poverty after that first payment.

But Congress let the CTC expansion and monthly payments expire. Now families are struggling and children are falling back into poverty. The House new tax plan offers trillions in tax cuts to the wealthy and big corporations, but nothing for the families who finally got some relief in 2021 only to have it taken away.

Our representatives and senators must prioritize families with low income by expanding the CTC this year and reject any tax legislation that doesn't do so.

**- Kristine Paulson, Boise**

[https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letters-to-the-editor-aug-13/article\\_4191a818-3880-11ee-a67e-cb6a0b96df55.html](https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-aug-13/article_4191a818-3880-11ee-a67e-cb6a0b96df55.html)



## **Renters Tax Credit Would Stabilize Housing**

August 29, 2023

The August 22 edition of the Idaho Press had a letter from Kimberly Payne. In her letter she wrote about having to sleep in her car because she could not afford the rent for a studio apartment in Meridian or any other nearby city despite having a job. More and more Idahoans are finding themselves without a home because they can not afford rent. It does not seem that the cost of rent will go down anytime soon. People should not have to resort to sleeping in their car or on the street.

There is a solution. The advocacy group Results is working with members of Congress to implement a Renters Tax Credit. A RTC for households paying more that 30% of their total income for rent, would result in housing stability, fewer evictions and reduced homelessness. Lend your voice to advocating for a Renters Tax Credit.

**- Kristine Paulson, Boise**

[https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letters-to-the-editor-aug-29-2023/article\\_0640a80e-45c3-11ee-b7e6-7b1722d3831b.html](https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-aug-29-2023/article_0640a80e-45c3-11ee-b7e6-7b1722d3831b.html)





## **Child Tax Credit Should Be Expanded**

November 28, 2023

Recently, many of us voted. We are able to be a part of choosing who we want to run our government. Not only do we have the right to vote, we have the right and responsibility to share our opinions with our elected government officials whether we voted for them or not.

Therefore I have requested a meeting with Senator Crapo's office to request that he support the expansion of the Child Tax Credit to include families with low or no incomes. The CTC has proven to be one of the most powerful tools for investing in the well being of our kids. Currently, a family earning \$25,000 gets less than half the credit of a family earning \$400,000. 19 million children are left out of receiving the full credit.

Write letters, make phone calls and request meetings to make your opinion heard. Expanding the CTC is an opportunity to significantly reduce child poverty.

**- Kristine Paulson, Boise**

[https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letters-to-the-editor-nov-28-2023/article\\_158d3dce-8d56-11ee-808c-2f707967e3a8.html](https://www.idahopress.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-nov-28-2023/article_158d3dce-8d56-11ee-808c-2f707967e3a8.html)

# Idaho Statesman

## Crapo Should Back Child Tax Credit

December 10, 2023

I read with interest your recent article "Conservatives call for big business tax cuts while White House backs child tax credit." It's not just the White House backing the child tax credit (CTC). Pro-family advocates all over the country recognize that expanding the benefits of the CTC can be a stepping stone for families to avoid financial ruin and escape poverty. Currently, many low-income families are not receiving the full benefit and the lowest-income families, including grandparents raising their grandkids, receive no benefits at all.

Why is an Ohioan writing to an Idaho newspaper? Because Sen. Mike Crapo is one of the most important lawmakers in the tax negotiations. I want him to know that in his role on the Senate Finance Committee, he can affect the future of all Americans. A tax deal before the end of the year that includes a CTC expansion would be the best holiday gift for the 19 million children denied the full credit.

**- Allison Gallaher, Grafton, Ohio**

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article282803613.html>

**Illinois  
media**

# CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

## **Congress can level the tax playing field for families, renters**

*Expand the child tax credit and enact a renter tax credit to ensure fairness for the average American.*

March 14, 2023

President Joe Biden recently released his new budget. Among his many priorities is making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans.

I agree, and there are two things Congress could do right now to make it happen. First, expand the child tax credit. In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty immediately plummeted and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a renter tax credit (RTC). Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent.

For decades, Congress has skewed the tax code for the wealthy. The president is calling on them to start putting everyday Americans first. I urge our members of Congress to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting a RTC now.

**- Edward Haggard, Lake View**

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2023/3/14/23638083/joe-biden-budget-tax-code-child-tax-credit-renter-tax-credit-letters>

# Chicago Tribune

## Dealing with child poverty

April 10, 2023

The March 31 letter “What we owe children” raises an important point. We need to focus not only on gun control but also on meeting our children’s basic needs. It is shocking to know that 2.5 million children are homeless each year. To help families provide their kids with basic necessities like food and shelter, Congress expanded the child tax credit in 2021, but it has now expired, leaving millions of children in poverty.

Congress should consider passing a permanent and refundable renter tax credit, in addition to expanding the child tax credit. Providing financial assistance to households struggling with housing costs can reduce poverty and homelessness and ultimately reduce the need for costly criminal justice programs.

By investing in our children and families, we can end child poverty and build a stronger, more prosperous future for all Americans.

**- Sarah Miller, St. Louis**

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/letters/ct-letters-vp-041023-20230410-2wpybgfg4fdldlpxj4kkg4zvy-story.html>



## **American dream is falling short**

**By Chaila R. Scott**

April 14, 2023

Most of us have been given the same life directives: go to college, get a good job, get married, have kids, retire. As a former alumni adviser for high school grads, I can assure you that narrative is alive and well.

We get this plan from well-meaning people who love us, often long before we can form a definition of what happiness means to us. There's nothing wrong with these goals, of course. But they may not be for everyone — and in our unequal society, pursuing them can be a big risk that doesn't always pay off.

For my part, I thought following these steps was a direct route to the American Dream.

I earned my bachelor's degree in just three years. By 2012, I'd landed a job in my field that would build my resume. While the pay was modest, I was single with no kids and minimal bills. I was also in graduate school, sure to increase my earning potential.

The American Dream was in sight. But then I hit the infamous glass ceiling, which is doubly thick for Black women. Nationally we're paid only 63 cents on the dollar compared to our white male counterparts. Where I live in Louisiana, it's even lower — just 47 cents.

As my earnings stalled out, life happened. By the beginning of 2014, I was flat broke, divorcing, pregnant, and still in grad school. My growing belly gave me motivation, though. The moment my son was born via emergency c-section, I was grabbing my laptop to submit a final.

I pushed past my anxiety about unpaid bills and student loan debt, trusting in the promise that hard work and education added up to security and happiness for my

family. But even after obtaining my master's and working in social services for years, that security did not materialize.

I needed a change. In 2019, I switched gears to work in public education.

At first, I absolutely loved it. But eventually I learned that people of color in my workplace were getting paid significantly less than their white counterparts for comparable or even the same work. Our employer claimed outwardly to be anti-racist while gate-keeping raises, promotions, and power.

I worked for change within the organization and ran programs for students dealing with similar challenges. But I was severely underpaid for my experience and education, and this additional labor was unpaid too.

Hitting that glass ceiling again and in the wake of George Floyd's death, I heard a message loud and clear: As a Black woman in America, I was supposed to know my place and not complain. I should be grateful just to be in the room.

Eventually, it became too much. After pouring myself into this job while also overwhelmed with debt and raising a young child, I chose to enter the quit my job to explore new career options that could balance fulfillment and stability with my mental health.

I chose to enter the great financial unknown.

My story shows what many Americans already know: It is possible to "do everything right" and still end up in a place of financial uncertainty.

One way or another, it's a story that Americans of every race, color, gender, and zip code end up learning the hard way. Some 140 million of us are poor or low-income, while nearly half of us lack the cash on hand to cover an emergency.

But we can change the narrative. Call or write your representative, share your story, and ask them what they are doing to counteract rising costs and low wages. Join a political action organization that fights poverty and oppression like Results, the group I now work with.

Our elected officials work for us — and our silence costs us a better future.

*Chaila R. Scott is an expert on poverty from Luling, Louisiana. This op-ed was adapted from a longer account at results.org and syndicated by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.myjournalcourier.com/opinion/article/commentary-17882504.php>





## **Reject House cuts to anti-poverty programs**

May 20, 2023

To the Editor:

Thank you for covering the debt ceiling debate in “Debt limit fight: Biden meeting with Congress leaders put off until next week as staff talks proceed,” printed May 11. As a mother teaching budgeting and responsibility to my teens, I am beyond frustrated that House leadership is irresponsibly threatening to tank our economy to extract budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty.

Many people don’t realize the devastating affects those cuts could have on everyday people. As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plan slashes dozens of services including SNAP nutrition benefits, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and childcare, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

It is dangerous for House leaders to suggest that the U.S. will not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it for a flawed plan that would hurt Americans living in poverty. I strongly urge President Biden, Senator Durbin, and Senator Duckworth to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, St. Louis**

[https://thesouthern.com/opinion/letters/voice-of-the-reader-reject-house-cuts-to-anti-poverty-programs/article\\_fcc2302e-f0ed-11ed-87a4-d3397cf4920f.html](https://thesouthern.com/opinion/letters/voice-of-the-reader-reject-house-cuts-to-anti-poverty-programs/article_fcc2302e-f0ed-11ed-87a4-d3397cf4920f.html)

# CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

## Lift the debt ceiling

May 18, 2023

Congress has a responsibility to pay the bills it runs up. For decades, this was not an issue. But now House GOP leaders are refusing to pay unless they get deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, and core global poverty programs. For them, people struggling to make ends meet are the problem, not reckless tax cuts for the rich Congress has enacted over the last 40 years.

House leaders are holding the economy hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. I strongly urge President Joe Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- John Ballo, Elmhurst**

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2023/5/18/23728383/illinois-hospitals-medicaid-medicare-reimbursement-letters>



## **Poverty just jumped, and it was no accident — Lakeisha McVey**

**By Lakeisha McVey**

September 20, 2023

After hitting a record low of 7.8% in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4% last year. That's a nearly 60% increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me. Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools

were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.

I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don't end. The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100% of my health insurance. That's a rarity. If I'd been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would've gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day. But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8% — its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.

Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

*Lakeisha McVey is a bereaved mother, social justice advocate, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS. This commentary was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.myjournalcourier.com/opinion/article/commentary-18365022.php>

# **Indiana media**

## **Start putting everyday Americans first**

March 15, 2023

To the Editor:

President Biden has released his new budget. Among his many priorities, a huge one is making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans.

I agree and there are two things Congress could do right now to make it happen. First, expand the Child Tax Credit. In 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty immediately plummeted and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit (RTC). Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent.

For decades, Congress has skewed the tax code for the wealthy. The President is calling on them to start putting everyday Americans first. I urge our members of Congress to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting an RTC now.

**- Deborah Perkins, Indianapolis**

<https://www.greenfieldreporter.com/2023/03/15/letter-to-the-editor-start-putting-everyday-americans-first/>



## **Renter's tax credit would make housing more affordable**

April 19, 2023

The article headlined "State's poorest renters hurt most by affordable housing shortage, report says" [IBJ.com, March 24] emphasizes the urgency for Congress to address the housing crisis, which is hurting millions of Americans, including hardworking individuals such as nurses and EMS/EMT workers.

It is imperative for Congress to prioritize the housing crisis and provide solutions that benefit all Americans, particularly those who are vital to our society.

One viable solution is the implementation of a renter's tax credit, which would reduce the financial burden of rent and utilities for low-income families, ensuring they have access to safe and stable housing without sacrificing their basic needs. Moreover, a renter's tax credit could prove to be a more practical and cost-effective alternative to constructing affordable housing, which can be expensive and time-consuming.

**- Sarah Miller**

<https://www.ibj.com/articles/renters-tax-credit-would-make-housing-more-affordable>



## Support for families can make America greater

April 25, 2023

I agree with the sentiments expressed in the letter titled “America’s greatness can always be enhanced (April 1).” Our country has the potential to be even greater, and one way to achieve this is by supporting hard-working Americans and families in need.

Ensuring access to basic needs such as food, shelter and safety should be a priority for our society, particularly for children and their families. By investing in our children, we are also investing in the future of our country and building a strong foundation for our workforce and military. It is also important to support those who perform vital but often underpaid jobs, such as nurses, EMS workers and food service workers.

Congress can help by passing a permanent and refundable renter tax credit to assist households struggling with housing costs, which can lead to poverty and homelessness. Additionally, expanding the child tax credit would provide financial assistance to families in need.

By prioritizing the well-being of our children and families, we can reduce child poverty and create a more prosperous future for all Americans.

**– Sarah Miller, St. Louis**

[https://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/letters/davis-connects-with-voters-troubling-slogan-make-america-greater/article\\_614a192a-d498-11ed-b84e-33bec0b1f51f.html](https://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/letters/davis-connects-with-voters-troubling-slogan-make-america-greater/article_614a192a-d498-11ed-b84e-33bec0b1f51f.html)

# The Herald-Times

## **Congress: Change Child Tax Credit to help more families**

October 1, 2023

In early 2021, Congress expanded the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC), and childhood poverty dropped to the lowest levels ever seen. Families received monthly checks and had more to spend on food, housing, utilities, child care, and other necessities.

But when Congress failed to renew this expansion at the start of 2022, childhood poverty rates increased overnight from 5.2% to 12.4%, leaving 5 million children worse off than the year before. The current divided Congress appears unlikely to restore the full expanded CTC, but there is bipartisan interest in making the CTC fairer.

Currently, families making \$400,000 a year receive much, much more assistance from the CTC than those making \$25,000. Since the point of the program is to make sure all American kids have a shot at a good start in life, that makes no sense. I urge our Hoosier representatives and senators in Congress to press for changes in the tax code that would extend the full credit of the CTC to as many families as possible, prioritizing those with low incomes.

These children are our country's future. It's the right thing to do.

**- Stephen Arnold, Bloomington**

[https://heraldtimesonline-in.newsmemory.com/?publink=19bb5862a\\_134ad7d](https://heraldtimesonline-in.newsmemory.com/?publink=19bb5862a_134ad7d)

# The Herald-Times

## **Congress should renew, expand Child Tax Credit**

December 8, 2023

In order to lessen the economic impact of Covid on low-income families, Congress made them eligible for the Child Tax Credit even if they paid no income tax.

Parents spent the money mostly on necessities, and 2.1 million children were lifted out of poverty. Sadly, after Congress let this benefit expire on Dec. 31, 2021, child poverty more than doubled.

In its end-of-year negotiations on taxes, Congress should prioritize renewing and expanding the CTC.

**- Gene Arnholt, Bloomington**

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/12/08/letters-support-child-tax-credit-alzheimers-bill-criticize-h-t/71767527007/>

**lowa  
media**

# NEWTON DAILY NEWS

## Expand the Child Tax Credit

April 22, 2023

As a mother of a medically complex son who spent the first six weeks of his life in the NICU, no one prepares you for the immense cost of simply trying to save your child's life. In the first few months of his life, medical bills skyrocketed to more than \$800,000. Then there's the diapers, wipes, breastfeeding supplies, clothing, crib, and all the other expenses of being a parent. All of which are compounded by increasing prices of gas, groceries and interest rates.

Now imagine handling those costs with a \$7.25 minimum wage job that only brings home \$15,000 a year.

The expanded Child Tax Credit made those burdens easier to bear. Child poverty dropped and parents got more freedom to make ends meet. But the Senate let the expansion expire and now low-income families that need it the most receive a much smaller CTC, with 2 million families receiving nothing at all.

Congress must expand the CTC to families with low incomes in any tax legislation this year because our children deserve better. They deserve full bellies, a safe home, and to get to indulge in all the same joys that other children do.

**- Lakeisha McVey, Des Moines**

<https://www.newtondailynews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/04/22/letter-to-the-editor-expand-the-child-tax-credit/>



## **Congress must expand the child tax credit**

April 23, 2023

**By Lakeisha McVey**

I was raised in Des Moines in a low-income family that struggled with homelessness and housing instability. I have dedicated my career to advocating for anti-poverty policies, so I have a deep personal and professional understanding of the impacts of child poverty and know the difference a supportive tax credit can make.

As the mother of a medically complex son who spent the first six weeks of his life in the neonatal intensive care unit, no one prepares you for the immense cost of simply trying to save your child's life. In those first few months, his medical bills skyrocketed to more than \$800,000. Then there are the diapers, wipes, breastfeeding supplies, clothing, crib and all the other expenses of being a first-time parent, all compounded by increasing prices of gas, groceries and interest rates.

After finally making it home, a new challenge emerged: the cost of child care. The average cost of child care for an infant is around \$1,200 a month – similar to a mortgage or rent. Like many households, we need both incomes to make ends meet and that was a high price tag to consider paying. It's even harder to find affordable child care for a medically complex child, which often involves years-long wait lists and requires the child to qualify for Medicaid for special needs kids.

We're lucky. We are a two-parent, two-income household with great health care benefits and a medical team for our son that guides us through the avalanche of paperwork and bureaucracy needed for his care. These advantages made the costs we incurred as new parents bearable, though it doesn't address the stress or how quickly our bank of paid time off was used up.

Now imagine we didn't have those advantages and were handling those costs on a \$15,000 per year minimum wage salary. Imagine being a single income household, not

having a flexible job or enough paid time off, not having good health care or worse, not having any healthcare at all. What was bearable would become insurmountable.

That is why families need the expanded child tax credit. When Congress expanded the child tax credit in 2021, child poverty was cut almost in half, and parents got more freedom to make ends meet. But Congress let the expansion lapse after just one year, slashing the size of the credit for millions of working families and fully excluding 2 million others.

Re-expanding the child tax credit would mean not having to choose between buying diapers or filling our children's bellies. We could save for unplanned expenses and ensure our children have access to safe, loving child care settings. We could be more present in our children's lives, instead of anxious and absorbed by pouring over expenses to make each paycheck stretch.

Congress must expand the child tax credit, especially to families with low incomes, in any tax legislation this year because our children deserve better. They deserve full bellies, a safe home, and to indulge in all the same joys that other children do.

*Lakeisha McVey is a mother with lived experience of child poverty and a fierce advocate of anti-poverty policies. She currently lives in Des Moines with her husband and son.*

<https://fearlessbr.com/congress-must-expand-the-child-tax-credit/>

# Times-Republican

## Poverty just jumped — and it was no accident

By Lakeisha McVey

September 20, 2023

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C.. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me. Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.



I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don't end. The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100 percent of my health insurance. That's a rarity. If I'd been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would've gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day. But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8 percent — its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.

Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

*Lakeisha McVey is a bereaved mother, social justice advocate, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.timesrepublican.com/opinion/columnists/2023/09/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no->

[accident/#:~:text=After%20hitting%20a%20record%20low,income%20support%20pro  
grams%20to%20expire](#)

***Reprinted in:***

STORM LAKE COUNTY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER  
**Storm Lake Times Pilot**

<https://www.stormlake.com/articles/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/>

# Des Moines Register

## Congress must work together for a fairer Child Tax Credit

November 9, 2023

Ending child poverty is not rocket science. We know what to do. In 2021 the expanded Child Tax Credit, or CTC, reduced child poverty by 40%. We were doing something right, then we stopped. Why? Because Congress allowed it to expire.

Last year the child poverty rate more than doubled, from 5.2% in 2021 to 12.4% in 2022. It's been six weeks since the US Census Bureau reported this alarming trend, and what has Congress done about it? Nothing.

Here's the problem: Imagine two families with two parents and four children each. In 2023, the family making \$400,000 received a CTC of \$8,000, or \$2,000 per child, but the family making \$25,000 only received \$3,375, or \$844 per child. Is this fair?

The current CTC is upside-down. Families that need it more get less, while those who need it less get more. At the very least, if a low-income family is eligible for the CTC, should they not receive the same amount as the rich family?

The CTC has had bipartisan support for decades. Our members of Congress must work together to make it fairer. To start, I call on Sen. Chuck Grassley to work with his colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee to expand the CTC so every eligible family receives the same Child Tax Credit.

**- Peggy Fitch, Des Moines**

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/11/09/hunter-biden-donald-trump-voter-qualification/71507442007/>



# **Kansas media**

# THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

## **Asking Jake LaTurner, Roger Marshall and Jerry Moran to stand up for Kansans**

May 5, 2023

Inequalities remain in our federal tax policy. For decades, tax policy has favored the wealthy. This policy has created, maintained, and even increased disparities in income and wealth. Our lawmakers have done little to address these disparities or to create opportunities for low and middle-income people to prosper. Progressive elements of the tax code often benefit only wealthy people and corporations, leaving everyone else behind, including renters.

During the past 20 years, rent costs are up 13%, while income is up by only half of 1%. The U.S. federal tax system is a powerful, effective financial tool that can immediately respond and provide support to struggling renters and prevent and reduce housing instability and homelessness. When fairly written, the tax code can shrink the wealth divide and support people moving out of poverty. The flat tax fails on all these measures as it benefits those making \$250,000/year or more. Tax credits, in contrast, have proven to be effective in lifting people out of poverty.

Rep. Jake LaTurner and Sens. Roger Marshall and Jerry Moran, can we Kansans count on you to vote to restore the Child Tax Credit and to support the Renters' Tax Credit, as many of your bipartisan peers have?

**- Gwen Elliott and Lila Bartel, Topeka**

<https://www.cjonline.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/05/05/readers-want-politicians-to-stand-up-for-kansans-and-question-gas-bill/70128400007/>

## Poverty rates just jumped – and it was no accident

By Lakeisha Kcvey

September 19, 2023

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

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[https://www.ctnewsonline.com/opinion/article\\_5af8f026-5668-11ee-9d0e-473979dc5da3.html](https://www.ctnewsonline.com/opinion/article_5af8f026-5668-11ee-9d0e-473979dc5da3.html)



# **Kentucky media**

# THE State Journal

## Monthly tax credit would help low-income renters

October 25, 2023

Dear editor,

The latest drama in the House of Representatives demonstrates (yet again) that extreme partisanship does nothing to serve constituents. Without a Speaker, the House cannot function, and problems go unaddressed, including the housing crisis. Rental rates have been skyrocketing for years. A whopping 62% of extremely low-income households in Kentucky are rent-burdened. For too many Kentuckians, “the rent eats first.”

We have remedies, such as a Renters Tax Credit, if only our Congresspeople would work together. The federal tax code has long benefitted homeowners, developers, and landlords (e.g., residential mortgage interest and property tax deductions), but leaves out 44 million renters nationwide.

A monthly tax credit would help low-income renters afford safe housing without sacrificing other basic needs. It would broadly benefit those left out by existing programs, and it would help prevent homelessness.

The question is, will we insist that Representatives Barr, Comer, Guthrie, Yarmuth, Massie, and Rogers work with the rest of their congressional colleagues to find solutions that truly benefit Kentuckians?

– **Abigail Prang, Lexington**

[https://www.state-journal.com/opinion/letter-monthly-tax-credit-would-help-low-income-renters/article\\_9d701994-7331-11ee-83de-b3e02231cb01.html](https://www.state-journal.com/opinion/letter-monthly-tax-credit-would-help-low-income-renters/article_9d701994-7331-11ee-83de-b3e02231cb01.html)



## **Housing should be seen as a community builder, not a wealth builder**

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 13, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*This column was originally published at OtherWords.org.*

*The post Housing should be seen as a community builder, not a wealth builder appeared first on Nevada Current.*

[https://www.easternprogress.com/housing-should-be-seen-as-a-community-builder-not-a-wealth-builder/article\\_d1198a56-4f6d-50c7-866d-377866278232.html](https://www.easternprogress.com/housing-should-be-seen-as-a-community-builder-not-a-wealth-builder/article_d1198a56-4f6d-50c7-866d-377866278232.html)

# **Louisiana media**



## **Don't let politicians cut housing aid**

By Pamela Covington

February 22, 2023

We all need physical safety before we can do anything else. Without a roof over our heads, that sense of security is impossible. And with two small children in tow, things get scary.

After fleeing a dangerous domestic situation with my baby and 9-year-old son, with no home but the small moving truck I had rented to escape, I still felt unsafe and terrified.

I left economic security and a beautiful Victorian home overlooking a lush green park in Savannah and drove to Jacksonville, Fla. — where I discovered the only affordable options for housing for us were uninhabitable apartments.

In my comfortable Savannah neighborhood, I'd been that person who looked down at people who got government help. Maybe because of what I'd heard from the media.

I didn't seek government assistance to find appropriate housing when I left because I didn't know anything about it. Instead, I settled for an apartment with no appliances, no air conditioning, no heat, dangerous concrete stairs, and suspected asbestos flooring.

Though we had a roof over our heads, we were barely surviving. Then another single mom in our dilapidated tenement building told me about food stamps.

That was a big help, but it wasn't easy. Our stamps covered only pantry staples that could be cooked at home — and we didn't have a stove. Still, in those days, I received cash as change from food stamp purchases and saved it to use for laundry, bath soap, or shoes for my children.

This same neighbor also convinced me to sign up for Section 8 housing vouchers — but warned me to do it immediately, as the waiting list was long.

A year and a half later, we finally got federal assistance to find a better apartment. It was a lifesaver. The kitchen had a stove and a refrigerator, and we had subsidies for heat. I could finally exhale and focus on how to get us out of poverty.

And I did. I went back to college and worked my way up to being one of the few black female journalists in the country in those days, with my big break as a freelance writer for USA Today. I even went on to write a book about my journey into — and out of — poverty.

But will my children's and grandchildren's generations have the same opportunity to get help if they need it?

The new Republican-led House of Representatives is trying to cap all discretionary spending at 2022 levels, despite inflation and rising need. This would cut funding for Housing and Urban Development by more than \$8 billion — all at a time when rents are rising at a historic clip. There is no state in the U.S. where a two-bedroom apartment is affordable on the prevailing minimum wage.

This new agenda takes aim at people who are in the same spot I was, just trying to do the right thing for our families and get out of poverty. Cuts to food and housing assistance move us in the wrong direction.

President Biden, on the other hand, has released a new plan to ensure fairness in the rental market as part of the White House's new Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights. It affirms that renters deserve "safe, quality, accessible, and affordable housing." It's not nearly enough, but it's a step in the right direction.

All of us need the basic security of housing and food. We all must come together to protect this critical assistance that's helped folks like me, in temporary need, go on to bigger and better things. Don't bargain with our basic human needs.

**Pamela M. Covington** is the author of "A Day at the Fare: One Woman's Welfare Passage" and a RESULTS Expert on Poverty. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

[https://www.hammondstar.com/opinion/dont-let-politicians-cut-housing-aid/article\\_6db3e67a-bb22-57e8-b111-ee3bcaeeb46c.html](https://www.hammondstar.com/opinion/dont-let-politicians-cut-housing-aid/article_6db3e67a-bb22-57e8-b111-ee3bcaeeb46c.html)



## **Poverty just jumped – and it was no accident**

**By Lakeisha McVey**

October 2, 2023

I've lived and studied poverty most of my life. But you don't have to be an expert to see why it's spiking after lawmakers let antipoverty programs expire.

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

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Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.



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**Maine  
media**

# Portland Press Herald

## **Restore social safety net of federal child tax credit**

October 20, 2023

The chaos and acrimony in the House right now is putting millions of families at risk of deeper poverty by cutting off federal assistance that feeds, educates and houses millions each year. It is infuriating that the basic foundations of our social safety net are constantly being used as political pawns in Washington. It doesn't have to be this way.

Supporting families through our tax code can minimize the harm these yearly funding battles inflict. For instance, when we expanded the Child Tax Credit in 2021 and made it available to families with the lowest incomes, we cut child poverty nearly in half. Unfortunately, new census data shows that child poverty more than doubled when Congress allowed the expansion to expire.

Families shouldn't be caught in the middle of the reckless and childish fights over funding the government. Expand the Child Tax Credit permanently so that families can have consistent support they can count on. Our representatives and senators must fund the government and expand the Child Tax Credit now.

**- Jean Claude Loukanou, Portland**

<https://www.pressherald.com/2023/10/20/letter-to-the-editor-restore-social-safety-net-of-federal-child-tax-credit/>

**Maryland/  
Washington, DC  
media**

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## Child Tax Credits needed more than ever

February 8, 2023

Gov. Wes Moore, in his State of the State speech, called for expanding the Child Tax Credit. Bravo, Governor, what a fine idea (“Maryland Gov. Wes Moore’s first State of the State speech”).

In my classroom, at a Baltimore City school with a high percentage of low-income families, one child literally fell asleep last week during the lesson. Though one might wonder if I was a boring teacher, in this case, we were meeting individually. Despite being the focus of attention and participating actively, the child could not keep her eyes open! At our school, she is not alone either. Household income struggles can make the ritual of routine sleep difficult.

Since the expanded Child Tax Credit (on the national level) expired at the end of 2021, child poverty has increased. A recent Pew Research Center survey found that over half of low-income parents had trouble paying for food or rent. With the dysfunction in Congress, Governor Moore is asking us to act at the state level. He estimates that 40,000 families in Maryland could be eligible.

That’s at least 40,000 children (and realistically many more) who would have a chance at regular bedtime and sufficient sleep. That’s at least 40,000 children who would have increased food and housing stability. That’s over 40,000 future leaders who could be alert at school.

To all the Baltimore delegation, please follow our governor’s lead and enact a Maryland Child Tax Credit. To our Congress members, please keep pushing to expand the national Child Tax Credit. Every dollar will help our kids, our schools and our future.

**– Jan Kleinman, Baltimore**

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-tax-credits-20230208-wnkekdm3afgzvhfeofrqzdaidy-story.html>

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## Expand Maryland's child tax credit

April 05, 2023

We all watched how the federal child tax credit reduced American childhood poverty by 40% in 2021. Now, Gov. Wes Moore hopes to expand the child tax credit in Maryland ("As Maryland Gov. Wes Moore lobbies for his 10 bills, legislators amend, combine and slash at his priorities," March 24).

The Family Prosperity Act is currently making its way through the Maryland General Assembly (House Bill 547 and Senate Bill 552). It is not enough. The Family Prosperity Act puts the larger share of its funding toward the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Yet the EITC leaves the very poorest of poor families behind.

Nate Golden, president of the Maryland Child Alliance, points out that grandparents raising grandkids can be older and frailer and less able to work. Linking tax credits to work means kids whose relatives cannot work will continue to struggle in poverty. The child tax credit portion of the bill would expand the credit to families earning \$15,000 or less, thus including more families than the current law. Still, it is a tax credit, meaning that if the family does not file taxes, those poorest of the poor children will receive no benefit.

The District of Columbia is currently considering — and apparently likely to pass — a child tax credit of \$500 for each child under age 17 which phases out the higher the family's income. According to Policy Engine, this proposed bill would cut child poverty by 5%. While not as powerful as the 2021 federal child tax credit, it's better than the Maryland proposal.

Delegates and senators, please remember how well the 2021 fully refundable federal child tax credit worked? Let's enact a universal child benefit payable directly to families so every child has a chance!

**- Jan Kleinman, Baltimore**

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-tax-credit-letter-20230405-6mamkx6jrrfnvoaz3n5mxm7o34-story.html>

# Capital Gazette

## **Biden needs to reject House plan**

May 7, 2023

I am exasperated that House leadership is threatening to tank our economy to extract devastating budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty.

As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plan slashes dozens of services including SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and childcare, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

It is dangerous for House leaders to even hint that the U.S. will not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it on the backs of people experiencing poverty. I strongly urge President Joe Biden and congressional leaders to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

**- Kathleen Bartolomeo, Greenbelt**

<https://www.capitalgazette.com/opinion/letters/ac-ce-letters-may7-20230507-mkh6xblss5hanlbusyubrex6y-story.html>



# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## **In defense of community gardens and other programs that promote well-being**

May 12, 2023

Regarding the recent letter to the editor, "Under Armour should help preserve Locust Point garden" (May 5), I fully agree. Community gardens play a vital role in promoting biodiversity and providing locally grown food for the community. In challenging times, companies like Under Armour should prioritize giving back to the community rather than solely focusing on increasing their profits through the sale of land.

Furthermore, it is crucial for members of Congress to actively contribute to the welfare of the communities they serve. Currently, much of their energy is spent on partisan politics instead of addressing the significant number of people who are suffering. Many individuals require affordable food options due to high inflation and rising rents.

Congress can take meaningful action by, for instance, expanding the Child Tax Credit to help more children escape poverty. Additionally, implementing a "Renters Tax Credit" that limits housing expenditure to 30% of income would greatly assist low-income renters.

It is essential for citizens to rally behind initiatives such as supporting the Locust Point garden while advocating for policies that uplift everyone in society. By joining forces to protect community gardens and supporting policies that enhance the well-being of all individuals, we can create thriving communities and ensure a brighter future for everyone.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Missouri**

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-community-gardens-help-letter-20230512-vi4ub7fbjnbuno7jy5ijmf5chi-story.html>

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## **Struggling families ought to be spared federal budget cuts**

May 12, 2023

The Baltimore Sun published an article recently saying that Congress is “sparring over spending” (“As default looms, Dems, GOP spar over spending,” May 5) and specifically about what not to fund. The House passed their budget plan to address the looming debt ceiling, and it would devastate current government services.

If services like SNAP, housing assistance and Medicaid get less money, our neighbors who struggle financially will have no Plan B. One friend of mine had to choose recently between paying for gas to get home from work and paying her utility bill. Imagine if she also received lower SNAP benefits. She’d have neither transportation nor lights at home!

If cuts must be part of any debt ceiling solution, at least cuts ought to impact programs that can wait or people and companies that do have cushions to absorb financial stress. Cuts to already poor people will demonstrate we are a vindictive and cruel society. Is that who we are? U.S. Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin, please persuade your colleagues that cutting supports for the poor damages us all.

**- Jan Kleinman, Baltimore**

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-budget-cuts-letter-20230512-bl7irdopzbennz43ha775l4ym-story.html>

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## **Child tax credit should be a federal priority**

July 16, 2023

Several states, including Maryland, have instituted child tax credits in recent months ("Maryland Gov. Wes Moore makes minimum wage increase, tax credits, Child Victims Act first bills signed into law," April 11). I applaud our state legislators for enacting this farsighted program, proven to inspire bipartisan support.

Meanwhile, though, leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives have released their new tax proposal. They are proposing more tax cuts for the wealthy. They are not showing any consideration for working families. How do these leaders think our society can stay stable when folks cannot pay their rent or feed their families?

Instead of prioritizing the welfare of the rich, Congress should take notice of what their state-level colleagues are doing. They can start with expanding the federal Child Tax Credit. Right now, millions of children are left out of the full Child Tax Credit including those from working families with lower incomes. Expand the full credit to as many of these families as possible. Next, increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers without children who are taxed into poverty each year because their EITC is too low.

These modest changes would encourage work. Research shows poor people actually want to work if they can! And that can lift millions of Americans, many of them children, out of poverty. We saw it work in 2021 and it can work again. These kids are our future leaders. Let's nourish them to grow up smart and strong!

I urge Maryland's members of Congress, including U.S. Reps. Kweisi Mfume, John Sarbanes and C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, to reject any tax legislation that does not expand the CTC and EITC.

**- Jan Kleinman, Baltimore**

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-tax-credits-letter-20230716-sy3tmgmbeneepa5vvmcbf2vd4m-story.html>

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## Expanded child tax credit can help offset rising poverty

September 25, 2023

Franklyn Baker's recent commentary about "Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed" (ALICE) workers highlights our low-wage earning neighbors ("Essential 'ALICE workers' aren't buying luxury power boats. They're just trying to afford dinner." Sept. 1). The president and CEO of United Way of Central Maryland points out that many families who are not meeting the definition of poverty still "weren't earning enough in 2021 to afford the basics."

Data released by the U.S. Census Bureau just a few days after Baker's op-ed underlines his point: Poverty shot up from about 7% in 2021 to more than 12% in 2022. Even more alarming, child poverty more than doubled from the record low of 5.2% in 2021 to an astronomical 12.4%.

Baker suggests one way to address this problem, and U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes and U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen should know this solution because they already tried it. In March 2021, they helped expand the child tax credit to all families with low or no income and sent it as a monthly payment. After that first payment In July 2021, 3 million children were lifted from poverty. That number only increased as the payments went out each month for the rest of year.

The census data shows that the 2021 child tax credit payments helped cut child poverty by 46%. Bravo!

But Congress has allowed that proven poverty-reducing policy to expire. What? Our elected officials did a brave and successful thing and then allowed poverty to increase even though we know a powerful way to address it?

Baker is right, and Sarbanes, Cardin and Van Hollen were right in 2021. Please put this proven policy back into practice. Our low-wage earning neighbors will thank you. Please enact a strong, fully refundable child tax credit this year.

— Jan Kleinman, Baltimore

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-tax-credit-letter-20230925-uwjkezmhz5dhfoulk5jux7lhjm-story.html>

# **Massachusetts media**

# The Berkshire Eagle

## Poor American families need better support

February 9, 2023

To the editor: The Feb. 3 article by Matt Martinez ("South Congregational Church's food pantry has seen an increase of 300 families a week. Here's how you can help") does an excellent job highlighting the difficulties faced by so many of our residents in obtaining adequate and appropriate food.

To quote the Rev. Mike Denton from the article: "The crisis has already started. Now we're going to see how big it gets." With changes to government social support — decreases to food stamps, the failure to continue the enhanced Child Tax Credit, the increases in costs for food and rent — we are witness to a perfect storm.

During the past three years, changes to SNAP — the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — provided folks with at least an extra \$95 monthly for food. But at the end of February, these allotments will end in every state. They've already ended in 18 states with dramatic increases in visits to food banks. In October, there were more than 42.3 million people across the country participating in SNAP, receiving an average monthly installment of \$253.43. At the same time, according to The Agriculture Department's economic Research Service, a rise in food prices of 4.2 percent to 10.1 percent relative to 2022 is forecast. This creates an untenable and preventable situation.

Researchers at Children's Health Watch found that the ending of monthly child tax credit payments caused family food insufficiency to increase by 12 percent. Three million children fell back into poverty in 2022 as 19 million children in low-income families lost all or part of the tax credit.

The law as it now exists penalizes those needing it most. The child tax credit and earned income tax credit boost income to pay for basic needs and reduce poverty. They are an effective means to provide for housing and food costs, bringing enormous numbers of children out of poverty. These credits have long had bipartisan support as one of our most effective tools for reducing poverty.

We have the means to alleviate poverty, but we need the political will to do so. Join me in asking Sen. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Richard Neal to continue their support for these changes.

**- Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington**

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-poor-american-families-need-better-support/article\\_9c192a7a-a70f-11ed-956f-bff2eaaa7b8c.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwAR2w2c5jUx7YCI-qOW6eN0tC0ydVxS5bK1i5WW3o9ZtxHpG0shXcbMNXJms](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-poor-american-families-need-better-support/article_9c192a7a-a70f-11ed-956f-bff2eaaa7b8c.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwAR2w2c5jUx7YCI-qOW6eN0tC0ydVxS5bK1i5WW3o9ZtxHpG0shXcbMNXJms)



# Boston Herald

## Housing aid is vital – don't let pols cut it

By Pamela M. Covington

February 25, 2023

We all need physical safety before we can do anything else. Without a roof over our heads, that sense of security is impossible. And with two small children in tow, things get scary.

And after fleeing a dangerous domestic situation with my baby and 9-year-old son, with no home but the small moving truck I had rented to escape, I still felt unsafe and terrified.

I left economic security and a beautiful Victorian home overlooking a lush green park in Savannah, Georgia and drove to Jacksonville, Florida — where I discovered the only affordable options for housing for us were uninhabitable apartments.

In my comfortable Savannah neighborhood, I'd been that person who looked down at people who got government help. Maybe because of what I'd heard from the media.

I didn't seek government assistance to find appropriate housing when I left, because I didn't know anything about it. Instead, I settled for an apartment with no appliances, no air conditioning, no heat, dangerous concrete stairs, and suspected asbestos flooring.

Though we had a roof over our heads, we were barely surviving. Then another single mom in our dilapidated tenement building told me about food stamps.

That was a big help, but it wasn't easy. Our stamps only covered pantry staples that could be cooked at home — and we didn't have a stove. Still, in those days, I received cash as change from food stamp purchases and saved it to use for laundry, bath soap, or shoes for my children.

This same neighbor also convinced me to sign up for Section 8 housing vouchers — but warned me to do it immediately, as the waiting list was long.

A year and a half later, we finally got federal assistance to find a better apartment. It was a lifesaver. The kitchen had a stove and a refrigerator, and we had subsidies for heat. I could finally exhale and focus on how to get us out of poverty.

And I did. I went back to college and worked my way up to being one of the few black female journalists in the country in those days, with my big break as a freelance writer for USA Today. I even went on to write a book about my journey into — and out of — poverty.

But will my children's and grandchildren's generations have the same opportunity to get help if they need it?

The new Republican-led House of Representatives is trying to cap all discretionary spending at 2022 levels, despite inflation and rising need. This would cut funding for Housing and Urban Development by over \$8 billion — all at a time when rents are rising at a historic clip. There is no state in the U.S. where a two-bedroom apartment is affordable on the prevailing minimum wage.

This new agenda takes aim at people who are in the same spot I was, just trying to do the right thing for our families and get out of poverty. Cuts to food and housing assistance move us in the wrong direction.

President Biden, on the other hand, has released a new plan to ensure fairness in the rental market as part of the White House's new Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights. It affirms that renters deserve "safe, quality, accessible, and affordable housing." It's not nearly enough, but it's a step in the right direction.

All of us need the basic security of housing and food. We all must come together to protect this critical assistance that's helped folks like me, in temporary need, go on to bigger and better things. Don't bargain with our basic human needs.

**Pamela M. Covington** is the author of "A Day at the Fare: One Woman's Welfare Passage" and a RESULTS Expert on Poverty/OtherWords.org.

<https://www.bostonherald.com/2023/02/25/covington-housing-aid-is-vital-dont-let-pols-cut-it/>

# The Berkshire Eagle

## Use the tax code to help children and families

April 18, 2023

To the editor: Tax Day is here and, sadly, millions of low-income families will see this year's tax refunds drop or disappear altogether.

This is the direct response of Congress allowing the expanded child tax credit to expire last year.

In 2021, Congress expanded the credit to all low-income families, sending it as monthly payments. This action enabled families to have a functional budget and pay their expenses in a timely fashion. It enabled families to pay the rent and avoid eviction. This action immediately decreased the child poverty rate by almost 46 percent. Families had greater freedom to make ends meet — covering the rent and higher food expenses, medical expenses, and paying for child care — thereby enabling them to be gainfully employed. Unfortunately, the Senate allowed this expansion to expire. Overnight, millions of children were thrown back into poverty.

This tax day, 19 million children in low-income families will receive a much smaller credit, including 2 million who will get nothing. Meanwhile, families making \$400,000 per year will get their full child tax credit. Think about it: Those with the greatest need for support will receive the least. And the most impoverished will receive nothing. This is not how a responsible society cares for its young. How we care for our young will determine what their futures will look like. And their futures will dictate ours.

We have the tools to keep our children out of poverty, and we know that using the tax code this way is successful. The costs are a fraction of what we will gain in return.

I thank the entire Massachusetts delegation, in particular Rep. Richard Neal and Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey, for their persistence in this fight to make the tax code work for all and to see the child tax credit expanded and fully refundable once again.

**- Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington**

[https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-use-the-tax-code-to-help-children-and-families/article\\_da0e8adc-dd42-11ed-bda5-f3cc4ea96353.html](https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-use-the-tax-code-to-help-children-and-families/article_da0e8adc-dd42-11ed-bda5-f3cc4ea96353.html)

## **Adult stress equals child stress**

April 19, 2023

The article “27% of Orange kindergartners recommended to repeat year” [Recorder, April 18] echoes my concerns as a teacher regarding the academic progress of my own students. Although the pandemic has contributed to the learning gaps, I believe that the stressors my students face on a daily basis are the main culprits.

Unfortunately, many policymakers fail to recognize that the stress experienced by adults can also impact the children around them and hinder their development. For instance, if children continue to be exposed to stressful situations such as homelessness, they will struggle to learn and complete tasks. This could be detrimental to our country’s future as we rely on our youth to become our future leaders. To tackle this issue, Congress should consider implementing policies such as an expansion of the Child Tax Credit and a Renter’s Tax Credit. These policies would help provide basic needs to all Americans and improve the well-being of our children, enabling them to thrive and ultimately contribute to the betterment of our country.

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

<https://www.recorder.com/ltr-Miller-Orange-Kindergartners-Article-50671700>

## **Congress must reinstate Child Tax Credit, consider renter's credit**

April 20, 2023

I'd like to thank Sarah Miller for her April 19 letter "Adult stress equals child stress." Poverty is a prime cause of stress. One of the most successful ways we have recently decreased child poverty, in fact by 46%, was the expanded refundable Child Tax Credit provided in 2021. Folks receiving the monthly CTC were able to pay the rent, purchase food, pay for childcare and healthcare, to name just a few benefits. But in January 2022 this program ceased and 19 million children were dumped back into poverty.

Like the letter writer, a teacher, I am a retired pediatrician, and I see the impact these policies have on our children, causing greater stress which leads to long-term health conditions, often detrimental to educational achievements and long-term success. Our future depends on our ability to house, feed, and educate our children.

The impact of homelessness on children is profound. From a First Focus Policy Brief Nov. 2021, "While homelessness for children and youth can take different forms, it always results in frequent upheaval, volatility, and a loss of stability. Children and youth are forced to make frequent moves and cycle between inadequate and often unsafe situations, causing disruption to children's education, healthcare, and more." And, it is "estimated 1-in-41 school-age children are homeless" and "those under 6 — experience twice that rate with 1-in-18 living in homeless situations."

We can fix these problems if we can find the political will. Congress must reinstate an expanded CTC and consider a renter's tax credit. I applaud the efforts of our Congressman Richie Neal and Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren who have steadfastly promoted the CTC and provision of appropriate housing in our state.

**- Dr. Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington**

<https://www.recorder.com/ltr-Heilig-Expanding-Child-Tax-Credit-50703375>

# The Berkshire Eagle

## **The poor shouldn't be punished for Congress' debt-ceiling dawdling**

May 26, 2023

To the editor: We are getting frighteningly closer to the U.S. defaulting on its debts.

This is an almost incomprehensible possibility that would wreak havoc with global finances and the credibility of the United States. And at issue is whether to put the burden arbitrarily on the backs of the impoverished rather than on the wealthy paying their fair share.

Just as you and I budget ourselves and pay our bills, Congress has the responsibility to pay the bills it has generated. These are expenses already approved and voted upon — it is unacceptable to change your mind after the fact and refuse to pay them.

For decades, the debt ceiling was not an issue. But House GOP leaders today are refusing to pay those debts without deep cuts to SNAP, housing assistance and core global poverty programs. It is unconscionable to play Russian roulette on the backs of the neediest. Adding additional work requirements and cutting WIC, SNAP and other assistance programs will not do much in the long run to relieve the debt issues we face as a nation. However, they will unequivocally add hardship to the lives of those already facing hardships. These proposed budget cuts would force tens of millions of people, still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and facing the challenges of the rising costs of basic needs, deeper into despair. Even worse, a debt default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work. It would permanently damage the respect and reliability of the U.S. government.

Instead of exercising responsible judgment, House GOP leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage and threatening to punish Americans already experiencing poverty. This must end now. The debt ceiling must be lifted without these strings attached. I strongly urge President Joe Biden and our congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty — either by adding work requirements or decreasing programmatic benefits — and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington**

The writer is co-leader of Together Women Rise Advocacy chapter and the Massachusetts group of RESULTS.org.

[https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-the-poor-shouldnt-be-punished-for-congress-debt-ceiling-dawdling/article\\_42d8b9ce-fa6d-11ed-b482-bb3fc6e17ce8.html](https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-the-poor-shouldnt-be-punished-for-congress-debt-ceiling-dawdling/article_42d8b9ce-fa6d-11ed-b482-bb3fc6e17ce8.html)



# The Republican.

## **Adding hardship to most needy**

May 28, 2023

We have been getting frighteningly closer to the U.S. defaulting on its debts. This is an almost incomprehensible possibility that will wreak havoc with global finances and the credibility of the United States.

For decades, the debt ceiling was not an issue. But House GOP leaders today are refusing to pay those debts without deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance and core global poverty programs.

It is unconscionable to play Russian roulette on the backs of the neediest.

Adding additional work requirements and cutting WIC, SNAP and Medicaid will not do much in the long run to relieve the debt issues we face as a nation.

However, they will unequivocally add hardship to the lives of those already facing hardships. These proposed budget cuts would force tens of millions of people, still recovering from the COVID-19 economic downturn and facing the challenges of the rising costs of basic needs, deeper into despair.

Even worse, a debt default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work. It would permanently damage the respect and reliability of the U.S. government.

House GOP leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage and threatening to punish Americans already experiencing poverty. This must end now. The debt ceiling must be lifted without these strings attached.

I strongly urge President Joe Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington**

No online link

# The Boston Globe

## Safety net hasn't just been frayed — it's been torn asunder

June 5, 2023

Two recent articles — “The need continues” by Diti Kohli (Business, May 31) and “Low-income people fear high-cost change” by Kohli and Katie Johnston (Page A1, June 3) — make the case that the plight of the most impoverished must be urgently addressed.

We know how to improve the situation since we've done it before. The accommodations made during the COVID-19 pandemic — including prevention of evictions; an enhanced, fully refundable child tax credit; and greater benefits under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — decreased the number of those in poverty and the reliance on food pantries and other more temporary solutions. It also lowered child poverty by 46 percent almost immediately, only to be reversed one month after the enhanced CTC was discontinued.

We must acknowledge that our country ranks among the lowest in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development for child poverty. This is an outrage and unacceptable. The recent debt ceiling negotiation has made many needy people more likely to fall through not cracks but holes in our safety net. The deal in Washington has made pawns of the impoverished at the expense of the billionaires. When will our political leadership develop both a backbone and a sense of compassion?

**- Dr. Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington**

*The writer, a retired pediatrician, is Massachusetts group coleader with Results.org.*

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/06/06/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-range-of-reactions-to-debt-deal/>

# The Berkshire Eagle

## Support a renewal of the expanded child tax credit

November 20, 2023

To the editor: It is with much gratitude that I acknowledge the very recent passage of a continuing resolution by the 118th Congress.

Although they have only kicked the can farther down the road, at least the lights have remained on for the time being. However, we can again look forward to more time being spent over these sorts of negotiations rather than actually doing the work at hand to remedy the problems.

By not reinstating a fully refundable child tax credit, which expired in January 2022, we continue to have an extremely high rate of child poverty. In fact, the U.S. ranks 31st out of 34 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development nations on this measure.

"In 2022, the [supplemental poverty measure] child poverty rate jumped to 12 percent, more than twice the 2021 rate of 5 percent. This equates to about 9 million kids in 2022 living in families who do not have enough resources for basic needs such as food, housing and utilities," according to The Annie E. Casey Fund.

Instead, we could again have a fully refundable child tax credit with dramatic reduction in child poverty rates overnight. "The expanded child tax credit would move the United States closer to the mainstream: from 31st to 24th among the 34 advanced democracies with comparable data," according to the Center on Poverty and Social Policy.

Our ranking among comparable nations is a travesty. We must do better in what many consider the wealthiest nation in the world.

The good news is that there is already legislation in the House to do this: The American Family Act (HR.3899). By reinstating a fully refundable child tax credit, we can improve the lives of millions by providing them with the resources to feed, house, educate and better provide for their families.

There is no better time than the present to reach out to our legislators and encourage them to promote this legislation. And at the same time thank those — Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey and Rep. Richard Neal — who have advocated for an expanded child tax credit nonstop.

**- Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington**

*The writer is the Massachusetts group co-leader for Results.org.*

[https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-support-a-renewal-of-the-expanded-child-tax-credit/article\\_76cf3a22-87db-11ee-9a9d-1389f48b2011.html](https://www.berkshireagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-support-a-renewal-of-the-expanded-child-tax-credit/article_76cf3a22-87db-11ee-9a9d-1389f48b2011.html)

# The Berkshire Eagle

## Expand the child tax credit for children in poverty

December 20, 2023

To the editor: One of the timeless characters of the holiday season is Ebenezer Scrooge, the selfish, miserly businessman with no heart.

But Scrooge's story was one of redemption. When faced with his role in perpetuating hunger and poverty, he changed.

This holiday season, too many children in our country still face those harsh realities. Holiday toys and treats are out of reach when families cannot afford food, housing and heat.

But Congress could help by expanding the Child Tax Credit. Every time the CTC is expanded to children from families with low income, child poverty drops. No other tool works better at lifting kids from poverty.

This season, will our members of Congress follow the old Scrooge's lead and let those around them needlessly suffer? Or will they make "mankind their business" and enact legislation to help? At the end of the story, Scrooge learned his lesson. Our leaders should do the same by expanding the child tax credit now.

**- Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington**

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-expand-the-child-tax-credit-for-children-in-poverty/article\\_45cb304e-9e37-11ee-9cf2-3f59387a0b58.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-expand-the-child-tax-credit-for-children-in-poverty/article_45cb304e-9e37-11ee-9cf2-3f59387a0b58.html)



# Michigan media

# Detroit Free Press

## Expanded child tax credit kept kids out of poverty

April 23, 2023

It's tax time and, sadly, millions of families with low incomes are going to see their tax refunds drop this year or disappear altogether. That's because Congress let the expanded Child Tax Credit expire last year.

In 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty dropped, and parents got more freedom to make ends meet. But the Senate let the expansion expire. Now, 19 million children in families with low income will receive a much smaller CTC this year, including 2 million who will get nothing. Meanwhile, families making \$400,000 per year will get their full CTC.

Children should not have to grow up in poverty so we can make the rich richer. We need a tax code that works for all Americans. Congress must start right now by expanding the CTC to families with low incomes in any tax legislation this year.

**- Sylvia Lewis, Rochester**

<https://www.freep.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/04/23/letters-impeach-justice-clarence-thomas/70135978007/>



# MACOMB DAILY

## House GOP being irresponsible

May 21, 2023

Congress has a responsibility to pay the bills it runs up. For decades, this was not an issue. But now House GOP leaders are refusing to pay unless they get deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, and core global poverty programs. For them, people struggling to make ends meet are the problem, not reckless tax cuts for the rich Congress has enacted over the last 40 years.

These proposed budget cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs. Even worse, a debt default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work.

Instead of being responsible, House leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. This must stop. I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- Nancy Zebracki, Shelby Twp.**

<https://www.macombdaily.com/2023/05/21/letters-to-the-editor-debt-ceiling-tort-reform-needed-and-trump-a-con-man/>

# Midland DAILY NEWS

## The importance of home

*For generations, poor people have relied on each other to keep a roof over their heads. But in the world's wealthiest country, we need more.*

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 19, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too.

So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis.*

<https://www.ourmidland.com/opinion/voices/article/importance-home-ownership-affordable-housing-18564298.php>

# **Minnesota media**



## **Tax credits can help keep King's dream alive**

*By calling and writing our members of Congress, we can call for legislation like renewing the Child Tax Credit that lifted millions of children and families out of poverty.*

January 20, 2023

Jim Newton's thoughtful Jan. 14 "Local View" column about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the forward thinkers keeping his dream alive reminded us that we can be inspired to be dream promoters.

Our democracy gives us the opportunity to elect and guide our members of Congress. By calling and writing them, we can call for legislation like renewing the Child Tax Credit that lifted millions of children and families out of poverty. Similar legislation for a renters' tax credit could help stop the flow to homelessness, especially for the millions of families paying more than half of their income for rent.

These and other initiatives can help keep Dr. King's dream alive and our country on the road to equity for all — and we can be the ones to make sure it happens!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-tax-credits-can-help-keep-kings-dream-alive>



## **In honor of the Carters, make the world better**

*Politically, ask your members of Congress to pass legislation making sure every American has a part of the dream.*

March 8, 2023

Reading about President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter is always humbling. As the Feb. 25 "National View" column in the News Tribune ("Jimmy Carter: Always simple, humble, kind") made clear, they have always lived their lives for a better world.

How can we say thank you to this great American couple? We can take action to make the world a better place: Be kind to those around you. Politically, ask your members of Congress to pass legislation making sure every American has a part of the dream. For example, tax fairness. The expanded Child Tax Credit has reached 90% of families with children and has cut child poverty by nearly half. Ask those who represent you to renew it. Or what about families paying 50% and more for rent? Ask for a renters' tax credit to be passed.

There is no need for people to be struggling, hungry, and homeless in the world's richest country. Be kind and use your voice to make a difference for millions. The Carters would approve.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-in-honor-of-the-carters-make-the-world-better>



## **Congress blind to constituents' plight**

March 3, 2023

To the Editor:

Readers could take heart at the uplifting report of the success of a family finally able to find a home of their own (Morrison County Record, Feb 26).

Unfortunately poverty does exist in our county: 10.1% according to the most recent census. Homelessness and food insecurity are no stranger to our good, hardworking, bright, self-reliant folks. Even farms include some folks on the fringe.

A couple years back, Congress passed an extension of the Child Tax Credit to include some single parents and others previously uncovered. It allowed many hardworking parents previously unable to benefit, a new chance, and poverty fell nationwide. Unfortunately, it ended in December, 2020,

and Congress has not re-enacted it. Members who receive donations from the well offs are pondering tax cuts and exemptions for them, and nobody has raised the cry in Congress to help the little folks out in the country here.

Such moves originate in the U.S. House of Representatives, where Republicans have the majority. Call Congresspeople Michelle Fischbach, Pete Stauber, Tom Emmer and Brad Finstad, and ask them to pass this important extension and consider a Renters' Credit to help renters also.

**- Paul Hoffinger, Hillman**

[https://www.hometownsource.com/morrison\\_county\\_record/opinion/letter-congress-blind-to-constituents-plight/article\\_d2e6d7a4-b97b-11ed-90a1-27c72f864350.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/morrison_county_record/opinion/letter-congress-blind-to-constituents-plight/article_d2e6d7a4-b97b-11ed-90a1-27c72f864350.html)



## **Speak up for tax breaks that help families**

*Imagine how millions of families felt when the expanded Child Tax Credit was not renewed.*

April 28, 2023

In this time of taxes due, inflation making prices rise, and rents going up, the News Tribune editorial on April 20 calling for the preservation of a modest tax break for Duluth residents made sense (Our View: "Duluth City Council: Don't take away tax break, even if modest").

Imagine how millions of families felt when the expanded Child Tax Credit was not renewed. After all, this credit reached 90% of families, cut child poverty by 46%, and made it possible for families experiencing poverty to buy food and pay bills.

So let's remember to speak to our elected officials on all levels to pass initiatives that benefit all families, like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit, passing a renter tax credit so those in poverty no longer pay 30% to 90% of their wages for rent, and other ladders out of poverty.

Our voices can help put America on the road to equity for all.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-speak-up-for-tax-breaks-that-help-families>





## **Congress can follow Minnesota in helping kids**

*Nationally, we can all help by calling our members of Congress at 202-224-3121 and asking them to cosponsor and vote to pass the American Family Act.*

June 26, 2023

Congratulations, Minnesota, for taking a bold step to cut child poverty with a child tax credit .

Certainly the national expanded child tax credit worked, cutting child poverty by 46% and helping families pay for basic needs. Sadly, it wasn't renewed, yet, but there is new legislation, the American Family Act, that would do just that.

In the meantime, kudos to Minnesota for believing that children matter and for taking steps to give them a better future.

Nationally, we can all help by calling our members of Congress at 202-224-3121 and asking them to cosponsor and vote to pass the American Family Act. Isn't the wealthiest country in the world able to do what it takes to make sure all children have a bright future? After all, they are our future.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-congress-can-follow-minnesota-in-helping-kids>



## **Let's make Dr. King's call a reality**

*Inspired by King, we can add our voices by picking up the phone (202-224-3121) and asking our representatives to pass the American Family Act, a renter tax credit, and other equity initiatives.*

September 0, 2023

I appreciated the News Tribune reminding us of the powerful words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., that are "still sadly relevant" today (Our View: "King's famous speech still sadly relevant 60 years later," Aug. 25).

Current equity efforts in Congress include voters' rights, ending child poverty, and ensuring all Americans are housed and have health care. Inspired by King, we can add our voices by picking up the phone (202-224-3121) and asking our representatives to pass the American Family Act, a renter tax credit, and other equity initiatives.

It is time to make King's call for equality for all a reality.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-lets-make-dr-kings-call-a-reality>



## **We can turn the world's future around**

August 31, 2023

Alan Guebert reports some difficult challenges for Congress in the next several months (Morrison County Record, Aug. 25 issue). The key may be to find places where all sides may be able to agree. Measures with appeal to both sides may have the best chance of passage.

These may include expansion of the Child Tax Credit, which may increase chances for unfairly excluded hard-working, lower-income workers with larger families, particularly in rural areas, according to the Niskanen Center, a think-tank with strong conservative credentials.

Another example was the Inflation Reduction Act, IRA, recently passed, where there was broad bipartisan support, in a measure that both cut inflation, strengthened the economy, and took action to counteract global warming, a solution to a real problem, as we see with the wildfires, hurricanes, typhoons and weather that plagues us, ever more severely.

Our grandkids will note, sometimes with pride, the actions we have taken now, and we have a next chance, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, wending its way ever so slowly through Congress.

We can turn this thing around now.

**- Paul Hoffinger, Hillman**

[https://www.hometownsource.com/morrison\\_county\\_record/we-can-turn-the-world-s-future-around/article\\_bb6e18b2-4832-11ee-8095-a7460f45323c.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/morrison_county_record/we-can-turn-the-world-s-future-around/article_bb6e18b2-4832-11ee-8095-a7460f45323c.html)

## **Poverty just jumped – and it was no accident**

*I've lived and studied poverty most of my life. But you don't have to be an expert to see why it's spiking after lawmakers let antipoverty programs expire.*

**By Lakeisha McVey**

September 29,

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C.. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough.

Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me. Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.

I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don't end. The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100 percent of my health insurance. That's a rarity. If I'd been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would've gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day. But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8 percent — its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.

Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

*(Lakeisha McVey is a bereaved mother, social justice advocate, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.)*

<https://www.dl-online.com/opinion/columns/opinion-poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident>



## **Continue conversations with elected officials**

*The people we elect need to listen to us.*

October 17, 2023

The Oct. 6 letter, " Democracy demands playing by the rules ," made good points in urging our elected leaders and representatives to play by the rules and respect each other.

The people we elect need to listen to us. That means we need to continue to speak up even after we vote them into office, questioning what they are doing or not doing, thanking them for doing good works, and reminding them of what is important.

Like calling on them to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty virtually in half and helped families stay above water. Or passing the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act that would increase affordable-housing units across the nation. Or general questions like, Why is there so much poverty in the world's richest country when there are proven solutions?

Let's do our part by initiating and continuing the conversations with those we elect, modeling respect and civility.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-continue-conversations-with-elected-officials>



## **For equity, act both locally and nationally**

*Right now is the perfect time to contact your members of Congress at (202) 224-3121 to ask them to pass these and other equity initiatives as they make decisions on the budget and tax code.*

November 28, 2023

I appreciated Duluthian Madeleine Reinolt advocating for fairness and equity in her Nov. 18 Local View column, "For fairness, equity, fix the fines, fees that burden Duluthians."

Dealing with these issues locally is a good place to start. Much can also be done at the national level. Equity initiatives like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty by 46% and a renter tax credit to keep people housed would also be an excellent start. Right now is the perfect time to contact your members of Congress at (202) 224-3121 to ask them to pass these and other equity initiatives as they make decisions on the budget and tax code (the easiest places to legislate equity).

Let's act locally and nationally to create the just and equitable country we want.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-for-equity-act-both-locally-and-nationally>





## **Federal tax credits promise positive change**

*Our impact could be amplified by urging our congressional representatives to enact national legislation that would benefit a broader spectrum of people.*

December 6, 2023

Responding to its call for equity, I concur with the Nov. 28 letter ( Reader's View: "For equity, act both locally and nationally ") and its point that the moment is ripe for proactive measures to support crucial initiatives like the Child Tax Credit and renters tax credit.

It's common during this time of the year to be reminded of those less fortunate, especially those struggling to provide gifts for their children. While contributing money and addressing immediate needs are commendable, our impact could be amplified by urging our congressional representatives to enact national legislation that would benefit a broader spectrum of people.

If you find yourself facing budget constraints but still aspire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing even greater challenges, there's no better way to contribute this holiday season than advocating for legislation that could bring about substantial positive change for many.

**- Sarah Miller, St. Louis**

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/letters/readers-view-federal-tax-credits-promise-positive-change>

# Missouri media

## **Powerful Missouri lawmakers need input from voters**

January 14, 2023

Regarding “Missouri’s Jason Smith wins three-way contest for powerful House Ways and Means chairmanship” (Jan. 10): No Missouri representative has chaired this important congressional committee since 1859. For the first time in over 160 years, Missouri residents have a unique privilege. It’s up to Missourians to set the agenda on Capitol Hill by raising our voices and contacting our elected officials.

We need to remind newly influential lawmakers like Smith and newly elected Missourians like Sen. Eric Schmitt exactly whom they work for. It only takes a couple minutes to call or email a congressional office to share your opinion on issues. I think we must make it clear to Congress that ending poverty here and everywhere should be at the top of their to-do list. That means seriously addressing the affordable housing crisis and reimagining tax policy for economic justice. That means investing in programs to end diseases like tuberculosis that are a global cause and consequence of poverty. Let’s seize the moment and advocate.

**- Yara Changyit-Levin, Town and Country**

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-powerful-missouri-lawmakers-need-input-from-voters/article\\_4ed1bd0a-1be5-5f70-a058-db202ea89de8.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-powerful-missouri-lawmakers-need-input-from-voters/article_4ed1bd0a-1be5-5f70-a058-db202ea89de8.html)

## It's time for Congress to support child tax credit legislation

January 17, 2023

I agree with Dawson's piece "How shall we think of Martin Luther King's dream?" published online Jan. 10. Songs and speeches are inspirational, but we can't reach a dream of unity without determined, persistent action to fight poverty and dismantle systemic oppression.

We may not like politics, but engaging in activism and advocacy is the only way to make lasting policy change. We desperately need policies like the Child Tax Credit and a renter's tax credit to help American families with basic needs. These changes will not happen if we sit idly by without making our voices heard.

Following this MLK Day and all throughout the year, reach out to Congress and urge Sen. Josh Hawley, Sen. Eric Schmitt, Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, and Rep. Mark Alford to support legislation to reduce child poverty and support fair, affordable housing.

***Cynthia Changyit Levin, of St. Louis, 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/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/its-time-for-congress-to-support-child-tax-credit-legislation/article\\_e16b2a2e-9684-11ed-a3bd-8f6449269e96.html](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/its-time-for-congress-to-support-child-tax-credit-legislation/article_e16b2a2e-9684-11ed-a3bd-8f6449269e96.html)



## **Bring Back Child Tax Credit**

January 23, 2023

As I read PJ Mitchell's letter ("No Money for Early Childhood Programs in WG," Jan. 9), I thought about how we need action from both local and federal levels to meet the needs of children in our state.

Last year, Congress came close to reinstating the Child Tax Credit, which had reduced child poverty in our country by 46% in 2021. It gave families the freedom and flexibility to spend the assistance on necessities like food, rent, utilities, childcare, and even the kind of early childhood activities Mitchell wrote about. But when Congress let it expire, those children who qualified for it slipped right back into poverty.

Now we have a new year and a new Congress. I urge Sen. Hawley, Sen. Schmitt, Rep. Bush and Rep. Wagner to support a child tax credit to reduce child poverty and help American families.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, Town and Country**

[https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/bring-back-child-tax-credit/article\\_59af2dc2-9807-11ed-8552-a75ed41bf6f7.html](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/bring-back-child-tax-credit/article_59af2dc2-9807-11ed-8552-a75ed41bf6f7.html)



## **In Support Of Child Tax Credit**

February 6, 2023

I was so proud to read my friend's letter about renewing the Child Tax Credit that lifted millions out of poverty ("Bring Back Child Tax Credit" by Cynthia Changyit Levin in the Jan. 22 issue).

Urging her members of Congress (by name) to take this action is powerful. If we all call or write those who represent us, asking them to pass this ladder-out-of-poverty legislation, it will be more likely to happen. And if we follow up until they do, it will happen. Three cheers for the democracy that makes this possible!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

[https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/in-support-of-child-tax-credit/article\\_3cc37ee2-a307-11ed-9a32-bfdea4e96a30.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/in-support-of-child-tax-credit/article_3cc37ee2-a307-11ed-9a32-bfdea4e96a30.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## **Child Tax Credit should be expanded to fight poverty**

February 12, 2023

President Joe Biden said in his State of the Union address that he wants to get more family access to more affordable and quality housing. He also said he wants to address poverty in America. We have a great opportunity to support this agenda and address poverty through the Child Tax Credit.

In 2021, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit, and child poverty immediately plummeted. Parents finally had the freedom and flexibility to cover rent, food and utilities when they needed it most — at monthly bill time. But 51 senators let the payments expire in December 2021. Now that progress has all but disappeared. Child poverty has increased, parents can't afford childcare, and millions still struggle to afford basic necessities.

We have the solution to child poverty. A lack of political will in Congress is the only thing stopping us from doing it. Our representatives and senators have the power to make this right. If Congress passes tax legislation this year, an expansion of the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families — with monthly payments — must be in it. Missouri Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt should work to pass an expansion of the tax credit and a renter's tax credit.

**- Sarah Miller, University City**

[https://www.stltoday.com/print/editorial/letters-to-the-editor-balloon-shoot-down-and-congressional-decorum/article\\_92f6f5ae-b53f-55f5-9913-7199a57ee19c.html](https://www.stltoday.com/print/editorial/letters-to-the-editor-balloon-shoot-down-and-congressional-decorum/article_92f6f5ae-b53f-55f5-9913-7199a57ee19c.html)



## **U.S. should pass renter's tax credit**

February 18, 2023

Regarding the letter to the editor "Freeze assessments for homes of senior citizens" (Globe, Feb. 11), I would agree that support is needed for helping senior citizens struggling to stay in their homes instead of losing them as they age.

However, I think that the government should help everyone stay in their houses, instead of just the elderly.

I also think that rather than deprive school districts of much needed money in property assessment money, the federal government should pass a renter's tax credit. A renters' tax credit would cap out-of-pocket rent and utilities expenses, so that low-income families can afford a safe place to live without sacrificing other basic needs. Renters tend to earn less and yet our tax code leaves them behind while providing more subsidies to wealthier homeowners.

It would make a huge difference in the lives of many hardworking Americans who are not able to afford to keep a roof over their heads.

I hope that Missouri's U.S. Sens. Eric Schmitt and Josh Hawley will work together to pass a renter's tax credit.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Alabama** [misprint, should say Missouri]

[https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-u-s-should-pass-renters-tax-credit/article\\_a6050b12-ae21-11ed-b9ac-9b1b7eb33288.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-u-s-should-pass-renters-tax-credit/article_a6050b12-ae21-11ed-b9ac-9b1b7eb33288.html)





## **Congress should pass tax credit for renters**

March 15, 2023

It is tax season, and for some people they get a great tax write off for owning a home.

However, for those who are renting, it is a bit harder.

It is time the tax code supports renters just as much as homeowners, which means a renter tax credit. A renters tax credit would help any household that pays more than 30% of its income toward housing. When people get to stay in their current places, there is a reduced cost of even more expensive interventions, such as repercussions from being homeless.

I have heard from many police and prosecuting attorneys, who all say that poverty drives a majority of the crime. Plus, stability in housing also helps kids be successful at school because they are not worried about where they are sleeping that night. We need our Congress to help all Americans, regardless of whether they own a home or not in the tax code.

I call on Missouri's U.S. Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt to pass a renter's tax credit in this Congress.

**- Sarah Miller St. Louis**

[https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-should-pass-tax-credit-for-renters/article\\_9dfe909e-c27d-11ed-8706-1f0af20e0b9e.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-should-pass-tax-credit-for-renters/article_9dfe909e-c27d-11ed-8706-1f0af20e0b9e.html)



## **Let's ease the burden on buying food in the U.S.**

March 21, 2023

I applaud the effort by state Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman, R-Arnold, to eliminate the state portion of the Missouri grocery sales tax in “Proposals to eliminate Missouri sales tax on groceries in limbo.” (Globe, March 19)

While our state Legislature considers how to ease food cost burdens, our U.S. elected officials have an opportunity to help, too, as the U.S. Farm Bill is up for reauthorization this year. It contains the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — SNAP — which can address both nutrition and equity.

This year, Congress should increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables by increasing support for produce-specific SNAP benefits in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program. This provides resources on top of monthly SNAP benefits for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, primarily at farmers’ markets.

Congress should also eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the ban on former drug offenders, eliminating work requirements for college students, and permitting indigenous communities to administer SNAP and other federal nutrition programs on reservations.

I ask U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley, U.S. Sen. Eric Schmitt, and U.S. Rep. Eric Burlison to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems.

**– Cynthia Levin, Town And Country**

[https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-lets-ease-the-burden-on-buying-food-in-the-u-s/article\\_2e6ecb48-c6a8-11ed-b517-1b907e28a5c6.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-lets-ease-the-burden-on-buying-food-in-the-u-s/article_2e6ecb48-c6a8-11ed-b517-1b907e28a5c6.html)

## **Ending Child Poverty In The World's Wealthiest Country**

March 27, 2023

Thanks to editor Jaime Mowers for sharing the inspiring story of the act of kindness about two little girls who took the time to make a difference ("Big Love From Little Hearts," in the March 6 issue of the WKT.)

I, too, treasure the drawings and letters of my own and other children in times of loss. How can we repay these thoughtful acts of children? How about asking our members of Congress to lift children suffering from hunger and homeless out of poverty?

They know how to do it: the expanded Child Tax Credit did just that, cut child poverty by 46%. Adding a similar renter tax credit could cut the flow to homelessness. It is time for the adults to follow the children with this and other initiatives that will end child poverty in the wealthiest country in the world.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

[https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/ending-child-poverty-in-the-world-s-wealthiest-country/article\\_47b0e120-c98e-11ed-aed1-e3b5206c675a.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/ending-child-poverty-in-the-world-s-wealthiest-country/article_47b0e120-c98e-11ed-aed1-e3b5206c675a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## Housing Needs

March 30, 2023

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition released its report The Gap last week. It tells us: "The U.S. has a shortage of 7.3 million rental homes affordable and available to renters with extremely low incomes. Only 33 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households."

In Missouri, almost 70% of those struggling to make ends meet are spending more than 30% of their income on rent. That means less money for other essentials such as medication, food and clothing.

I'm a teacher, and I see how much this affects my students when they do not have enough food or access to medications that help them focus. Our kids are our most vulnerable, and yet our policies in this country have left them behind. Every kid deserves access to basic needs. After all, don't we want them to grow up and become successful working adults who contribute to our society and defend our country when we need it?

I call on our Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt to support a renter's tax credit that would help lower the burden of rent on Missourians

**- Sarah Miller, St. Louis**

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article273779180.html>



## **Congress should pass the Renter's Tax Credit**

April 10, 2023

It's tax season and as a homeowner, I'm fortunate to benefit from the tax code by receiving credits for the interest I pay on my home. Our cities and states depend on taxes for essential services, but renters are often overlooked in the tax code and struggle to make ends meet, especially when it comes to paying rent and buying food and fuel for their vehicles. This puts additional strain on our cities and states who have to allocate funds to help with services like eviction court costs, homelessness, crime and addiction issues. Implementing a renter's tax credit, similar to the homeowner's tax credit, could alleviate some of these problems. The credit would limit renters' out-of-pocket expenses to 30% of their income, primarily benefiting low-income individuals who are vital to our society, such as those working in manufacturing and the service industry. Not only would this help those in need, but it would also save taxpayers money by reducing government spending on homelessness, crime, drugs and incarceration. I strongly encourage Congress, including Jason Smith, to act on this issue and pass the Renter's Tax Credit now, for the benefit of all Americans.

**- Sarah Miller, St. Louis**

[https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article\\_3fe0977a-d7b6-11ed-bac1-f7ac5c3d7e40.html](https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article_3fe0977a-d7b6-11ed-bac1-f7ac5c3d7e40.html)



## **Support expanding the Child Tax Credit**

April 17, 2023

Dear Editor,

As the tax deadline approaches, I am writing to express my support for the expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC). I believe that the expansion can make a difference in the lives of many low-income American families.

I know this woman, Bethany, 32, a single mum of two children. She works two jobs to make ends meet but still struggles to meet needs like food, housing and clothing. Notwithstanding her efforts, she often fails to pay her bills promptly and must decide which expenses to prioritize monthly.

Bethany's experience is similar to many working-class families, who are left with choosing between a rock and a hard place in prioritizing scarce resources to support their children. These families could benefit from an expanded CTC.

The current CTC has been effective in keeping many Americans above the poverty line by providing them with resources to support their children. However, the current CTC still leaves millions of families in the cold. In Missouri's 8th district, child poverty is still at an alarming rate of 16%, with many living in rural areas.

I, therefore, urge Congress, including Representative Jason Smith (MO-008), to work across the aisle in expanding the CTC to support working-class families and reduce child poverty.

**- Kolawole Arowoogan, Rolla**

[https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article\\_fa4e5628-dd20-11ed-b73a-932ae0831633.html](https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article_fa4e5628-dd20-11ed-b73a-932ae0831633.html)

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## **Holding Hostage**

May 8, 2023

I am infuriated at the fact that House leadership is threatening to tank our economy, which could lead to the stock market crashing among other devastating effects, including but not limited to thousands of people losing their jobs.

Republicans are holding our economy hostage by attaching stipulations to raising the debt ceiling. As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plan includes slashing dozens of services, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, housing assistance and preschool and child care services. These cuts would harm tens of millions of people who are already struggling to make ends meet, keep a roof over their heads and put food on the table.

The economic pressure that most middle- and lower-income families are enduring would become significantly worse if the House does not agree to drop the provisions to cut these programs and refuses to raise the debt ceiling. It is cruel for the House to play these games on the backs of the American people.

I strongly urge President Joe Biden and congressional leaders to reject the House's cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

**- Carri Drake-Simpson, Kansas City**

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article275074206.html>



## **Don't cut anti-poverty programs**

May 12, 2023

Thank you for your coverage of the debt ceiling debate in "No progress on debt ceiling as deadline approaches," printed May 9. Most Americans don't realize the devastating affects those cuts could have on everyday folks.

As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the proposed plan from House of Representatives slashes dozens of services including SNAP nutrition benefits, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and childcare, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

As a mother teaching budgeting and responsibility to my teens, I am beyond frustrated that House leadership is irresponsibly threatening our economy to extract budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty.

It's dangerous for House leaders to suggest that the U.S. will not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it for a flawed plan that would hurt Americans living in poverty. I strongly urge President Biden, Senator Hawley, and Senator Schmitt to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

**- Cynthia Levin, Town and Country**

[https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article\\_9188de02-f0cf-11ed-801a-8fd8473ff427.html](https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article_9188de02-f0cf-11ed-801a-8fd8473ff427.html)





## **Let's do more to 'Stamp Out Hunger'**

May 17, 2023

To the Editor:

Like many West County residents, I donated non-perishable food items to the Stamp Out Hunger food drive. It's an important act of compassion, but it doesn't last long. So, I'll also contact my members of Congress to remind them of lasting policies that can help food-insecure Missourians.

When Congress let the 2021 expansion to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) expire, child poverty skyrocketed without monthly payments to help pay for food, rent, childcare, and other basic needs. We need to expand the CTC to all families with low incomes this year.

Congress should also look ahead to improvements to the U.S. Farm Bill, which will be reauthorized this year. We can improve access to fresh produce for people on SNAP nutrition assistance. We can also eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the SNAP ban for former drug offenders who have served their time and eliminated work requirements for low-income college students trying to improve their life situations.

I ask Senators Hawley and Schmitt, along with Representatives Bush and Wagner, to support these long-term solutions for Americans experiencing poverty.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin**

[https://www.westnewsmagazine.com/opinion/let-s-do-more-to-stamp-out-hunger/article\\_1f405b26-f33c-11ed-82e5-33722fa899ff.html](https://www.westnewsmagazine.com/opinion/let-s-do-more-to-stamp-out-hunger/article_1f405b26-f33c-11ed-82e5-33722fa899ff.html)



## **Congress should approve tax credits for Americans**

May 17, 2023

The nation faces a pressing problem: Hard-working, honest Americans are grappling with increasing inflation and inadequate wages, resulting in unmet hunger and basic necessities.

In the meantime, the House Leadership is busy in partisan politics and making threats to reduce more programs in return for raising the debt ceiling. This disregard deeply concerns me as it overlooks the welfare of honest individuals trying to make ends meet.

Instead, Congress should spend its time helping people out of poverty, not working to make more sink into it. For instance, the expansion of the Child Tax Credit has the potential to uplift millions from poverty, while a Renters Tax Credit can assist those facing housing difficulties.

By coming together and holding Congress responsible, we can effect change and shape a more promising future for everyone. I encourage fellow citizens to reject the current approach of the House leadership. Let us join together and express our demands for tangible actions from our elected representatives.

**- Sarah Miller, University City**

[https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-should-approve-tax-credits-for-americans/article\\_a790ad38-f318-11ed-81f5-87a45326f863.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-should-approve-tax-credits-for-americans/article_a790ad38-f318-11ed-81f5-87a45326f863.html)

## **Farm bill could build more equitable food systems**

May 23, 2023

I appreciate the efforts of the MU community to increase visibility of Indigenous people. (“Building an Indigenous presence in Columbia,” printed May 16) Awareness and respect can also pave the way for meaningful policy changes.

This year, we can support Indigenous people through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) when the U.S. Farm Bill is reauthorized. Tribal communities are prone to food insecurity because of colonialism and land theft that disrupted Native food systems. Tribal governments have consistently asked for the authority to administer SNAP on reservations and consistently been denied.

With such authority, tribes could build back food systems and cultural eating traditions, which are healthier for the land and humans. Recipients must eat certain foods the SNAP program approves, but are living where a reservation is a food desert, shopping is limited to food that is overpriced, almost spoiled, or loaded with preservatives. If SNAP included traditional foods like bison and walleye, people could return to tribal diets of local foods and grow markets for indigenous producers.

I ask Sens. Hawley and Schmitt to support a farm bill that builds healthy and equitable food systems.

***Cynthia Changyit Levin, of St. Louis, is the author of “From Changing Diapers to Changing the World: Why Moms Make Great Advocates and How to Get Started.”***



## **Support Our Senior Citizens**

July 31, 2023

In response to the story "St. Louis County Council Balks At Senior Tax Relief" in the July 21 WKT, I am also disappointed that St. Louis County refused to freeze property taxes for seniors. Our senior citizens should not lose their homes because of rising property taxes. Senior citizens are an important part of our society and deserve our respect. They keep an eye on the streets while we are at work. They help keep a community stable.

In addition, some seniors are taking care of grandkids when there is no one else to do that work. Due to the current tax code, our national Congress does not even allow them to qualify for the Child Tax Credit when this happens. They earn too little.

It makes me sad that our society — local and national government — treats our senior citizens with such little respect. I urge all levels of government, whether local or federal, to think about how to support our senior citizens through adjustments to the tax code.

**- Sarah Miller, University City**

[https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/support-our-senior-citizens/article\\_0b0a13e6-2c84-11ee-a46e-136775315bda.html](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/support-our-senior-citizens/article_0b0a13e6-2c84-11ee-a46e-136775315bda.html)

## **Congress needs to fully fund SNAP program without obstacles**

August 4, 2023

The article “Here’s why gas prices are rising and what to expect next” brings bad news for Americans already living on the edge.

Gas money competes with rent and food funds for our neighbors struggling in poverty. That’s why Sen. Josh Hawley, Sen. Eric Schmitt, and Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer should make sure we strengthen our nation’s safety nets, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

We need a farm bill this year that fully funds SNAP without adding additional obstacles that restrict access to this vital program.

In addition, the updated bill should support incentives which allow SNAP participants to purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables. Studies show that when people have the opportunity to purchase nutritious foods, they will. I believe that everyone should have access not just to enough food to eat, but enough nutritious food to help them lead healthy and productive lives.

***Cynthia Changyit Levin*** 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/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/congress-needs-to-fully-fund-snap-program-without-obstacles/article\\_43676ef2-32cc-11ee-8bc2-1fa3eec72b4b.html](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/congress-needs-to-fully-fund-snap-program-without-obstacles/article_43676ef2-32cc-11ee-8bc2-1fa3eec72b4b.html)

## Expanding Child Tax Credit would be one way to close the 'achievement gap' in schools

August 9, 2023

As the school year nears, teachers face mounting pressure to close the “achievement gap” and address the teacher shortage.

Blaming teachers and adding to their already full plate won't help the solution – it will take society also doing their part.

One such action they can take to make things better is expand the Child Tax Credit that gives families money that pays for basic needs, like food and shelter.

I know kids struggle with behavior when they are hungry and/or stressed about their home life – and making sure more families, not less, have that safety net will only improve outcomes for schools and classrooms.

As we head back to school, let us support kids and teachers alike by ensuring all kids are able to come to school with plenty of food and a stable roof over their head ready to learn.

**Sarah Miller**, of University City, is a teacher in the St. Louis area and a volunteer with *RESULTS*, a movement aimed to end poverty.

[https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/expanding-child-tax-credit-would-be-one-way-to-close-the-achievement-gap-in-schools/article\\_6bc09a64-36b8-11ee-a250-77f0d5525d5d.html](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/expanding-child-tax-credit-would-be-one-way-to-close-the-achievement-gap-in-schools/article_6bc09a64-36b8-11ee-a250-77f0d5525d5d.html)

## **St. Louis' D.C. delegation should support fully funding SNAP**

August 10, 2023 0

Joe Regenbogen's guest column "To save our democracy, social studies education must change drastically" (Aug. 3) makes a good point that experience with democracy would help students become good citizens. No matter our age, we should learn to engage with members of Congress through phone calls, letters and even meetings with them. I've done all those actions to support poverty-fighting programs, most recently to influence the U.S. farm bill.

The farm bill not only affects farmers and food producers — it plays a significant role in addressing hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Readers can join me in urging Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt as well as Reps. Cori Bush and Ann Wagner to support a bill that fully funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) without adding additional obstacles that restrict access to this vital program.

In addition, they should support incentives which allow SNAP participants to purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables. Everyone should have access not just to enough food to eat, but enough nutritious food to help them lead healthy and productive lives.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, Town & Country**

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-st-louis-d-c-delegation-should-support-fully-funding-snap/article\\_a0247128-36f3-11ee-8ecb-cb190b68e82a.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-st-louis-d-c-delegation-should-support-fully-funding-snap/article_a0247128-36f3-11ee-8ecb-cb190b68e82a.html)



## **Access To Nutritional Food**

August 14, 2023

I agree with Sarah Miller's ideas about supporting seniors and grandkids in need (WKT Mailbag, July 31). Congress should absolutely increase eligibility for the Child Tax Credit. It should also help meet the nutritional needs of children and seniors by crafting a farm bill this year that fully funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) without adding additional obstacles that restrict access to it.

In 2022, more than 65% of nationwide SNAP participants were in families with children, and over 36% were in families with members who are older adults or disabled. Our senators Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt, and our representatives Cori Bush and Ann Wagner, should also support incentives that allow SNAP participants to purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables.

Everyone should have access not just to enough food to eat, but enough nutritious food to help them lead healthy and productive lives.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, Town and Country**

[https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/access-to-nutritional-food/article\\_d532f77e-3787-11ee-bb8b-f7c9412c8fe5.html](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/access-to-nutritional-food/article_d532f77e-3787-11ee-bb8b-f7c9412c8fe5.html)



## Expanding Child Tax Credit will help close achievement gap

August 14, 2023

As we head back to school, the pressures on teachers to close the “achievement gap” are mounting, and the teacher shortage issue is also making headlines. However, there might be a solution to address both challenges, and it lies with Congress.

In 2021, Congress extended the Child Tax Credit, which significantly benefited many families, providing support for childcare and housing. Unfortunately, with the end of these benefits and rising inflation, more children are experiencing hunger and unstable living conditions than ever before. As a teacher, I witness firsthand the impact of hunger and stress on students’ ability to concentrate and control their behavior.

Teachers are leaving the profession, partly due to the difficulties of managing disruptive behaviors and witnessing the immense stress faced by students and their families, which ultimately affects their performance in school. It’s essential to recognize that blaming teachers for these issues without providing adequate support from society is not the solution.

Teachers need students who come to school with the capacity to focus and learn. One way to achieve this is by expanding the Child Tax Credit and increasing access to funds for basic necessities. By doing so, we can reduce behavior problems and improve academic achievements.

I strongly urge Congress to prioritize expanding the Child Tax Credit in September. This step could make a significant difference in the lives of students, teachers, and their communities, leading to a brighter and more prosperous future for everyone.

**– Sarah Miller, St. Louis**

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-expanding-child-tax-credit-will-help-close-achievement-gap/article\\_3bb3e0ca-38b0-11ee-8f6b-7b6ba6170c0e.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-expanding-child-tax-credit-will-help-close-achievement-gap/article_3bb3e0ca-38b0-11ee-8f6b-7b6ba6170c0e.html)



## **Expand Child Tax Credit**

August 21, 2023

Thanks to Sarah Miller for standing up for senior citizens. ("Support Our Senior Citizens," Webster-Kirkwood Times, July 31). Thousands of senior citizens raising their grandchildren lost out when the expanded Child Tax Credit was not renewed. Fortunately, the American Family Act would do just that. In many cases, a renter tax credit would help these and other families stay housed, capping rent at 30% of income for those experiencing poverty.

We can do our part by asking our members of Congress to pass these equity initiatives now, or as part of any tax package this fall. Our voices matter: Make the call for seniors and families around the country.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA**

[https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/expand-child-tax-credit/article\\_b895436e-3d14-11ee-8bd8-ab76759836bf.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/webster-kirkwoodtimes/expand-child-tax-credit/article_b895436e-3d14-11ee-8bd8-ab76759836bf.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## **Proven to Help**

September 17, 2023

This past week in Washington, D.C., was a tale of two worlds: In the first, House leaders announced they would begin an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden with no evidence of wrongdoing. In the second, the U.S. Census released new data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022. More than 5 million children fell back into poverty last year, primarily because Republicans in the House and Senate refused to expand the child tax credit.

In 2021, we learned how to end child poverty. After Congress expanded the credit and sent it in monthly payments, child poverty dropped to a historically low 5.2%. These modest child tax credit payments gave millions of parents the resources and freedom to afford rent, groceries, child care and other basic needs. But the GOP (with help from Sens. Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema) blocked legislation that would have extended the payments another year. Five million children forced back into poverty is the result.

If House leaders care about the American people as they claim, they'd wake up from their fantasy world and come into the real world, where kids are needlessly suffering. It's not too late. Expand the child tax credit now. - Jos Linn, Kansas City

**- Jos Linn, Kansas City**

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article279300294.html>



## **Jason Smith should expand the Child Tax Credit**

September 28, 2023

On September 12, the U.S. Census released new data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022. More than 5 million children fell back into poverty last year, primarily because Republicans in the House and Senate, including Rep. Jason Smith, refused to expand the Child Tax Credit.

Upon hearing this news, did Rep. Smith, as Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, get to work on expanding the CTC to include the 225,000 Missouri children living in poverty? No. Instead, he vowed to waste taxpayer resources on a sham impeachment of President Biden.

In 2021, we learned how to end child poverty. After Congress expanded the CTC and sent it in monthly payments, child poverty dropped to an historically low 5.2%. The modest CTC payments gave parents the resources and freedom to afford rent, groceries, childcare and other basic needs. But Rep. Smith and his GOP colleagues opposed extending the payments another year. 5 million children forced back into poverty is the result.

Rep. Smith should focus on helping the people he represents. Children are needlessly suffering on his watch. He should expand the Child Tax Credit now!

**- Jos Linn, Kansas City**

[https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article\\_590ddc94-5e1b-11ee-83a2-8b309f549775.html](https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article_590ddc94-5e1b-11ee-83a2-8b309f549775.html)



## **Congress must extend Child Tax Credit**

November 1, 2023

Partisanship has hindered the ability of Congress to pass legislation, which has hurt the federal government's ability to help hard-working Americans.

One example is the case of the Child Tax Credit.

In 2021, this credit significantly benefited many children and families, effectively reducing child poverty. However, Congress failed to renew it, leading to a significant increase in child poverty the following year.

Excessive partisanship is to blame for these challenges.

To address these issues, it is crucial for Congress to collaborate across party lines and implement the needed reforms.

I ask our congressional representatives to join forces with their colleagues to extend the Child Tax Credit this year and mitigate child poverty.

**- Sarah Miller, University City**

[https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-must-extend-child-tax-credit/article\\_5c4b318e-7745-11ee-9d35-a7c101df3373.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/your-view-congress-must-extend-child-tax-credit/article_5c4b318e-7745-11ee-9d35-a7c101df3373.html)

## Federal Child Tax Credit should be monthly, and expanded

November 5, 2023

My alma mater, Washington University in St. Louis, recently announced that students would benefit next fall from a “no-loan” policy of financial aid. (“Debt-free’ education: No more student loans in Washington U. financial aid packages,” Sept. 8.) Instead, those deemed to be in need will receive grants and scholarships to cover their education.

I also just learned about Mayor Tishaura Jones’ \$500 per month approach to help low-income families for 18 months. (“St. Louis will send struggling families \$500 a month. Here’s how it will work,” Oct. 11.) Both are remarkable commitments.

As I've raised four children and mentored two foster youth, I can vouch that helping young people manage their finances is foundational and requires grace. That's why, during the pandemic, I supported the monthly disbursement of an expanded federal Child Tax Credit in 2021. It was a lifesaver in making ends meet for struggling families.

Rather than receiving a lump sum at tax time, their Child Tax Credit was paid out monthly. What a relief to receive funds “just in time” to cover an emergency or take care of some other basic expenses each month while juggling work and a family.

Yet in 2022, Congress reverted back to the lump-sum approach. Not only that, but the current eligibility formula needs to benefit those who are legitimately “in-need.” My family should not qualify and yet we do.

When leadership commits to do the right thing, we can figure out a way to make it happen wisely and efficiently. One straightforward thing we can do is disburse the federal Child Tax Credit monthly instead of as a lump-sum. Please join me in calling on Congress to commit to doing this seemingly small thing for our country’s children.

– **Cathy White, Cedar Park, Texas**

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-federal-child-tax-credit-should-be-monthly-and-expanded/article\\_d6acf05c-79cf-11ee-93b5-93d8ed8c8a4f.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-federal-child-tax-credit-should-be-monthly-and-expanded/article_d6acf05c-79cf-11ee-93b5-93d8ed8c8a4f.html)



## **Jason Smith should expand Child Tax Credit**

December 6, 2023

One of the timeless characters of the holiday season is Ebenezer Scrooge, the selfish, miserly businessman with no heart. But Scrooge's story was one of redemption. When faced with his role in perpetuating hunger and poverty, he changed.

This holiday season, too many children in our country still face those harsh realities. Holiday toys and treats are out of reach when families cannot afford food, housing, and heat.

But Congress could help by expanding the Child Tax Credit. Every time the CTC is expanded to children from families with low income, child poverty drops. No other tool works better at lifting kids from poverty.

Rep. Jason Smith, chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, has the power to expand the CTC right now. Will he follow the old Scrooge's lead and let children in his district them needlessly suffer? Or will he make "mankind his business" and help lift them from poverty?

At the end of the story, Scrooge learned his lesson. I hope Chairman Smith will do the same by expanding the Child Tax Credit to low-income children this year.

**- Jos Linn, Kansas City**

[https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article\\_26527a0e-945c-11ee-a883-eb3e30b6a416.html](https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article_26527a0e-945c-11ee-a883-eb3e30b6a416.html)



## **Child Tax Credit needs to be expanded**

December 13, 2023

Right now, the Cedar Street Players are performing "A Christmas Carol" at the Ozark Actors Theatre in Rolla. I hope all our elected officials take time to see a production of this holiday classic. We all need a reminder of Ebenezer Scrooge, the selfish, miserly businessman who had a story of redemption. When faced with his role in perpetuating hunger and poverty, he changed.

Too many children in our country still face those harsh realities. Holiday feasting is out of reach when families can't afford food, housing and heat.

But Congress could help by expanding the Child Tax Credit. Every time the CTC is expanded to children from families with low income, child poverty drops. No other tool works better at lifting kids from poverty.

This season, will our members of Congress follow the old Scrooge's lead and let those around them needlessly suffer? Or will they make "mankind their business" and enact legislation to help? At the end of the story, Scrooge helped his neighbors. Senator Hawley, Senator Schmitt, and Congressman Smith should do the same by expanding the Child Tax Credit now.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, Town and Country**

[https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article\\_add8665a-99c0-11ee-b33e-5b369eb5a940.html](https://www.phelpscountyfocus.com/opinion/article_add8665a-99c0-11ee-b33e-5b369eb5a940.html)



## **Expanded Child Tax Credit would be holiday gift for families**

December 19, 2023

Families are starting to spend money from the expanded child tax credit. Many say they are using the money to pay rent, supplement their grocery budget and for catching up on bills, including cellphone and car payments.

This holiday season, too many children in our country face a situation where holiday toys and treats are out of reach when families cannot afford food, housing, and heat. They wish and dream of someone like Santa Claus coming and giving them toys, but their families aren't sure how they can pay for fun items when there is rent and food to buy.

But Congress could be Santa Claus. Congress has the power to expand the Child Tax Credit. Every time the CTC is expanded to children from families with low income, child poverty drops. No other tool works better at lifting kids from poverty.

This season, will our members of Congress follow the old Scrooge's lead and let those around them needlessly suffer? Or will they be a Santa Claus figure and enact legislation to help? At the end of the Charles Dickens story "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge learns his lesson. Our leaders should do the same by expanding the Child Tax Credit, now. They can bring joy and happiness to the faces of kids around the nation just by one simple act.

**- Sarah Miller, University City**

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-expanded-child-tax-credit-would-be-holiday-gift-for-families/article\\_16a4baa6-9d5b-11ee-b7fa-dbd205bf57f6.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-expanded-child-tax-credit-would-be-holiday-gift-for-families/article_16a4baa6-9d5b-11ee-b7fa-dbd205bf57f6.html)

## **Rent tax credit program would help reduce homelessness**

December 24, 2023

I agree with the letter to the editor "Expanded Child Tax Credit would be holiday gift for families" (Dec. 19), describing how Congress can deliver a wonderful gift to American families by expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC) now.

Rent is a common expense families use their CTC money to pay, but if we could also pass a Renter Tax Credit, those funds could go towards food, healthcare, and other necessities as well.

The American tax code provides billions of dollars in tax subsidies to homeowners, developers, businesses and landlords, but almost nothing for the 44 million Americans who rent. A Renter Tax Credit targeted to rent-burdened households (those paying more than 30% of their total income toward housing) would reduce evictions and homelessness.

Tax policy can be a powerful and compassionate tool to help our neighbors in need. I ask our U.S. congresswomen from the St. Louis area, Reps. Ann Wagner and Cori Bush, to urge fellow Missourian Rep. Jason Smith to include these low-income tax credits in a tax package soon in his role as the chairman of the House Ways and Means committee.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, Town and Country**

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-rent-tax-credit-program-would-help-reduce-homelessness/article\\_b6d4f53e-a05a-11ee-acc2-d77043ea3b02.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/letters/letter-rent-tax-credit-program-would-help-reduce-homelessness/article_b6d4f53e-a05a-11ee-acc2-d77043ea3b02.html)

# Montana media



## Find time to talk to Congress

July 2, 2023

In response to the opinion, “Robin Paone: You too could be a citizen lobbyist” I agree that we citizens have the power to voice our opinions about anything by meeting with our members of Congress. Since their job is dependent on our vote, it would follow that they would want to hear what we have to say. People often wonder where I find the time to talk with my members of Congress since I’m a teacher. I tell them that I do it because I want to make a difference in the lives of my students. While I can do that through teaching, learning does not happen if my students are stressed and hungry. Lots of families can’t afford basic necessities because they are too low-income to qualify for the Child Tax Credit. So I urge my members to pass things like an expanded Child Tax Credit so that my kids are not so stressed and so hungry. Whether your issue is the environment or kids or something else, please raise your own voice, too and share with your members of Congress your opinions. It does matter. Perhaps more than you every will know.

– Sarah Miller, University City, MO

[https://billingsgazette.com/letter-to-the-editor-find-time-to-talk-to-congress/article\\_0c008655-4570-5e16-be8a-05ea711106dd.html](https://billingsgazette.com/letter-to-the-editor-find-time-to-talk-to-congress/article_0c008655-4570-5e16-be8a-05ea711106dd.html)

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**Missoulian**

[https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-find-time-to-talk-to-congress/article\\_44ca91d6-1763-11ee-9978-e7c84b118ba5.html](https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-find-time-to-talk-to-congress/article_44ca91d6-1763-11ee-9978-e7c84b118ba5.html)

# **Nevada media**



## **Elected leaders answer to us**

January 15, 2023

Three cheers for students stepping up to ask their senators questions about issues that matter to them (“Students, taking on role of documentarians, press Nevada senator on issues,” by Casey Harrison on Jan. 11).

These students inspire all of us to remember how our democracy truly works: speak up, challenge and guide those who represent us.

We, too, can ask questions: Why didn’t the expanded child tax credit get renewed when it reached 90% of families with children? What are our representatives doing about the affordable housing crisis? Can they renew the child tax credit and create a renter’s tax credit to stop the slide to homelessness, especially when over 11 million Americans pay over half of their income for rent?

Our voices can make this tax fairness legislation become a reality and begin to solve these problems, while creating a more equitable America.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/jan/15/elected-leaders-answer-to-us/>



## **Put pressure on to pass tax credit**

April 4, 2023

Congratulations to New Mexico for making a dent in hunger with universal free meals at school ("Food for thought: Free meals for all New Mexico students," March 28).

With the failure of Congress to renew the expanded child tax credit, an immediate increase in child poverty followed. Millions of families across America are struggling to put food on the table and avoid eviction.

It's time for Congress to take action that works for families: Renew the expanded tax credit and pass a renter tax credit to end the surge in evictions and homelessness.

Our calls, letters and follow-ups with members of Congress can build the political will for them to pass these and other equity initiatives.

After all, they work for us.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/apr/04/put-pressure-on-to-pass-tax-credit/>

## Take a moral stand for kids

May 16, 2023

Lately things are going from bad to worse for America's children ("Republicans bringing back 'ancient atrocity' of child labor," May 4).

It is always children who suffer the most when poverty is left unchecked. First, it was the failure of Congress to renew the expanded child tax credit that had lifted millions out of poverty, and now it's this easing of child labor laws in some states that is putting them in harm's way.

With families experiencing poverty often working multiple jobs and still not making ends meet, no wonder evictions, hunger and homelessness are rampant in our country.

Fortunately, Reps. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash.; Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.; and Richie Torres, D-N.Y., are soon to introduce the American Families Act that includes a child tax credit similar to the one that nearly cut child poverty in half.

Let's do our part by calling on members of Congress to support this effort, clarify America's stand against child labor and add a renter tax credit that would slow the flood of evictions and homelessness.

By speaking about these initiatives to those who represent us, we take a moral stand for America's children, and our future.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/may/16/take-a-moral-stand-for-kids/>



## **Aid to children benefits nation**

May 21, 2023

As a teacher, I witness firsthand the detrimental impact of hunger and other stressors on children, impairing their focus and learning abilities. These circumstances significantly impede their capacity to concentrate and acquire knowledge efficiently.

Additionally, after visiting a nearby military base, I acknowledge the importance of physically fit individuals and intellectually proficient personnel who can effectively combat cyberterrorism with technological expertise.

Supporting initiatives such as the child tax credit is not a wasteful expenditure but rather an investment in nurturing the future generation, which will play crucial roles in professions essential for our safety and well-being, including nursing, EMS/EMT services, the military and other pivotal occupations.

Consequently, I firmly believe that assisting our children through programs like expanding the child tax credit constitutes a wise policy decision that benefits our nation.

**- Sarah Miller, St. Louis, Mo.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/may/21/aid-to-children-benefits-nation/>

## **GOP toys with global economy**

May 24, 2023

I am exasperated that House leadership is threatening to tank our economy to extract devastating budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty. And folks relying on Social Security checks and our military families' checks will stop arriving.

As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plan slashes dozens of services including SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and child care, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

It is dangerous for House leaders to even hint that the U.S. would not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it on the backs of people experiencing poverty. I urge President Joe Biden and congressional leaders to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and immediately pass a clean rise in the debt ceiling.

**- Kathleen Close, Las Vegas**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/may/24/gop-toys-with-global-economy/>

## **Congress needs moms' empathy**

May 25, 2023

As a mother and an advocate for maternal/child health, I appreciate Brian Greenspun's May 14 column, "Founding Fathers' ideals require mothers' lead."

Policymakers would benefit by listening to moms when we demand help to nurture and protect our children. We need the voices of mothers and others to make them listen.

This year, we can all urge Congress to strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) when the U.S. Farm Bill is reauthorized. Food-insecure families need more help as they face rising costs of basic needs.

Congress should increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables through the "GusNIP" enhancement. I also urge them to eliminate work requirements for low-income college students who often work the hardest to overcome barriers to attend school.

I ask Nevada's congressional delegation to work with colleagues to pass a farm bill that builds healthy and equitable food systems.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, St. Louis**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/may/25/congress-needs-moms-empathy/>

## **No reason for poverty in US**

June 3, 2023

I appreciate the May 25 letter "Congress needs moms' empathy." I write as a pediatrician, mom and grandmother, to say that not providing adequate food, housing and education for children is a tragic mistake with severe future repercussions.

We know that the fully refundable child tax credit instantly reduced child poverty by 46%, only to be as quickly reversed when Congress failed to renew it for 2022. Families used that money to buy food, pay rent, pay educational expenses and more. It kept folks in their homes and in less need of food pantries. But those earning the least are now "punished" by receiving less from the tax credit. The most impoverished are receiving the least financial support. This is poorly reasoned.

I urge Nevada's congressional delegation to support the American Family Act, which would restore a fully refundable child tax credit for all children under 17. The U.S. ranks toward the bottom in child poverty out of all OECD nations. This is unacceptable. We know how to fix it. But we need the political will to do so.

**- Leslye Heilig, Great Barrington, Mass.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/jun/03/no-reason-for-poverty-in-us/>

## Help each other be a better nation

June 29, 2023

Brian Greenspun hit the nail on the head in his June 25 column, "Choose hope and unity over division and darkness," by calling on the American people to do things together looking forward to a better future.

Most Americans don't want to follow those wishing to "continue in a darkness of their own making." Many members of Congress want to move forward as well, including over 200 members of the House who cosponsored the American Family Act.

This legislation would bring back the expanded child tax credit that reached 90% of families, cut child poverty by 46% and helped families pay rent and bills.

Given the increase in eviction, hunger and homelessness, this is an important move forward. Let's join together to make sure Congress passes this and other initiatives of equity. It only takes a few minutes to call your representatives and encourage them to work together to do just that.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/jun/29/help-each-other-be-a-better-nation/>

## **Demand help for Nevada families**

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023 | 2 a.m.

With homeless counts rising in Southern Nevada, it is encouraging to see local and state governments taking action (“Homeless population rises by 1,000 in Southern Nevada 2023 count,” Aug. 10).

Helping people stay housed is a national problem with affordable housing shortages, rising rents and inflation. It’s time for proven national action, like renewing the expanded child tax credit, which helped people pay bills, stay housed and cut child poverty by 46%.

The American Family Act would do just that. Add a renter tax credit and it would be easier for those experiencing poverty to stay housed, since they would no longer be paying 50% or more of their income for rent. Tell your members of Congress to pass these equity initiatives. It is time to speak up for families and pass these solutions that address the crisis of homelessness.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/aug/15/demand-help-for-nevada-families/>

## **Families need child tax credit**

October 7, 2023

Supporting families through our tax code can minimize harm. I would know. During the pandemic, my family lost our primary source of income. We all felt how hard it was to meet our basic needs. We got support through the expanded child tax credit, which helped us make ends meet. It got us through the pandemic, and when it was reduced, we felt that financial impact, too.

When the government cut off tax credit expansion, the reality of its effects was more than realized by those who relied on it as a source of sustainability. The impact has been too much for families. Child poverty more than doubled last year, according to recent Census data

Instead of fighting, Congress should refocus on the people's priorities, not the political preferences of its members. I urge our congressional delegation to be the consumer's voice, get our children out of poverty, and keep them out of poverty by expanding the child tax credit. We, the people, have a voice, and we need to be heard. Our security can be found when our growing fear of lack is over.

**- Salvacion Vereen, Las Vegas**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/oct/07/families-need-child-tax-credit/>



## **Demand action from Congress**

October 22, 2023

The Sun's scathing editorial Oct. 15, "Republicans' inability to govern has crossed from farcical to dangerous," calls on us to return members of Congress that will actually lead our government.

The editorial warned of the need to deal with the many crises that face us, but didn't mention that 40% of Americans are near or below the poverty line and child poverty doubled with Congress' failure to renew the expanded child tax credit.

We can act now by calling our members of Congress and urging them to pass the American Family Act that would renew the expanded credit, along with other critical initiatives.

Our voices can be the driving force in getting Congress moving again.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/oct/22/demand-action-from-congress/>



## **Housing crisis needs attention**

November 2, 2023

In response to the Oct. 30 story “With expansion of shelter, city and nonprofit aim to get more people on their feet,” I commend the city and Las Vegas Rescue Mission for helping people struggling to make ends meet. However, resolving this issue should not be only on local governments to fix; it requires a collaborative effort with both state and federal authorities.

While the federal government has played a role in supporting homeowners through the tax code, those who rent — often from lower income brackets — do not receive such assistance. It’s important for Congress to rise above partisan divisions and prioritize the challenges Americans face, including the increasing number of people struggling to afford rent. Congress can make a significant impact by passing a renter’s tax credit or other policies aimed at aiding those in need.

Contact your elected representatives and advocate for their involvement in addressing the pressing homelessness crisis.

**– Sarah Miller, St. Louis**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/nov/02/housing-crisis-needs-attention/>

## **Put politicians in holiday spirit**

December 7, 2023

The Dec. 2 editorial, "With kindness and generosity, we can make the holiday season magical," did a great job explaining how to spread the holiday cheer to make it magical for everyone. A smile, an act of kindness, volunteering and financial gifts all make a difference.

Our government can make policy choices to lift millions out of poverty (renew the expanded child tax credit), slow down homeless numbers (pass a renter tax credit), and pass other equity initiatives. What can be more important than ending hunger and poverty in our country? A five-minute call to those who represent you can encourage them to pass these ladders out of poverty.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2023/dec/07/put-politicians-in-holiday-spirit/>

## **Housing should be seen as a community builder, not a wealth builder**

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 13, 2023

Housing "should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty." (Photo: Ronda Churchill/Nevada Current)

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*This column was originally published at OtherWords.org.*

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS.*

<https://nevadacurrent.com/2023/12/13/housing-should-be-seen-as-a-community-builder-not-a-wealth-builder/>

# **New Hampshire media**

## **Are corporations more important than our children?**

September 18, 2023

The word “taxes” elicits a knee jerk reaction of worry, threatening a costly financial impact on our lives. Phil Sletten’s My Turn (Monitor, 9/12) shows that tax policy can make a positive impact on our lives if we use it to provide relief to our lower income neighbors and stimulate the economy (vs corporate tax cuts). Child poverty dropped to a historic low in 2021 when Congress expanded the Child Tax credit to all families with low or no income. Monthly payments gave parents the opportunity to budget for their children’s basic needs.

A small group of politicians in Washington blocked an extension of the CTC monthly payments with disastrous results shared this week by the U.S. Census. Between 2021 and 2022, more than 5 million U.S. children fell into poverty, more than doubling the child poverty rate due to Congress’ inaction on the CTC. Two years ago, we were on the road to ending child poverty. Are corporations more important than our children? I urge Representatives Pappas and Kuster and Senators Shaheen and Hassan to expand the CTC to families with low incomes and reject any tax legislation that does not.

**- Crystal Sexton, Hampton**

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/-52298840>

## **Use the tax code to help children and renters**

September 20, 2023

Phil Sletten's My Turn (9/12) emphasizes the importance of data-driven and research-informed policymaking for the well-being of New Hampshire residents. Unfortunately, despite the notable potential demonstrated by the 2021 expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC), policymakers chose to curtail this promising initiative. Now, countless families are once again struggling to make ends meet, with more than 5 million children falling into poverty in the U.S last year.

In addition, millions of American renters can't keep up with the high cost of rent. A Renter Tax Credit (RTC) for rent-burdened households would result in housing stability, fewer evictions, and reduced homelessness. It's imperative that we advocate for effective policies like the expanded CTC and an RTC to significantly alleviate poverty and homelessness in New Hampshire. Our federal tax system has the potential to be a catalyst for positive change. I urge our members of Congress, Congresswoman Kuster and Congressman Pappas, to prioritize effective tax policies for the betterment of all Americans, particularly those who are most vulnerable, starting right here in New Hampshire.

**- Elsa Le Blanc, Dover**

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/-52326389>

# **New Mexico media**





## **Renters Tax Credit deserves support**

May 22, 2022

REGARDING THE (May 10) editorial "Middle ground needed in renter vs. landlord battle," I concur. Renters necessitate support, and some remedies do not impose excessive paperwork or burden landlords with concerns about affordable housing availability. One potential approach entails the implementation of a Renters Tax Credit, which would establish a reasonable cap on the out-of-pocket expenses for individuals spending more than 30% of their income on rent. This initiative would aid individuals already strained by high rental costs, enabling them to afford their homes and fulfill other essential needs. Notably, this solution requires no additional paperwork and benefits everyone involved. I urge all of us to express our opinions, raise our voices, and encourage our Congressional representatives to enact a Renters Tax Credit, thus benefiting the entire community.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Missouri**

[https://www.abqjournal.com/news/talk-of-the-town-remember-veterans-college-savings-fix-renters-tax-credit/article\\_0f1e0e3c-9b32-532e-b6c2-d68c29aa602c.html](https://www.abqjournal.com/news/talk-of-the-town-remember-veterans-college-savings-fix-renters-tax-credit/article_0f1e0e3c-9b32-532e-b6c2-d68c29aa602c.html)



## **Bring back the Child Tax Credit for good**

October 28, 2023

After all the studies and statistics there are three main points to take away from your excellent article "Child poverty rates are soaring, forcing states to step in" (ABQ Journal, Oct. 15).

First, the enhanced Child Tax Credit, CTC, which was in effect for only a year or so, worked to relieve pressures on stressed families and helped them give their children good food, clothing, and happier memories. Making the payments monthly is the most productive way to support families, and child poverty fell by almost half in that short time.

Second, the expanded CTC makes so much sense and proved so successful that it attracts support from both parties. ... Maybe caring for our children can bring us together.

Third, as much as they might try, states are ill-equipped to fill the gap left in families' budgets as the expanded CTC lapsed this year. Here in New Mexico we managed to make \$600 per year available for each child, a far cry from the possible \$300 per child each month from the federal program.

The number of children in poverty doubled nationally this year after the CTC was reduced. We must support our children, and to do that we must reinstate and make permanent the expanded, refundable, monthly Child Tax Credit payments that gave our families a scant year of support. Let your members of Congress know that you want our children to have better lives.

**- Roxanne Allen, Albuquerque**

[https://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/talk-of-the-town-how-a-glorious-fall-day-on-central-was-ruined/article\\_625a2552-743a-11ee-85f5-1fe11a8aaa3a.html](https://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/talk-of-the-town-how-a-glorious-fall-day-on-central-was-ruined/article_625a2552-743a-11ee-85f5-1fe11a8aaa3a.html)

# **New York media**

# DAILY NEWS

## Rent relief

March 2, 2023

Rep. Adriano Espaillat is right about the power of the Inflation Reduction Act being good news for the environment and a start to help renters (“Bringing help for renters and a cleaner environment,” op-ed, Feb. 23). Espaillat can continue to make a difference by pushing to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families and cut child poverty in half until it expired. A renters’ tax credit modeled in the same way could reach renters currently paying 50% and more of their income for rent. These tax credit initiatives can cut poverty and bring hope to millions. What say you, congressman?

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-letter-march-2-20230302-m4wrkuoyrbbdbeuetowmc6pruu-story.html>



## **Our tax code needs to be fair for everyone**

March 17, 2023

To the Editor:

President Biden has released his new budget. Among his many priorities, a huge one is making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans. I agree, and there are two things Congress could do right now to make it happen.

First, expand the Child Tax Credit. In 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty immediately plummeted and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit. Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent.

For decades, Congress has skewed the tax code for the wealthy. The President is calling on them to start putting everyday Americans first. I urge our members of Congress to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting an RTC now.

**- Robin Terry, Canandaigua**

[https://www.fltimes.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-our-tax-code-needs-to-be-fair-for-everyone/article\\_0246e704-c19d-11ed-aa85-bfaf0d76b7a5.html](https://www.fltimes.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-our-tax-code-needs-to-be-fair-for-everyone/article_0246e704-c19d-11ed-aa85-bfaf0d76b7a5.html)

# DAILY NEWS

## Family values

August 10, 2023

Kudos to Gov. Hochul for creating more housing and to the Editorial Board for highlighting the importance of the process (“A good development,” Aug. 8). All local efforts are important, as are the ones at the federal level. Congress has legislation before it to encourage builders to create more affordable housing nationwide and a renter tax credit that would slow the rise in homelessness by preventing those in poverty from paying more than 30% of their income for rent. In addition, the American Family Act, introduced by Rep. Ritchie Torres, would reinstate the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families and cut child poverty by 46%, helping families pay rent and bills. Let’s encourage these equity initiatives by calling on our members of Congress to pass them. Our voices can help their efforts to deal with these family crises.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-letter-aug-13-20230813-sdupyrpqv5bypa6idbjaaykxgy-story.html>

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# Union-Sun & Journal

**By Lakeisha McVey**

September 2, 2023

After hitting a record low of 7.8% in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4% last year. That's a nearly 60% increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me. Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools

were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life, and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.

I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don't end. The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100% of my health insurance. That's a rarity. If I'd been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would've gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day. But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8%— its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.

Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

*Lakeisha McVey is a mother with lived experience of child poverty, a fierce advocate of anti-poverty policies, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS.*



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# DAILY NEWS

## For the children

October 2, 2023

Millions of American children wonder if they will have food to eat or a place to sleep. The last census showed that child poverty more than doubled. Congress needs to focus on the job of making sure this child abuse by government comes to an end. Make a call to let your representatives know you are waiting for action that makes a difference for children, like passing the American Family Act. This and other equity initiatives can help all of our children have a brighter future.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://www.nydailynews.com/2023/10/02/readers-sound-off-on-trumps-rallies-dropped-ukraine-aid-and-saving-bees/>



## **Asks Rep. Stefanik to support Child Tax Credit**

October 21, 2023

Editor:

Republicans should not be so distracted by finding a majority leader in the House that they forget that their job is to support legislation and tax policy that benefits all Americans. I love knowing my tax dollars support programs that are accountable not only on domestic issues such as Child Tax Credit, but also in global health and education issues such as the End TB Now Act and The Read Authorization Act.

Here is a little info on the CTC: "Some 91 percent of families with low incomes (less than \$35,000) are using their monthly Child Tax Credit payments for the most basic household expenses — food, clothing, shelter, and utilities — or education. Families are making these investments nationwide: in every state and the District of Columbia, large majorities of low-income families are making such use of the credit, according to our new analysis of Census Bureau data covering the first three months of payments."

Child poverty was cut in half when the CTC was expanded during COVID. After Covid, the expansion was cut. Child poverty doubled again. So we know the program is needed and it works.

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik, Please support expanded funding for CTC and support the READ Act and End TB Now.

**- Susan Oehser, Bakers Mills**

<https://poststar.com/sports/#tracking-source=main-nav>

## **Expand the Child Tax Credit for those living in poverty**

December 6, 2023

Congress had a lot of items on its agenda. One item is taxes. Big corporations are pushing Congress to pass legislation in a matter of weeks to expand corporate tax breaks.

With recent Census data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022, it is imperative that any tax package includes an expansion of the Child Tax Credit for families with low income. In 2021, the expanded CTC lifted over three million children from poverty. By allowing the CTC expansion to expire, lawmakers have abandoned those children. Here is their chance at redemption.

When it comes to tax priorities, kids must come first. Rich corporations and CEOs don't get to cut in line. Our members of Congress must demand that any tax package this year significantly reduce child poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

**- Terri Knauber, Buffalo**

[https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-expand-the-child-tax-credit-for-those-living-in-poverty/article\\_176a4140-87cb-11ee-b9bf-fb6465c415a2.html](https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-expand-the-child-tax-credit-for-those-living-in-poverty/article_176a4140-87cb-11ee-b9bf-fb6465c415a2.html)



## The Importance of Home

*For generations, poor people have relied on each other to keep a roof over their heads. But in the world's wealthiest country, we need more.*

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 8, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://rooseveltislanddaily.news/2023/12/08/the-importance-of-home/>

**Reprinted in:**



<https://blackstarnews.com/lack-of-affordable-housing-is-a-big-obstacle-to-thriving-in-america/>

# DAILY NEWS

## Unfinished business

December 24, 2023

Congress went home without doing the work of protecting world democracy with Ukrainian aid or solving the nation's immigration crisis ("Congress leaves Ukraine hanging," editorial, Dec. 22). Sadly, there is more: Millions of America's children are hungry and homeless without the expanded Child Tax Credit being renewed. Evictions and homelessness are at record levels without a renter tax credit. Tuberculosis, the world's deadliest disease, needs the End TB Now Act to help control it. The world's children need the READ Act renewed to help them have an opportunity for education. So call your representatives, 202-224-3121, in the House and Senate and ask them to get back to the work of creating a better world by passing these initiatives of hope.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://www.nydailynews.com/2023/12/24/readers-sound-off-on-building-inspections-oprah-etymology-and-poverty-funding/>



# **North Carolina media**

# The News&Observer

## **Renter Tax Credit**

March 19, 2023

I was pleased to see President Biden calling for a restoration of the enhanced Child Tax Credit in his budget proposal. We saw how monthly CTC payments in 2021 cut poverty almost by half. Enacting a Renter Tax Credit is another way to make the tax code more equitable.

Those who are paying more than 30% of their income for housing have been hit hardest by sharp increases in rent. A refundable tax credit for renters would help make rent more affordable for these households.

I urge our representatives and senators in Washington, D.C., to help reinstate the CTC and enact a Renter Tax Credit. It's time for Congress to bring fairness to the tax code.

**- Patti Maxwell, Cary**

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article273073495.html>



## Here's where your refund may have gone

April 19, 2023

If you are a family expecting to get a tax refund and not getting one or it's significantly lower than planned – blame Congress for not acting on the expiring Child Tax Credit (CTC) last year. Haywood County doesn't need additions to the financial strain already faced by the mill shutdown.

In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty dropped and parents got more freedom to make ends meet. The Senate let the expansion expire. Currently, 19 million families will receive much smaller credits this year, including 2 million who will get nothing. Meanwhile, families making \$400,000 per year will get their full CTC. If that sounds a little backward, it's because it is.

While many look to file their taxes, there are the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. We need a tax code that works to break the cycle of poverty in America rather than continue it. Congress must start by expanding the CTC to low-income families. CTC could have aided so many families in Haywood County. Call on your Congress members to act today. Share the impact on our communities. Your voice matters.

**- Belinda Heldreth, Waynesville**

[https://www.themountaineer.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letters-to-the-editor-readers-continue-to-weigh-in-on-trump-declining-child-tax-credits/article\\_ef270194-db01-11ed-a48f-c3285affebfa.html#tncms-source=article-nav-next](https://www.themountaineer.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-readers-continue-to-weigh-in-on-trump-declining-child-tax-credits/article_ef270194-db01-11ed-a48f-c3285affebfa.html#tncms-source=article-nav-next)

# NEWS & RECORD

## Dangerous ploy

May 10, 2023

I am exasperated that House leadership is threatening to tank our economy to extract devastating budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty.

As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plan slashes dozens of services including SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and child care and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs.

It is dangerous for House leaders to even hint that the U.S. will not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it on the backs of people experiencing poverty. I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

**- Mary Jackson, Winston Salem**

[https://greensboro.com/opinion/letters/wednesdays-letters/article\\_a57a3666-edde-11ed-870f-23ed92555b6e.html](https://greensboro.com/opinion/letters/wednesdays-letters/article_a57a3666-edde-11ed-870f-23ed92555b6e.html)

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**JOURNAL**

[https://journalnow.com/news/local/winston-salem-speaks-up-letters-to-the-editor-for-the-week-of-may-12-2023/collection\\_ca673622-0efb-5841-b857-85d01e6bc4ab.html](https://journalnow.com/news/local/winston-salem-speaks-up-letters-to-the-editor-for-the-week-of-may-12-2023/collection_ca673622-0efb-5841-b857-85d01e6bc4ab.html)

# Citizen Times

## Debt ceiling is a dangerous game

May 28, 2023

Thanks for covering the debt ceiling negotiations (ACT May 16: Biden, leaders to discuss debt limit). Many Americans don't understand how important these conversations are. What happens to someone who doesn't make payments on the debt they've accumulated? Their credit score goes down and it's hard to borrow, or worse.

Not only is this dangerous to our economy, the hostage taking in the House of Representatives would require a bunch of cuts to vital safety net programs and more work requirements for an agreement. We already know that "work requirements" aren't about work when it comes to programs like the Child Tax Credit (CTC). A single parent working full time at \$10 per hour still doesn't qualify for the full CTC, while a stockbroker working a few hours a week making \$400,000 per year receives the full CTC. These "work requirements" deny benefits to those who need them the most.

Representative Edwards understands what it's like to grow up in a household that struggles to make ends meet. He said he was "immediately sympathetic" to the issue when we met with him in January. He and Senators Tillis and Budd should work to find common ground with Democrats on the debt ceiling and get rid of the income requirement for the CTC that stifles low-income workers and rural families across the state.

**- Ken Patterson, Asheville**

[https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=156bce796\\_134aba4](https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=156bce796_134aba4)

# Citizen Times

## Stop using debt ceiling for political purposes

June 7, 2023

The Kevin McCarthy led House is failing to do their Constitutionally required duty to honor United States debt as clearly stated in the 14th amendment, enacted by Republicans to ensure the U.S. would repay their Civil War debt.

Congress needs to authorize payment on the debt that THEY previously authorized and then negotiate with Senate Democrats to approve a FY 2024 budget more in line with their policies. They will need to compromise to ensure a balance of increased tax collection (by funding IRS for audits of those earning over \$400K) and by reduced spending including elimination of waste, fraud and abuse as well as trimming spending.

The House Republican proposed debt-ceiling-and-cuts bill puts the U.S. economy at grave risk by using the need to raise the debt ceiling as a bargaining chip to force a set of unpopular, harmful policies that would leave more people hungry, homeless and without health coverage and make it easier for wealthy people to cheat on their taxes. Time to stop using the debt ceiling for political purposes and start doing the job of fiscally managing the U.S. budget.

**- Howard Berkowitz, Candler**

[https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0900c9a88\\_134abf3](https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0900c9a88_134abf3)

# Citizen Times

## **GOP needs to stop obsession with culture wars**

June 18, 2023

The Citizen Times June 6 story 'Legislature approves limits on talking politics and race' demonstrates our legislature is accelerating their efforts to erase truth, and write their own narrative of history and facts for North Carolinians. While hiding behind what should already be law, prohibition of asking or considering personal politics during hiring interviews, the GOP legislators seek to erode our right to free speech and the quality of public education.

Our United States is a great nation that has arguably accomplished more to transform much of the world into free democratic societies than any nation ever, we have by today's standards tolerated some egregious actions. By teaching the mistakes of the past we learn not to repeat those mistakes in the future. Learning those facts does not introduce guilt or shame; instead it arms us with facts of past egregious acts (e.g. treatment of indigenous, slavery, Jim Crow laws, etc.) and facilitates our ability to recognize our nation or any other attempting to take similar actions. How can NC suspend our Constitutional right to free speech? Who in NC state government offices is qualified to determine when an employee discussing facts of history or gender crosses some imaginary line?

It is time for our GOP NC lawmakers to drop their obsession with culture wars and spend their time creating jobs, bettering public education (as in paying teachers more and investing in teaching materials), upgrading infrastructure, upgrading law enforcement, solving nagging problems of hunger, poverty and homelessness—working to better the lives of their constituents.

**- Howard Berkowitz, Candler**

[https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0f43a4659\\_134abfe](https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc.newsmemory.com/?publink=0f43a4659_134abfe)

# The Triangle Tribune

The Voice of the Black Community

## Poverty rates just jumped – and it was no accident

By Lakeisha McVey

September 20, 2023

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C.. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me. Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools



were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.

I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don't end. The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100 percent of my health insurance. That's a rarity. If I'd been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would've gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day. But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8 percent — its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.

Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

*Lakeisha McVey is a bereaved mother, social justice advocate, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.triangletribune.com/news/2023/09/20/opinion/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/>

# The News & Observer

## Child Tax Credit

October 15, 2023

The dysfunctional state of the U.S. House right now shows that some representatives care more about politics than they do about the people they were elected to serve. There are many issues waiting to be resolved, including child poverty.

When the U.S. Census Bureau released new figures last month, we learned that the number of U.S. children living in poverty more than doubled in 2022 after experiencing a historic low in 2021 due in large part to monthly Child Tax Credit payments. Research by the Century Foundation projected 150,000 N.C. children lost child care and 1,700 childcare programs closed when childcare stabilization grants ended Sept. 30.

It would be in the best interest of so many to reinstate a fully refundable child tax credit as quickly as possible.

– **Patti Maxwell, Cary**

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article280301649.html>



## **Put children first**

November 10, 2023

Last week a massive cold front hit North Carolina and I, like many other parents, found myself running to the nearest store to buy winter coats and warm clothes for my two small children. While I was shopping, I couldn't help but think about a small boy I saw during my son's first field trip earlier in the day. He had on a light jacket that barely fit and shorts in 30-degree weather. While my family was fortunate enough to be able to spend a few hundred dollars on new coats and warm clothes, more than 300,000 families in our state cannot say the same.

In 2021, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) expansion helped more than 61.2 million children across 36 million households and cut child poverty nearly in half in the U.S. Then Congress allowed the improved CTC to expire at the end of that year. Recent Census data has shown that child poverty more than doubled in 2022.

Fortunately, there is a way Congress can right that wrong. Make children the priority this year when it comes to tax credits. Corporations should not be the first to benefit when millions of children suffer. We need Rep. Foxx and Sens. Tillis and Budd to fight for North Carolina children and ensure that the full CTC reaches families with lower incomes, as they need it the most.

Every child should have warm clothes, a safe home, healthy food and an opportunity to thrive.

**- Elizabeth Brown, Winston Salem**

[https://journalnow.com/opinion/letters/the-readers-forum-analogy-between-israel-gaza-and-nat-turners-revolt-is-flawed/article\\_3b04ba90-7cef-11ee-be6c-2715b8d91d2b.html](https://journalnow.com/opinion/letters/the-readers-forum-analogy-between-israel-gaza-and-nat-turners-revolt-is-flawed/article_3b04ba90-7cef-11ee-be6c-2715b8d91d2b.html)

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[https://greensboro.com/news/local/greensboro-speaks-up-letters-to-the-editor-for-the-week-of-nov-10-2023/collection\\_6cd7426e-3e12-5048-965e-fc31696cc7b9.html](https://greensboro.com/news/local/greensboro-speaks-up-letters-to-the-editor-for-the-week-of-nov-10-2023/collection_6cd7426e-3e12-5048-965e-fc31696cc7b9.html)



## **Put kids first**

November 14, 2023

With the holiday season blossoming around us, it's easy to picture happy, glowing faces gathering around a tree or menorah. Children waiting anxiously to unwrap gifts, brimming with excitement and anticipation. But instead of lights and a pile of gifts, imagine darkness and one single brown box for the child to open. The child, still hopeful, opens the box to find the government's latest tax legislation; legislation that includes corporate tax breaks, yet nothing for children and families.

With Congress considering a new tax package, it must remember constituents and their families over big corporations. While watching "It's a Wonderful Life" or "A Christmas Carol" and cringing at the greed depicted in these holiday classics, we cannot possibly allow those we elect to perpetuate those ideals. With recent Census data showing that child poverty more than doubled in 2022, it is imperative that any tax package includes an expansion of the Child Tax Credit for families with low incomes. In 2021, the expanded CTC lifted more than 3 million children from poverty. By allowing the CTC expansion to expire, lawmakers have abandoned those children. Here is their chance at redemption.

When it comes to tax priorities this year, children and families must come first. Our members of Congress must demand that any tax package this year significantly reduce child poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

**- Danielle Shamel, Lewisville**

[https://journalnow.com/opinion/letters/the-readers-forum-mourning-the-death-of-the-republican-party/article\\_3258b1c2-8347-11ee-806b-2b1fb1882889.html](https://journalnow.com/opinion/letters/the-readers-forum-mourning-the-death-of-the-republican-party/article_3258b1c2-8347-11ee-806b-2b1fb1882889.html)

# **North Dakota media**



## **Time to reinstate Child Tax Credit**

*in 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all children in low-income families. That year, we saw the largest drop in child poverty ever recorded.*

March 2, 2023

It is heartening to see our elected officials designing legislation that will address societal and environmental ills. The bipartisan Second Chance Task Force, led by Congressman Kelly Armstrong, will study how to help incarcerated individuals re-enter society and avoid recidivism. Sen. John Hoeven has joined with Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) to strengthen Tribal law enforcement and increase public safety throughout Indian Country. Sen. Kevin Cramer has reintroduced a bipartisan bill, the Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act, to mitigate air, water and soil pollution caused by abandoned oil wells.

I urge our Congressional delegation to continue this productive bipartisanship by also joining across party lines to reduce poverty in our country. Doing so can be considered a form of crime prevention, because people raised in poverty are not only more likely to be imprisoned, but also are more likely to be the victims of crime.

The Child Tax Credit (CTC), originally passed in 1997 under a Republican-controlled Congress and expanded by Republicans several times, thereafter, has proven effective. In 2017 the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) increased the CTC amount from \$1,000.00 per child to \$2,000.00, but it failed to expand the credit to families with little to no taxable income. Fortunately, in 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all children in low-income families. That year, we saw the largest drop in child poverty ever recorded, but Congress let the 2021 expansion expire. Now 19 million low-income children are excluded from the full CTC.

One step to rectify this would be to treat all who work equally. Under the current CTC, low-income workers can only get \$1,400 of the credit as a refund, not the full \$2,000, as a credit on their tax bill. All families that meet the work requirement should get the full \$2,000 credit.



I call on Congressman Kelly Armstrong and Senators Kevin Cramer and John Hoeven to find a way to again lift millions of children out of poverty. The need is urgent. Impoverished children in North Dakota and throughout our nation can't wait.

**- Kathleen Ness, Grand Forks**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-time-to-reinstate-child-tax-credit>



## **Child Tax Credit should be expanded**

*Our elected officials should grasp the connection between public policy and the impact it can have on individual lives. Sadly, we are witnessing examples of the failure to do so.*

April 26, 2023

One of the main responsibilities of our elected officials is to grasp the connection between public policy and the impact it can have on individual lives. Sadly, we are witnessing examples of the failure to do so. The most vulnerable among us then must bear the brunt of faulty decision-making, with the rest of us made lesser for it.

The most recent example in North Dakota is the failure to fund free school lunch for all students. Despite solid evidence from research that shows the crucial link between nutrition and school performance, 13 of our state legislators said it was too costly. Yet, without recognizing the irony, they simultaneously voted to increase their own food stipend. They were able to feel the pinch of rising costs on their own behalf, but never mind the children. No need to mitigate the pressure on financially burdened families.

Our nation received an education in the value of supporting those in need when we had a temporary downward expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) during the height of the pandemic. The infusion of a few hundred dollars a month per family lifted millions of children out of poverty. It is well documented that parents used the funds to pay for food, clothing, transportation to work, childcare services so their kids were safe while they worked, and other life necessities. But enough members of Congress, including North Dakota's Congressional delegation, refused to support extending this highly effective intervention that dropped child poverty by 46%, while putting money into the economy.

If our elected officials were truly committed to lifting the financial burden off the shoulders of low-income families, they would find a way. Right now, the SNAP program could be strengthened, and the CTC expanded.

In the past there has been bipartisan support to feed children. In 1962, for example, President Nixon proclaimed it was time to put an end to hunger in America. Shouldn't it always be time to end hunger? Let's inform Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Representative Kelly Armstrong, as well as our state legislators, that the time is now.

**- Kathleen Ness, Grand Forks**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-child-tax-credit-should-be-expanded>



## **Child tax credit must be expanded**

*I strongly agree with the letter to the Herald by Kathleen Ness, calling to expand the Child Tax Credit.*

May 10, 2023

I strongly agree with the letter to the Herald by Kathleen Ness, calling to expand the Child Tax Credit.

As a teacher, I have seen the detrimental effects that stress and inadequate nutrition have on children. It is crucial that families receive assistance to ensure their children are well-rested and well-fed, and able to learn and grow to their full potential.

While Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit in 2021, this support has since ended, leaving many families struggling. In addition, rising rent costs and inflation make it difficult for families to afford basic necessities, leaving many children stressed and housing insecure. The impact of this stress is not just personal, but also affects the future of our country, as children who are not able to learn and thrive will struggle to reach their full potential.

To address these challenges, we must prioritize the well-being of our children and empower them to thrive by enacting a Renter's Tax Credit and expanding the Child Tax Credit.

**- Sarah Miller, St. Louis, Missouri**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-child-tax-credit-must-be-expanded>



## **Playing Russian roulette with America's credit**

*It is dangerous to play Russian roulette with America's credit. It is unconscionable to do it on the backs of people experiencing poverty.*

May 13, 2023

In less than a month, the United States could default on its debt for the first time in our history, triggering a major financial crisis. Sadly, the House of Representatives is not helping by ransoming America's credit for deep cuts to programs and services millions of people rely on.

As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plans cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool, and child care, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force tremendous hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and the rising cost of basic needs.

It is dangerous to play Russian roulette with America's credit. It is unconscionable to do it on the backs of people experiencing poverty. I ask Rep. Kelly Armstrong not to sacrifice these essential programs to balance the budget.

**- Rosemary Hoverson, Grand Forks**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-playing-russian-roulette-with-americas-credit>

## **Housing crisis becomes more dire**

*Renters are constantly more vulnerable to losing their shelter than homeowners in part because they are left out of benefits that homeowners, landlords and developers receive.*

**by Kathleen Ness, Grand Forks**

June 03, 2023

As the front-page article by Michael Standaert in the Grand Forks Herald emphasizes, limited apartment availability combined with escalating cost has created a crisis in both accessibility and affordability (Herald, May 17: Inadequate supply, rising costs hit renters statewide).

Rental costs have not been matched with rising wages. This forces people to choose between spending their earnings on shelter, or on food and other necessities, such as medical expenses. But typically, "the rent eats first," so other basic human needs go unmet. In the most severe circumstances, low-income working people are being flung into homelessness.

The crisis is becoming more and more dire, Standaert reports, as ND Rent Help, a federal program that assisted renters during the worst of the pandemic, stopped accepting new applications at the beginning of May. Furthermore, many renters who are low-and-middle income taxpayers are unable to tap into existing housing and homelessness programs. Compounding the difficulty, Congress refused to continue the extension of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) past December 2021, which families used to cover necessities, such as rent. To fill the gap, some states, among them, Minnesota, have instituted their own CTC. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimates child poverty will be reduced by 25% as a result.

Would that North Dakota follow this example. Renters are constantly more vulnerable to losing their shelter than homeowners in part because they are left out of benefits that homeowners, landlords and developers receive. And unlike their homeowner counterparts, renters do not have the benefit of being locked into a fixed mortgage

rate that insulates them from inflation and increasing housing prices. At the same time, existing programs are not meeting the needs of most rent-burdened households because of overregulation and bureaucracy. Meanwhile, economic benefits that go to landlords are not passed down to renters. Disparities in income and wealth have been created, maintained, and even increased by tax policies that favor the wealthy and corporations. The U.S. now faces multiple housing crises that have continued to worsen and evolve, including housing supply and cost problems in both rural and urban environments. The Eviction Lab has found that “eviction rates in some cities are increasing to or surpassing their pre-pandemic levels.” North Dakota, as well as the rest of the nation, needs immediate solutions to solve the constellation of problems that contribute to chronic housing instability and economic injustice. Right now, a minimum-wage worker cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment in any state in the U.S., according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Like renters in other parts of the country, North Dakotans deserve safe, affordable homes.

Building and restoring more affordable housing stock is essential but takes time. Addressing the inequities in our federal tax system, however, could be one intervention that could be put in place quickly. A fully refundable, federal Renter Tax Credit (RTC) could provide swift relief to a broad segment of the population experiencing housing insecurity that has not been served by existing housing and homelessness programs. The Renter Tax Credit would be a refundable tax credit targeted to rent-burdened households. This credit would apply to the amount of rent these households are paying above 30 percent of their income, not to exceed what they pay for rent or the fair market rent in their area, whichever is less.

I ask Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Representative Kelly Armstrong to collaborate with their colleagues across the political aisle to act on this desperate need. No one should have to be without a home in the richest country in the world.

*Kathleen Ness, of Grand Forks, is a volunteer with RESULTS, an organization that lobbies Congress to pass legislation that addresses poverty.*



## **Expand the Child Tax Credit to end child poverty**

*Congress let the CTC expansion and monthly payments expire. Now families are struggling, and children are falling back into poverty.*

August 05, 2023

This summer marks the two-year anniversary of when America solved child poverty. In July 2021, monthly payments for the expanded Child Tax Credit went out for the first time. Because the expansion was targeted to families with little or no income, over 3 million children were lifted from poverty after that first payment. Research has shown that parents spent their payments wisely, investing in housing, medical care, food, clothing, education, and other necessities of daily life that would benefit the health and well-being of their children.

But Congress let the CTC expansion and monthly payments expire. Now families are struggling, and children are falling back into poverty. But is Congress racing to help? House leaders certainly aren't. Their new tax plan offers trillions in tax cuts to the wealthy and big corporations, but nothing for the families who finally got some relief in 2021 only to have it taken away. Instead, they propose to use the tax code to make the rich richer, while overlooking the basic needs of our nation's most vulnerable children.

The conscience of our members of Congress is expressed through the public policies they support. Besides the basic humanitarian responsibility of making sure all our nation's children are housed, fed, and cared for in all essential ways, our elected officials should also study the future cost of not providing adequate support for child development. From a purely practical standpoint, if they want strong, healthy workers to contribute to our economy over the next several decades, the developmental needs of our youth cannot be postponed.

Our representatives and senators must prioritize families with low income by expanding the CTC this year and reject any tax legislation that doesn't do so. I ask



Senators Kevin Cramer and John Hoeven and Congressman Kelly Armstrong to join with colleagues on both sides of the political aisle to do the right thing.

In 2021, we figured out how to end child poverty. It's time to finish the job.

- **Kathleen Ness, Grand Forks**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-expand-the-child-tax-credit-to-end-child-poverty>



## **Reduce child poverty, expand the federal child tax credit**

*Our nation needs more than a gradual state-by-state advancement of the CTC.*

October 10, 2023

To the editor,

A guest opinion piece in the Grand Forks Herald on Aug. 16 lauded Minnesota's new child tax credit, aimed at "stabilizing families and reducing child poverty in both urban and rural areas of Minnesota." The hope is that the effect will be a 33% drop in child poverty, restoring the gain the federal child tax credit (CTC) achieved from 2020 to 2021. If Minnesotans who qualify for it receive it, the long-term impact will be significant, said the Duluth News Tribune.

Minnesota joins several other states in providing their own tax credit to fill the gap once the federal CTC expired at the end of 2021. Oregon and Utah also created new child tax credits, and five other states have expanded existing programs, reports the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

That individual states have committed to replacing all or some of the funds the federal government has withdrawn indicates that they consider the CTC to be a worthy investment of public funds, one that should be continued. However heartening, our nation needs more than a gradual state-by-state advancement of the CTC. Child poverty spiked after the federal CTC support to families was reduced two years ago, a crisis that should not be ignored. Fortunately, momentum continues on the federal level to re-institute the CTC expansion so the neediest among us can gain the assistance they require to raise healthy children. Current research indicates CTC benefits did not reduce employment; a concern frequently expressed among conservatives.

I ask North Dakota's congressional delegation, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to reconsider their opposition to the expansion of the Child

Tax Credit and trust the facts at hand, that the CTC is worthy of their support. The future of millions of children is at stake.

**- Kathleen Ness, Grand Forks**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-reduce-child-poverty-expand-the-federal-child-tax-credit>



## **Expansion of Child Tax Credit crucial**

*The Child Tax Credit invests in the safety and prosperity of America's children. The current law leaves 19 million children out of full credit.*

November 11, 2023

To the editor,

Last month, Tessa Van Doorne's letter to the editor commended Sen. Kevin Cramer for supporting scientific research funding for Alzheimer's. This is important, as it will benefit individuals, their families and caregivers. We have another segment of our population, our children, who also need adequate support from Congress.

I am counting on Sens. Kevin Cramer and John Hoeven as well as Rep. Kelly Armstrong to support lifting our children living in poverty through an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

In September 2023, the US Census released its 2022 annual poverty data, and the news was not good. In 2021, we were celebrating the lowest child poverty rate that had been recorded. In 2022, the child poverty rate more than doubled from 5.2% to 12.4%. Around 5 million children fell back into poverty last year. Why? Congress failed to keep the Child Tax Credit after 2021.

The Child Tax Credit invests in the safety and prosperity of America's children. The current law leaves 19 million children out of full credit; 17 million of those children are in families where at least one caregiver is working. The current tax code calculates a family's credit using the "income phase-in" formula. It provides no credit to families earning under \$2,500 per year, and then phases in slowly the more they earn. The lowest earning families get little, while higher earning families get the full credit. For example, a family of two parents and four children earning \$25,000 gets less than half the CTC that the same family earning \$400,000 receives.

Our children, our greatest resource, need our attention. Any tax legislation this year must reduce child poverty by expanding the Child Tax Credit.

**- Rosemary Hoverson, Grand Forks**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-expansion-of-child-tax-credit-crucial>



## **Expansion of Child Tax Credit must happen**

*The majority of American voters, across all districts and states, agree that we should invest in childrens' safety and prosperity, and Congress could help by expanding the Child Tax Credit.*

December 12, 2023

To the editor,

One of the timeless characters of the holiday season is Ebenezer Scrooge, the selfish, miserly businessman with no heart. But Scrooge's story was one of redemption. When faced with his role in perpetuating hunger and poverty, he changed.

This holiday season, too many children in our country face harsh realities. The majority of American voters, across all districts and states, agree that we should invest in their safety and prosperity, and Congress could help by expanding the Child Tax Credit. Every time the CTC is expanded to children from families with low income, child poverty drops. No other tool works better at lifting kids out of poverty. Research on the CTC shows that 91% of households earning \$35,000 or less used CTC funds for food, utilities, rent, and education, childcare and transportation. These data confirm what we already knew – that families with low incomes use the credit wisely to improve circumstances for their children.

Another important benefit of the full CTC is that it allows families to secure and maintain employment, creating an exponentially positive effect for them and the economy. Currently, only people with higher incomes get the full CTC, leaving 19 million children out of the full credit, 17 million of whom come from families where at least one caregiver works in the formal labor market.

Ironically, children from families with low incomes are the ones missing out on the full CTC. The current tax code calculates each family's CTC using the "income phase-in" formula. This phase-in provides no credit at all to families earning under \$2,500 per year, but after that, a family's CTC increases the more they earn. So, the phase-in

provides a smaller credit to those with smaller incomes. For that reason, those 19 million children now left out of the full CTC are those who need it most – whose families would use it to cover necessities like food and rent.

This season, I ask Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Representative Kelly Armstrong to enact legislation to help prevent needless suffering. At the end of the story, Scrooge learned his lesson. Our leaders should do the same and expand the Child Tax Credit now.

**- Kathleen Ness, Grand Forks**

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-expansion-of-child-tax-credit-must-happen>

**Ohio  
media**



# The Columbus Dispatch

## We need a renter's tax credit

February 23, 2023

It was disheartening to read the well-researched Feb. 20 article "Housing voucher program failing many."

While the concept started out offering hope of assistance to low-income renters, the fact that only one in four people who qualify for a voucher actually gets one and may wait years for it is a disgrace.

Even more upsetting is the dehumanizing treatment of tenants described in the article. It's hard enough to be threatened with the loss of one's home without being treated so callously.

A new idea for aid to low-income renters is using the tax code to assist with the high cost of rent; much like how homeowners are helped by a mortgage interest tax break.

A renter's tax credit would supplement the difference between a person's rent and 30% of their income (which is what housing is supposed to cost so people have money left for food, utilities and other needs) It would go directly to the renter on a monthly basis and eliminate all the red tape, waiting, humiliation, stigma and insecurity attached to Housing Choice Vouchers.

There is no one thing that will fix this overwhelming and growing affordable housing crisis but increasing the affordable housing stock over the next few decades and enacting a change in the tax code to immediately give some relief would be two steps that would go a long way toward relief.

A renter's tax credit should be seriously considered by our legislators as a way to right some long standing wrongs in seeking the American Dream of having secure housing.

**- Virginia M. Vogts, Columbus**

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/02/23/letters-jim-jordan-looking-to-settle-personal-vendettas-ohio-columbus-renters-tax-credit-water/69929478007/>



## **Reader reacts to Knox County housing shortage**

April 3, 2023

After reading the article "Knox County has a housing shortage; how might Pine Hill Independent Senior Living help?" I appreciate the efforts being made to address the issue.

However, I believe that it is Congress' responsibility to provide a comprehensive solution that benefits all Americans, such as implementing a Renter's Tax Credit.

Senator Brown has previously supported similar proposals and has been a strong advocate for impactful policies. This credit would assist renters who are spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent, similar to how homeowners receive assistance through the tax code.

While it may take time to build more housing, a Renter's Tax Credit could be established quickly if Congress prioritized addressing this crisis nationwide.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Missouri**

[https://www.knoxpages.com/oped/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/reader-reacts-to-knox-county-housing-shortage/article\\_b418741c-d24f-11ed-b4ef-3f14390a31f5.html](https://www.knoxpages.com/oped/letters_to_the_editor/reader-reacts-to-knox-county-housing-shortage/article_b418741c-d24f-11ed-b4ef-3f14390a31f5.html)

## ***No Title***

April 8, 2023

Latasha Jones' contributed column, "VOICES: From homelessness to having a business of my own," highlights the critical work she does to care for children, emphasizing that they are the future of our country and should be supported. In 2021, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit to all low-income families and provided monthly payments. As a result, child poverty decreased significantly, and parents gained flexibility to cover essential expenses like rent, food, and utilities. Unfortunately, 51 senators allowed these payments to expire in December 2021, erasing much of the progress made. Child poverty has since increased, and many families struggle to afford basic necessities, including childcare. We already have a solution to child poverty; it only requires political will from Congress to implement it. Let us end poverty by expanding programs like the Child Tax Credit.

– **Sarah McVoy, Miller, University City, MO**

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/ideas-voices/letters-to-the-editor-april-8-2023/V5X73V3ZIJHEXDXA5NOA3SV4T4/>

## **Revive Child Tax Credit to help fight poverty in the U.S.**

April 28, 2028

Taxes are on our minds this time of year. When we pay our taxes, we want to know that the money is being distributed wisely and fairly.

Few programs were wiser uses of our tax dollars than the briefly expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC), which reduced by 46 percent the number of children living in families experiencing poverty in 2021. Those gains were erased when the expansion expired in January 2022, causing 3.7 million children, thousands of them our neighbors in Lorain County, to lose benefits. We must urge our lawmakers to revisit the CTC.

At the same time, they need to correct the unfair distribution of the funds. Can you believe that the lower a families' income is, the smaller the credit they receive? A married couple – one parent earning \$27,000 as a home health aide and the other caring for their three young children at home – receives a credit of \$3,785, while higher-income families receive a full \$2,000 per child, or \$6,000. If Congress enabled every family with low income to receive the full credit amount, they'd provide more financial security for children, including putting food on the table and paying for housing, utilities, and insurance.

Our U.S. senators, Sherrod Brown, D-Cleveland, and J.D. Vance, R-Cincinnati, and our representatives, need to hear from us, their constituents, that we want them to be leaders in making the tax code fairer to end child poverty.

**- Allison Gallaher, Grafton**

No online link

# The Columbus Dispatch

## The tax code must be fair

April 30, 2023

It's tax time and, sadly, millions of families with low incomes are going to see their tax refunds drop this year or disappear altogether. That's because Congress let the expanded Child Tax Credit expire last year.

In 2021 Congress expanded the credit to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty dropped by 46% and parents got more freedom to make ends meet. But the Senate let the expansion expire. Now, 19 million children in families with low-income will receive a much smaller Child Tax Credit this year, including 2 million who will get nothing.

Senator J.D. Vance during the Senate hearing on Improving rail safety in response to the East Palestine, Ohio train Derailment on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

That includes thousands of children in Columbus. Meanwhile, families making \$400,000 per year will get their full Child Tax Credit.

Children should not have to grow up in poverty so we can make the rich richer. We need a tax code that works for all Americans. Congress must start right now by expanding the credit to families with low incomes in any tax legislation this year.

It's up to us to tell our Senators Sherrod Brown and J.D. Vance that we want the tax code to be fair.

**- Virginia Vogts, Columbus**

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/04/27/sherrod-brown-ohioans-are-rightfully-angry-at-norfolk-southern-8000-apartment-for-rent-in-columbus/70154164007/>

# THE CHRONICLE

## Call Congress to support the Child Tax Credit

May 4, 2023

It's sad to imagine millions of children living in poverty, wondering if they will eat or have a roof over their heads, all in the world's wealthiest country. Consider the letter to the editor, headlined "Revive Child Tax Credit to help fight poverty in the U.S." by Allison Gallaher, which was published in The Chronicle-Telegram on Friday.

Thanks to U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Cincinnati, for the expanded Child Tax Credit, calling its passage his greatest day in Congress so far. Now these children are back in poverty and need our help. By Calling (202) 224-3121 and asking to be connected to your senators or representative, you can leave a message about this important work. It took a total of one minute and seven seconds for me to do this. Got a minute to make a difference?

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

No online link

***No title***

May 6, 2027

I am exasperated that House leadership is threatening to tank our economy to extract devastating budget cuts that target people experiencing poverty. As a condition for allowing the U.S. to pay its bills, the House plan slashes dozens of services including SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, preschool and childcare, and core global poverty programs. These cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the COVID economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs. It is dangerous for House leaders to even hint that the U.S. will not honor its debts. It is cruel for them to do it on the backs of people experiencing poverty. I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject the House cuts to anti-poverty programs and pass a clean debt ceiling immediately.

**- Annick Richardson, Dayton**

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/ideas-voices/letters-to-the-editor-may-6-2023/7S3TPAOWY5COJMWBAMYVQUQQGM/>

# THE CHRONICLE

## **Congress should work to help families out of poverty**

June 10, 2023

The insightful editorial, headlined “Debt deal averts calamity” published Tuesday by The Chronicle-Telegram was right to congratulate both parties for working together to avert default and also reminded us that this economic “Armageddon” could return in 2025.

The editorial also talked about cutting the deficit with tax fairness. Instead of keeping tax cuts that benefited the 1 percent, it is time to help families by renewing the expanded Child Tax credit, and a renter tax credit and other initiatives of equity. We can turn Congress to these family matters by calling those who represent us at (202) 224-3121 and asking them to pass these ladders out of poverty and put regular families ahead of the wealthy. Our voices matter.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

No online link



# THE CHRONICLE

## **Government must do a better job helping families**

July 26, 2023

Three cheers for the IRA for funding \$38 million from high-income delinquents. Sad to read studies show the top 1 percent income earners fail to report 20 percent of their earnings, The Associated Press' Fatima Houssein reported on July 14. It makes you stop and think about who wants to cut IRS funding. Perhaps it is the same members of Congress who failed to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90 percent of American families and cut child poverty by 46 percent. Thankfully, the American Family Act, co-sponsored by over 200 members of the House, would bring back that family-centered tax credit. We can all do our part by asking our representatives to pass the American Family Act and fully fund the IRS so everyone pays their fair share.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

No online link

# THE CHRONICLE

## **The Child Tax Credit should be renewed to help families**

August 31, 2023

The games some politicians play with cutting taxes, cutting services, then finding a sneaky way to get more needed is often just a sleight of hand that affects those in poverty the most.

The Chronicle-Telegram editorial board made a similar point in its editorial "A tax by another name," published Aug. 24.

It'd [sic] time to stop playing games with American lives, like the failure to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90 percent of families. Studies showed that monies were used for food, utilities, rent and education. When Congress failed to renew it, an estimated 19 million families with low incomes no longer received the full benefit. This is increasing inequity, especially for people marginalized by race, geography and ability. Renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit would turn this around, cut child poverty and put America back on the road to equity. The American Family Act would do just that. Ask your members of Congress to support it.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

No online link

# Tribune Chronicle

## Tax credit can help end child poverty

September 10, 2023

DEAR EDITOR:

Two years ago, eligible families started getting monthly payments under the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, or CTC. This led to enormous benefits for those families needing the most support. In 2021, following the expansion of CTC, child poverty in the U.S. dropped by 46%, with the CTC itself lifting 2.9 million children out of poverty. The expansion unfortunately expired, with disastrous effects.

Immediately after the expiration, 3.7 million American children fell into poverty, and a new CLASP report has shown that when these payments stopped, over 40% of families saw increased financial and food insecurity. It is imperative that we get back to an expanded CTC, something that is especially needed locally. In 2020, over 25% of children in Trumbull County lived in poverty, well above the national average.

I call on U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce and U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown and J.D. Vance to work with their colleagues in the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee to expand the full benefits of CTC, prioritizing low-income families and reject tax legislation which doesn't.

**- Keith Task, Southington**

<https://www.tribtoday.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/09/tax-credit-can-help-end-child-poverty/>

# Marion Star

## Renew the expanded Child Tax Credit

September 29, 2023

In the richest country in the world, it is profoundly disturbing that poverty is on the rise again – especially amongst our children. Census data released last week revealed that the poverty rate for children in the U.S. doubled from 5.2% in 2021 to 12.4% in 2022. Almost 22% of the children under 18 in Marion County live in poverty.

And U.S. policymakers know why. The increase in child poverty is directly linked to the discontinuation of the expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC). This expansion was an unprecedented experiment in direct cash transfers where families received monthly payments instead of annual installments during the pandemic. These funds empowered families to lift themselves out of poverty – and millions of children thrived.

But that is not today's story. Instead at my local elementary school on Friday afternoons, teachers are packing up donated food items for the children they know will not have food to eat over the weekend, tucking it into their backpacks to protect their privacy. Let's change this story!

Your members of Congress need to hear from you, their constituents. Contact them. Tell Senator JD Vance and Rep. Troy Balderson to expand the Child Tax Credit to more low income Ohio families in any tax legislation this year.

**- Mary Casey, Columbus (Marion native)**

<https://www.marionstar.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/09/29/marion-intersection-concern-expanded-child-tax-credit-renewal-accidents-u-turm-poverty/70961332007/>

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Tell them to do their jobs

September 29, 2023

We are facing yet another government shutdown. Things were hard for many families even before this because the Child Tax Credit was not continued at the end of 2021 causing families to struggle to make ends meet. The credit was long thought to be a game changer when it came to lowering child poverty. Recently released U.S. Census data confirmed what we already knew.

In 2021, when the credit was expanded in response to the pandemic, child poverty went down 46% and 2.9 million children were lifted out of poverty. That meant fewer empty stomachs and more kids getting their basic needs met.

Now the 2022 Census data confirms that child poverty nearly doubled in 2022. It went from 5.2% to 12.4% nationally. In Ohio it stands at 18.6% but in Franklin County 21.3% of our children are living in poverty. That means more than one in five children right here are suffering.

To make matters worse, Congress's threat to shut the government down will immediately slash the Women Infant and Children Program (WIC) which 7 million women and children depend upon for nutrition. In addition, childcare funding is about to be cut which will cause many childcare centers to close, raise tuition and lay off staff.

What's going on? Is Congress deliberately trying to make things impossible for families? It's time to stop playing this cruel game and run the government like it was meant to run, for the people.

Tell your U.S. Representatives to do their job and come to an agreement so the government doesn't shut down. And tell them to support the CTC for the poorest families. These antics will have serious consequences.

**- Virginia Vogts, Columbus**

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/09/29/columbus-schools-prime-real-estate-sell-it-before-new-levy-naacp-nana-watson-jennifer-adair-ohio/70993287007/>



## **Why the loss of child tax credit is catastrophic for American children**

October 5, 2023

Dear Editor:

I knew when the Child Tax Credit (CTC) was not renewed at the end of 2021, there would be serious consequences. However, I wasn't expecting it to be as extreme as we have recently learned. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, since Congress allowed the Child Tax Credit to expire, child poverty in 2022 has doubled. This was the largest single year increase on record.

When the Child Tax Credit was originally passed, it would lift millions out of poverty... reducing it to 46%. Finally, something was being done about a problem that has been increasing since the 1970's. Never mind, it has been with us since the country's founding.

The Child Tax Credit was working, too. Families were able to meet basic needs, such as food, housing and rent. Friends of mine, who benefitted from the policy, began to see a better future for their children. The ongoing emotional and physical pressures that come with poverty – were beginning to ease. Here was irrefutable proof that poverty was solvable. Yet, Congress failed America's children again – when they did not continue the CTC – at the end of 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to remind lawmakers, as well as the public, how catastrophic the loss of the Child Tax Credit will be. Without it, the repercussions will be felt for years. Therefore, the reinstatement of the expanded and refundable Child Tax Credit is vital for the future of our nation.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, (OECD) is a forum made up of 37 democracies. For 50 years, its purpose has been to provide an environment where governments can compare experiences, seek answers to

common challenges, identify good practices, and develop high standards for economic policy. It includes countries such as Denmark, New Zealand, Spain and the United Kingdom. According to their findings, the United States is consistently ranked as one of the worst in child poverty rates. With America's status as the richest country in the world, we simply cannot accept this.

Lastly, I would like to thank Senator Sherrod Brown for his leadership in promoting a Child Tax Credit that benefitted the lowest income families, and I call on Ohio's junior Senator JD Vance to do the same.

**- Juanita Brown, Columbus, Ohio**

<https://thecincinnatiherald.com/2023/10/05/child-tax-credit-child-poverty/>



# Oklahoma media

# THE OKLAHOMAN

## **Elected leaders need to work to raise up Oklahomans living in poverty**

October 14, 2023

In response to "Which Oklahomans made the cut in Forbes 400?" that published Oct. 4 in The Oklahoman, why are we focusing on the wealthiest Americans in our state when the average Oklahoman is living in poverty? Most recent U.S. Census data places the poverty rate for Oklahoma at 15.7%, which was higher than the national average of 11.5%. We are in the top 10 of highest poverty rates in the country.

We should be lifting up our fellow Oklahomans, especially ones in need. Our elected leaders can do this by giving their support to legislation that has proven, viable solutions to poverty. We urge Reps. Tom Cole and Kevin Hern to get Oklahoma out of this particular top 10 list by supporting the expanded Child Tax Credit and a Renter's Tax Credit.

**- Jacoby Gonzales and Tiffany Tagbo, Tulsa**

<https://www.oklahoman.com/story/opinion/2023/10/14/letters-on-the-proposed-okc-arena-oklahomans-in-poverty-ryan-walters/71056064007/>



## **Affordable housing not so affordable anymore**

October 27, 2023

I commend the Tulsa World for publishing "Tulsa's most affordable starter homes" online on Oct. 12 in an attempt to help Oklahomans find affordable homes. But I must ask, are these prices really affordable?

In an economic climate where average rent and mortgages have soared, there is no place in America where average rents meet the definition of affordability.

In fact, the shortage of affordable housing has become so bad that the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency is closing its waiting list.

Approximately 17,000 families are waiting for rental assistance. For some, the wait has been nearly three years.

The difference between renters and homebuyers is stark.

There is a solution, and we need Congress to act now by changing the tax code to prevent citizens from suffering further from lack of affordable housing.

A Renter Tax Credit targeted to rent-burdened households (those paying more than 30% of their total income toward housing) would allow them to afford a safe place to live while also reducing evictions and homelessness.

I urge our members of Congress to help Oklahomans struggling to keep a roof over their heads by passing a Renter Tax Credit as soon as possible.

*Editor's note: Tiffany Tagbo is a group leader for RESULTS Oklahoma, a grassroots organization advocating for better public policy to improve the lives of people who are in poverty.*

**- Tiffany Tagbo, Oklahoma City**

[https://tulsaworld.com/opinion/letters/letter-affordable-housing-not-so-affordable-anymore/article\\_8a21fb68-73aa-11ee-a9c7-db22102081b9.html](https://tulsaworld.com/opinion/letters/letter-affordable-housing-not-so-affordable-anymore/article_8a21fb68-73aa-11ee-a9c7-db22102081b9.html)

# THE OKLAHOMAN

## **Expand the Child Tax Credit and establish a Renter's Tax Credit**

November 25, 2023

I am writing to express my concern about the widening wealth gap between the rich and the poor in our state. While Oklahoma ranks 12th in the nation for the number of billionaires per million people, we simultaneously hold the 45th and 42nd positions in terms of millionaire households and average income, respectively which is significantly lower than the national average.

This divide is concerning. First, it means that a small number of people are controlling a large share of the wealth in our state. This can lead to a concentration of power and influence, which can undermine democracy. Second, the divide between the rich and the poor can stifle economic growth. When most of the wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few people, there is less money to invest in businesses and create jobs. This can lead to a stagnation of the economy and a decline in the living standards for everyone.

I urge your readers to join me in calling upon our elected officials to take immediate action to address this growing divide by advocating for the permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit and establishing a federal Renter's Tax Credit. These measures would provide much-needed financial relief to renters, who are often among the most vulnerable members of our community and would lift children in need out of poverty. Additionally, these credits would stimulate consumer spending, boosting our economy and propelling our state out of the bottom 10.

We must prioritize the well-being of our children and those living in poverty. We cannot allow wealthy corporations and CEOs to cut in line while the gap between the rich and the poor widens relentlessly. I implore Sen. James Lankford, Sen. Markwayne Mullin and Rep. Kevin Hern to champion the expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the establishment of a Renters Tax Credit in Oklahoma.

**- Jacoby Gonzales, Tulsa**

<https://www.oklahoman.com/story/opinion/2023/11/25/letters-on-womens-health-the-border-the-thunder-markwayne-mullin/71593393007/>

# THE OKLAHOMAN

## **Wage war against hunger, poverty**

December 16, 2023

In response to: "Oklahoma governor's executive order to put higher education diversity programs under review."

Oklahoma politicians are fighting the wrong war. Instead of waging war on DEI initiatives, Native American tribes, and the so-called "woke movement," politicians need to focus on waging war against hunger and poverty in the state.

According to Hunger Free Oklahoma, 208,110 children aren't getting the nutrition they need, which translates to more than 1 in 5 children facing food insecurity.

The group also reported Oklahoma is one of five states with food insecurity rates above 14.5%. Their studies show students who go to school hungry have more behavioral and social problems in school, are at a higher risk of having lower math and reading scores, and have lower high school graduation rates.

Given these outcomes, politicians shouldn't have been upset or surprised when Oklahoma's State Report Card from the Oklahoma State Department of Education disclosed only 27% of students met or exceeded grade-level standards by scoring at or above the proficient level on the state test in math, reading and science.

What future do our children have to look forward to when such outcomes dim the lights of their bright minds?

Simply put, the biggest threat to our children and their future is hunger and food insecurity, which are caused by poverty. Our children need solutions such as the child tax credit and free lunch pilot programs to be implemented now.

Let this be a call to action for Oklahoma politicians to start implementing solutions that will keep hunger out of the classroom so our children can start to focus on learning and succeeding. Let's show our children we care by ensuring their basic needs are met.

— **Tiffany Tagbo, Oklahoma City**

<https://www.oklahoman.com/story/opinion/2023/12/16/letters-on-womens-health-hunger-cease-fire-third-party-candidates/71913071007/>



# Oregon media



## Tracks to '26

January 4, 2023

Wow! So fascinating to listen to the ninth grade students you have been following since kindergarten ("Tracks to '26: Now in grade nine, students answer annual questions" by Kirby Neumann-Rea, Columbia Gorge News, Dec. 28, 2022). Such a commitment for a newspaper to follow these students for 13 years! Unlike the usual studies that are mostly statistical and anonymous, the real lives of these kids come through.

As our country makes decisions that change the future for our children, like not renewing the Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families, or health care questions, it would be interesting to see how these decisions change their lives. Perhaps there will be more on the future in the coming years.

Stay tuned. I will.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

[https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/opinion-letters-to-the-editor-jan-4/article\\_85ff6dec-8baa-11ed-af54-775ae3bc3663.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/opinion-letters-to-the-editor-jan-4/article_85ff6dec-8baa-11ed-af54-775ae3bc3663.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Let's Pass a Renters' Tax credit**

February 9, 2023

Kevin C. Cronin's letter to the editor ("Stop The City's Foot Dragging On Helping The Homeless," Feb. 2) presents a disturbing picture of the City Manager's response to homelessness, especially in light of Gov. Tina Kotek's calling it an emergency demanding immediate action.

It's time for citizens to pose questions and call for action on the local and national levels, and to thank and encourage Gov. Kotek to keep up the focus to end this situation of unhoused people. On the national level, the expanded child tax credit gave families hope by helping them catch up on rent, bills, and paying for food. This ladder out of poverty needs to be renewed and a renters' tax credit passed that would help to cut the slide to homelessness among people paying too much of their income for rent (millions pay 50 percent or more).

So let's raise our voices so our representatives at all levels know that it is time to end this blight of homelessness in the world's richest nation. Passing these initiatives is a good start and your voice can help it happen.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2023/02/09/online-extra-letters-feb-9/>



## Inspirational read

February 22, 2023

Always inspirational to read about those who help members of their who are in need ("Hearts of Gold" honorees focus on serving those most in need by Susan Frost, Columbia Gorge News, Feb. 8). The "Hearts of Gold" award winners are a great example for us all.

One way to step up with this inspiration is to call on our members of Congress to follow this example and renew the expanded child tax credit that cut child poverty in half and helped millions of families pay rent, catch up on bills, and afford food. A renters' tax credit modeled after this would help slow the slide to homelessness, and end people paying 50% and more of their income for rent. So be inspired and do your part to help those most in need by asking your representatives to pass these and other initiatives to make a difference for "those most in need."

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

[https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-week-of-feb-23---28/article\\_85f059e6-b306-11ed-989d-f70ce249865d.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-week-of-feb-23---28/article_85f059e6-b306-11ed-989d-f70ce249865d.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## Val Hoyle should live up to promise

March 17, 2023

Despite prior bipartisan support, the Child Tax Credit has not been renewed, despite its important impact on reducing child poverty.

As a loving older sister and a former babysitter, I can say that having that extra money to take care of a child can make all the difference. In a world where the cost of living is rising, from rent to child care, families need the support of the tax code.

It is high time that the tax code works for working families. In my own community of Corvallis, I know families who are food-insecure and are struggling to make ends meet.

The Child Tax Credit can make all the difference. This issue is acute and affects not only our communities, but also communities all across the country.

Luckily for us, we have Val Hoyle, a newly elected progressive whose campaign claims have promised to work for working families. Val Hoyle should live up to that promise by voting "Yes" on the Child Tax Credit to help children and families all over Oregon and the country.

**- Savannah Sanford, RESULTS volunteer, Corvallis**

[https://www.gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-val-hoyle-should-live-up-to-promise/article\\_1acaa3a7-0e44-5405-982d-47677bf5f9fd.html](https://www.gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-val-hoyle-should-live-up-to-promise/article_1acaa3a7-0e44-5405-982d-47677bf5f9fd.html)

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No online link



## **Oregonians shouldn't be stuck solving the housing crisis alone—the federal tax code can help**

**By Laura Labarre**

April 7, 2023

If you're like me, you have appreciated the Portland Tribune's coverage of the recent cascade of plans and actions to address Oregon's severe housing crises. The proposed steps by the Governor's office, the legislature and local governments are complex and enmeshed, much like the underlying problems causing the crises. As a policy and communications professional at the federal level, though, I cannot help but feel like this shouldn't be all on us. The federal government has a role to play, and that role is through the tax code. It's time for a federal Renter Tax Credit.

The housing crises in Oregon are uniquely Oregonian but also universal. Since the end of the pandemic eviction moratorium, Oregonians are losing their housing at historically high rates. Evictions do not affect all Oregonians equitably, Black and other ethnically minoritized Oregonians lose their housing more often than white families, worsening structural inequities. This is happening almost everywhere in the US as skyrocketing rents easily outpace wages. But in this moment, I am not here to point the finger at landlords or employers or anyone in particular — we are all in this together now. I'm here to say that the tax code has a track record of substantial impact on similar issues, and it's time to put it to work for housing.

In an excellent op-ed published by the Portland Tribune on November 23, 2022, the author reminded us that the 2021 expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) contributed to an astounding 46 percent drop in child poverty. Take a second with that. (As a side note, it is absolutely worth restoring the CTC expansion as soon as humanly possible as the op-ed author says). Cutting child poverty in half—that is the power of the tax code. We can harness this power for renters.

For full disclosure, I am a homeowner. When my spouse and I took the plunge from renting to ownership, we were welcomed with open arms by the tax code. We tapped into a (since lapsed) first-time homebuyer's credit and have used the mortgage interest deduction, the property tax deduction, and an origination fee deduction. This was the first time the tax code supported me with housing, though I needed it more as a desperate Portland renter and new grad in the 2011 job market. It's time for renters to get support alongside their homeownership counterparts.

There are many ways a Renter Tax Credit could play out at the federal level, but most importantly it should cap the cost of housing at no more than 30 percent of a household's income. Tying the credit to renters rather than landlords helps ensure competitiveness in the market since a renter could take themselves and their tax credit to a new building in the face of poor living conditions or other issues. A Renter Tax Credit will also alleviate the bureaucratic burden created by other rental assistance programs that cannot even begin to serve the number of people facing housing challenges.

Keeping Oregonians in their homes would not only help address homelessness but boost our local labor markets since eviction often gives way to job loss (not the other way around). Let's tell our members of Congress that we know the power of the tax code, and we want them to start exploring a federal Renter Tax Credit. Call them, write them, meet with them and demand action on a Renter Tax Credit — or volunteer with an organization coalescing around this issue like the one I work for called RESULTS. Let's turn our state-level work on housing into the collective effort it truly is.

*Laura Labarre is Associate Director of Communications at RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund, a grassroots anti-poverty advocacy organization. She lives in Portland, and can be reached at [llabarre@results.org](mailto:llabarre@results.org).*

[https://www.portlandtribune.com/opinion/guest\\_opinion/opinion-oregonians-shouldn-t-be-stuck-solving-the-housing-crisis-alone-the-federal-tax-code/article\\_ae2610d4-d577-11ed-aa19-6b2162d4e131.html](https://www.portlandtribune.com/opinion/guest_opinion/opinion-oregonians-shouldn-t-be-stuck-solving-the-housing-crisis-alone-the-federal-tax-code/article_ae2610d4-d577-11ed-aa19-6b2162d4e131.html)



## **We can bring about positive change**

April 12, 2023

Just saw Savannah Sanford's March 17 letter to the editor reminding Val Hoyle to keep her promise to "work for working families, by voting to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit" ("Val Hoyle should live up to promise").

This is a great example of following up with those we elect. In this case, the expanded Child Tax Credit momentarily cut child poverty in half for the short time it was law.

We can all help by adding our voices to her request, or make our own if we have a different representative. At the same time, we can ask for support for a renter tax credit that will slow evictions and homelessness.

Joining our voices, we can bring about positive change for families across the country.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

[https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-we-can-bring-about-positive-change/article\\_55f86a31-2fc4-5ce1-a7ef-662f2a6b7dff.html](https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-we-can-bring-about-positive-change/article_55f86a31-2fc4-5ce1-a7ef-662f2a6b7dff.html)

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[https://democratherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-we-can-bring-about-positive-change/article\\_e02563a6-d33c-11ed-9b64-03e142297cd6.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://democratherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-we-can-bring-about-positive-change/article_e02563a6-d33c-11ed-9b64-03e142297cd6.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Make the tax code fair for everyone**

April 16, 2023

It's that time of the year: tax time.

Taxes may not be fun, but they should at least be fair. Sadly, decades of tax cuts for the rich have skewed things the wrong way.

Congress can take action now to help make things right. First, expand the Child Tax Credit. In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty dropped and parents breathed a sigh of relief. But Congress let it expire, and families are again struggling to make ends meet.

Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit. Millions of American renters can't keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives generous tax breaks to wealthy homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would give rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help with the high cost of rent.

Congress rewrote the tax code for a privileged few. It's time to rebalance the scales. I urge our members of Congress to expand the CTC and enact an RTC now.

**- Dennis Epstein, Corvallis**

[https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-make-the-tax-code-fair-for-everyone/article\\_6904faeb-0943-552e-ab83-b10e9d70eed6.html](https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-make-the-tax-code-fair-for-everyone/article_6904faeb-0943-552e-ab83-b10e9d70eed6.html)

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## **The Tax System Can Help The Homeless**

May 25, 2023

Eugene, like cities across the country, is struggling with the homeless crisis. It is a national crisis that deserves a national solution ("Eugene's Homeless Policy Doesn't Measure Up," by maRco Elliot, EW, May 18). One of the best ways for Congress to deal with this and other problems of poverty is our tax system. The expanded child tax credit cut child poverty by 46 percent, and families had a better chance to pay rent, utilities and buy food.

Let's call on our representatives, 202-224-3121, to renew it. A proposed renter tax credit would end families already struggling with poverty, yet paying up to 90 percent of their income for rent. By capping their rent to income ratio at 30 percent, millions could remain housed. With the current housing voucher program only reaching 25 percent of those who qualify, a renter tax credit could reach all in need and without the years of waiting for a voucher or the landlord that takes them. With tax breaks for the wealthy are up for renewal, it is time instead to level the playing field and give those families experiencing poverty relief with these tax initiatives. America's future will be better for it.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2023/05/25/the-tax-system-can-help-the-homeless/>



## Three cheers

June 14, 2023

Three cheers for the Columbia Gorge Gleaning Project working to feed the hungry in five counties in Oregon and Washington (“Gorge Gleaning saves food from going to waste, feeds hungry locals” in the Columbia Gorge News, May 31). As part of the debt ceiling deal, almost 750,000 older adults aged 50-54 are at risk of losing food assistance through an expansion of the existing, failed SNAP work-reporting requirement. It is time for Congress to pass ladders out of poverty, not initiatives that swell the ranks of hunger and poverty. The expanded Child Tax Credit proved that tax credits work, cutting child poverty by 46%. A renter tax would insure people experiencing poverty would not pay over 50% of their income for rent. How can equity initiatives like these pass? Congress needs to hear from us; call 202-224-3121, ask to speak to your representatives and request them to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit and pass a renters tax credit as first steps. Our calls and follow-up can put the focus on America becoming a place of equity for all!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-june-14-2023/article\\_8135e884-0a4b-11ee-8c5d-ef6f59989248.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-june-14-2023/article_8135e884-0a4b-11ee-8c5d-ef6f59989248.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Ask reps to pass the American Family Act**

July 8, 2023

Happy birthday to our country, and thanks for the ideas of how to celebrate ("How to celebrate Independence Day 2023 in the Mid-Willamette Valley," July 3)!

Another way to celebrate is asking those who represent us to pass initiatives that lead to millions of Americans to finally experience independence from poverty. Ladders out of poverty, such as the American Family Act, a renter tax credit, and an increase to affordable housing are all being considered in Congress.

Calling our representatives (202-224-3121) and asking them to pass the American Family Act (renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty by 46%) and these other initiatives will help millions of Americans finally be on the road to independence from poverty.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA**

[https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-ask-reps-to-pass-the-american-family-act/article\\_c468d21a-9dd3-5c25-ac92-d3137db119a5.html](https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-ask-reps-to-pass-the-american-family-act/article_c468d21a-9dd3-5c25-ac92-d3137db119a5.html)

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## **Expanded CTC will help the homeless**

July 25, 2023

Two years ago, America solved child poverty.

In July 2021, 3 million children were lifted out of poverty when families with little or no income were included in the Child Tax Credit. Monthly payments went out to those needing assistance with providing essentials for children living in poverty.

But in December 2021, Congress failed to extend these modest payments, and millions of families again fell below the poverty line.

It's shocking to realize how many people are working yet are unable to find homes and provide basics for their children. The total number of homeless is difficult to measure, but from estimates by school districts, 1.1 million students in the U.S. are in desperate sheltering situations.

Behind this estimate are their family members, who are likely also experiencing homelessness. These folks are very much part of our U.S. tax law.

Corporations and the mega-rich are again pressing Congress for trillions in tax breaks, but the current House proposal offers nothing for families who finally got some relief in 2021, only to have it taken away.

Check online for information, then write to your representative, telling them to prioritize low-income families by expanding the Child Tax Credit, and insist they reject tax legislation that doesn't provide relief for those most in need.

Thank you to Kathryn Merritt for her letter of July 13, "Sharing thoughts beyond sound bite," asking Lebanon councilors to provide leadership in addressing street homelessness. The expanded Child Tax Credit will also help reduce the street homeless population.

**- Peter Stoel, Corvallis**

[https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-expanded-ctc-will-help-the-homeless/article\\_764c8aba-99f5-5283-af41-f99cd8c0f906.html](https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-expanded-ctc-will-help-the-homeless/article_764c8aba-99f5-5283-af41-f99cd8c0f906.html)

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## **Ask reps to pass American Family Act**

August 31, 2023

Thank you for printing Barbara A. Callner's letter "Speak out against hate in all its forms" (Aug. 15).

How about subtle forms, such as far too much poverty, hunger and homelessness in the world's richest country? The expanded Child Tax Credit, included in the American Rescue Plan Act, lifted millions of children out of poverty, reaching 90% of families, helping them to eat, pay rent and pay bills.

Wasn't not renewing this legislation, causing millions to fall back into poverty, a subtle form of hate, especially since it disproportionately effects people of color?

The American Family Act would renew that and other ladders out of poverty, fixing this mistake. The wealthy still have their tax breaks; what about the hungry and homeless?

It is time for us to speak up for people experiencing poverty, and ask those who represent us to pass this and other equity initiatives.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

[https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-ask-reps-to-pass-american-family-act/article\\_58e1fa06-3ff0-53d7-93f8-4fb47958c777.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-ask-reps-to-pass-american-family-act/article_58e1fa06-3ff0-53d7-93f8-4fb47958c777.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

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## **Recognize poverty's impact on learning**

October 5, 2023

Have you ever tried to learn something fundamental to your job when you're outrageously hungry? What about when you know you might lose your housing? New data from the U.S. Census prove that the number of kids headed to school in similar conditions has exploded. Yet the public dialogue in Oregon continues to discuss faltering test scores without acknowledging the harm of poverty, ("Oregon student achievement remains mired far below pre-pandemic levels, new test scores show," Sept. 21.

In this article, Gov. Tina Kotek takes school districts to task for the stagnant scores. And yet there's no acknowledgement that during this period of academic struggle, the federal Child Tax Credit expansion that once helped to cut child poverty by 46% completely vanished. There is also a comparison to states like Massachusetts that have seen modest improvements in post-pandemic test scores. Massachusetts has a lower child poverty rate than Oregon.

**- Laura Labarre, Portland**

*Labarre is associate director for communications for the nonprofit Results*

<https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2023/10/readers-respond-recognize-povertys-impact-on-learning.html>



## **Increase Child Tax Credit to help poor**

October 19, 2023

Thank you for the in-depth series “A Place to Sleep,” about homeless people in our midst in Benton and Linn counties.

It carries the reader along like a novel, giving the homeless the voice they deserve, and the stories we need to hear, in all their rich, complex character.

Much more needs to be done. So many people’s basic survival needs are not being met, but the innovative actions, collaborations and projects depicted here show how obstacles to finding shelter can be overcome with persistence and creative thinking. I do not want this series to stop!

But we also need to keep people from becoming homeless in the first place. One huge step is to restore the Child Tax Credit to something close to what it was in 2021, when it lifted millions of the neediest, those with very low wages, out of poverty. These are the folks who were left in the cold when cuts were made to the CTC last year.

Our Sen. Wyden, chair of the Senate Tax Committee, can again provide a hand up to the poorest among us. Let him know you want his focus to be on keeping people from falling into homelessness by making the CTC the powerful tool for ending poverty that it was in 2021, and passing it this year!

**– Peter Stoel, Corvallis**

[https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-increase-child-tax-credit-to-help-poor/article\\_a0e7cc0c-875c-5bf5-9de9-1e3b94a825dc.html](https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-increase-child-tax-credit-to-help-poor/article_a0e7cc0c-875c-5bf5-9de9-1e3b94a825dc.html)

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## **Congrats on General Excellence**

October 25, 2023

Congratulations to the Columbia Gorge News for the well-deserved awards in the 2023 Better Newspaper Contest ("Columbia Gorge News wins ONPA awards," Oct. 4 issue). I wasn't surprised to read the General Excellence Award, since it includes letters to the editor, which always run the gamut from local to state to national issues. I am grateful to the paper for printing my letters about renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit, the affordable housing crisis, child poverty, hunger, and global health. Letters to the editor are one of America's best sharing of ideas and concerns, as well as gratitude. So thank you, Columbia Gorge News staff for the work that earned these awards.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

[https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-oct-25-2023/article\\_853bf8fe-72bc-11ee-9ad4-8b3e68b4384b.html](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-oct-25-2023/article_853bf8fe-72bc-11ee-9ad4-8b3e68b4384b.html)



## **Renew the Child Tax Credit**

November 16, 2023

Victoria Koch ("Hope in a World of Despair," Eugene Weekly, Nov. 2) is right that each of us can make a difference. Her examples show us the way. Even a smile makes a difference. Sometimes taking a breath, smiling and savoring the moment is all it takes to reset our attitude. Then taking action to make a difference.

Call your members of Congress (202-224-3121) and thank them for their hard work. Ask them to work for ceasefires in conflicts in the world, to renew the READ Act to help educate children in the world and to end poverty in the world's wealthiest country, starting by renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty nearly in half. It only takes a few minutes to make a call, take an action, and be a part of the solution to the despair.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2023/11/16/hippies-pickleball-and-international-politics/>



## **A renter tax credit would help families**

November 25, 2023

Hard to believe that 59% of Americans in the world's wealthiest country will experience poverty sometime in their lives ("What are your chances of experiencing poverty? The statistics might surprise you" by Dr. Lawrence Eppard, Nov. 11).

Imagine if all of those people called on their members of Congress to end poverty in our country, starting with renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty almost in half before Congress failed to renew it. Then a renter tax credit would help struggling families stay housed.

Calling on those who represent us (202-224-3121) to pass these and other ladders out of poverty could turn around this threat, creating a better future for all of us and our country.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA**

[https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-renter-tax-credit-would-help-families/article\\_5cffd95a-9120-589e-b172-143bf67eba4d.html](https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-renter-tax-credit-would-help-families/article_5cffd95a-9120-589e-b172-143bf67eba4d.html)

***Reprinted in:***



[https://democratherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-renter-tax-credit-would-help-families/article\\_34163c18-8339-11ee-960f-0b60249ad886.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://democratherald.com/opinion/letters/letter-a-renter-tax-credit-would-help-families/article_34163c18-8339-11ee-960f-0b60249ad886.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## Help battle poverty

December 13, 2023

Thanks to AARP and the IRS for training volunteers to help us file our taxes ("Tax-Aide hosts info sessions for volunteers," by Stephen Shwiff, Columbia Gorge News, Dec. 5). This free service helps millions of us go through this process. Our tax system is a powerful tool for combating poverty, hunger, and homelessness as well. One proven example is the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty in half until Congress failed to renew it. Another could be a renter tax credit that would help keep those currently in the low income bracket stay housed. We help home owners with tax breaks, why not those in poverty? It is a policy choice and you can help your representative make sure it happens by calling 202-224-3121, and encouraging them to pass these and other ladders out of poverty. Our tax system can help millions battle hunger, poverty, and homelessness. Why not suggest this proven method?

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

[https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-dec-13-2023/article\\_01426b70-992f-11ee-9fd2-4f61f320afe3.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-dec-13-2023/article_01426b70-992f-11ee-9fd2-4f61f320afe3.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Thanks for Giving Us an Opinion Forum**

December 21, 2023

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank Eugene Weekly for the incredible opinion forum they provide for our letters. Current opinions include the conflict in Gaza, the mayoral campaign, health care, the need for the astrology column.

Many of us learn from the points of view of others, on national issues like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit, local issues like elections, global issues like the End TB Now Act and conflicts like Gaza. And this is just one aspect of a very informative and entertaining local paper. Let's continue to share our ideas and speak up in response to others, this supports the paper and our democracy!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2023/12/21/ew-readers-weigh-in-on-the-oregon-initiative-process-the-ems-and-more-in-letters/>

# **Pennsylvania media**

# DAILY TIMES

## **Congress, expand child tax credit and add a renter tax credit**

March 10, 2023

Editor:

President Biden has released his new budget. Among his many priorities, a huge one is making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans.

I agree and there are two things Congress could do right now to make it happen.

First, expand the child tax credit. In 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty immediately plummeted and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a renter tax credit. Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent.

For decades, Congress has skewed the tax code for the wealthy.

The president is calling on them to start putting everyday Americans first. I urge our members of Congress to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting an RTC now.

**- Jean Wiant, Glenolden**

<https://www.delcotimes.com/2023/03/10/letter-congress-expand-child-tax-credit-and-add-a-renter-tax-credit/>

# The Sentinel

## Working families: Brace for more cuts

March 28, 2023

It doesn't take much reading in The Sentinel lately to know there are big domestic policy changes in store for America in the next couple of weeks. Emergency expansions in the social safety net enacted for the pandemic will all expire by early May. The first to expire was the fully refundable Child Tax Credit, which had helped millions of young families escape poverty. Millions more temporarily qualified for Medicaid and SNAP. Child poverty dropped to about 6% in 2021.

Low income families here in Central Pennsylvania, and nationwide, confront the challenge of escalating costs for food, housing, transportation and health care. Recent and impending cuts mean doing with a lot less. The Sentinel's recent article on Project SHARE in Carlisle makes this clear – cuts hurt families here.

We all saw for a brief period that properly funded safety net programs greatly reduce poverty, but our leaders refused to keep children in the poorest households covered by the full Child Tax Credit. Not even a big rebound in child poverty moved them, so that's what we have – a rich country with child poverty like a poor one. Sure, they didn't exactly vote to increase child poverty – with all its well-documented damage to victims' entire lives. U.S. Congressmen like Scott Perry and John Joyce should match their pro-family and pro-life rhetoric with pro-family investments now, when young families are having a harder time in this economic environment.

Congress will likely take up tax legislation this year. It could include the fully refundable Child Tax Credit if they hear from constituents like us. This is particularly important for members like Scott Perry and John Joyce who have opposed it. Without constituent pressure, they won't change.

– **Bruce Kessler, Newville**

[https://cumberlink.com/opinion/letters/letter-working-families-brace-for-more-cuts/article\\_e7129d3c-c8d8-11ed-b317-1fec0c4d048b.html](https://cumberlink.com/opinion/letters/letter-working-families-brace-for-more-cuts/article_e7129d3c-c8d8-11ed-b317-1fec0c4d048b.html)



# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

## Hungry Pittsburgh

August 3, 2023

So sad to read about the growing number of hungry people in the Pittsburgh area, reflected in the rise of use of food banks. ("Rising need: Food banks around the region are seeing an increase in demand," July 29). Micaela Lindsey of Northside Angels is right: "We have to help each other."

One way is to call on those who represent us in Congress to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families and cut child poverty by 46%. There is legislation in progress to do just that, the American Family Act. Ask your representatives to pass it.

Another initiative is a renter tax credit, modeled on the Child Tax Credit, that would help people experiencing poverty pay only 30% of their income for rent, millions now pay 50% and more. This would slow the surge in evictions and homelessness. Using our voices can move Congress to end these tragedies of hunger and homelessness in the world's richest country.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA**

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2023/08/03/hungry-pittsburgh/stories/202308030060>

## **Startling new figures on child poverty could have been avoided if Congress had acted**

October 1, 2023

In September, the U.S. Census released new data on poverty from 2022. The results are startling.

In 2022, the U.S. child poverty rate more than doubled compared to 2021, with more than 5 million children falling into poverty. The primary reason was the expiration of the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC). In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC to all families with low income, which reduced child poverty to a historic low.

The new Census poverty data confirms Congress' refusal to extend the CTC expansion resulted in millions of children and families falling into poverty.

This is not okay. We simply cannot allow more children to fall into poverty. Please let your senators and representatives know that you support expansion of the Child Tea Credit.

**- David Burns, Hackettstown**

<https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/opinion/2023/10/startling-new-figures-on-child-poverty-could-have-been-avoided-if-congress-had-acted-letter.html>

# YORKDISPATCH

## Replay the Child Tax Credit

December 3, 2023

The confusion over the U.S. House speakership certainly would make a great sports story — who's ahead, who dropped the ball, the sub who gets a chance after the star is benched, and so forth. But as soon as a team works together they can make exciting scores. In our game the fans aren't just chanting slogans: we call the plays. That's the way representative government works. Americans don't want it any other way, although losing sucks.

Our 10th District congressman, Scott Perry, played a key role changing the signal caller. Now it's time to address what his district needs. About 90 percent of children living in low-income households don't benefit from the full, or even part of, the Child Tax Credit.

We look back on 2020 and 2021 when the COVID pandemic caused us much discomfort and loss. Shut downs caused great inconvenience and their own forms of suffering. To help Americans deal with the impact, Congress enacted short term policies like setting the Child Tax Credit at \$3,000 and making it fully available to all families making up to \$400,000. For 2021, this single policy cut child poverty in the U.S. by 46%. Sadly, it expired at the end of 2021 and child poverty rebounded to where it had been.

There's a lot of pressure now for Congress to pass a package of corporate tax cuts. Of course, it's from the business community, but they aren't the only signal callers. Rep. Perry should talk to the tax-writers on the Ways and Means Committee and insist that they return the Child Tax Credit to its 2021 provisions. I like the image of my congressman jumping up into the stands at the end zone among adoring fans when he does something good.

– **Brian Kessler, Newville**

<https://www.yorkdispatch.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/12/03/replay-the-child-tax-credit/71791508007/>



## **The Importance Of Home**

*For generations, poor people have relied on each other to keep a roof over their heads. But in the world's wealthiest country, we need more.*

**by Kazmyn Ramos**

December 18, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

23 percent of undergraduates & 12 percent of graduate students experienced food insecurity, amounting to more than 4 million students. Meanwhile, more than 1.5 million undergraduate & graduate students are experiencing homelessness, reports @PatHLaMarche. <https://t.co/LJAI02r7NZ> — BucksCountyBeacon (@BucksCoBeacon) August 26, 2023

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis.*

<https://buckscountybeacon.com/2023/12/the-importance-of-home/>

**Reprinted in:**



<https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2023/12/affordable-housing-should-be-a-human-right-everyone-enjoys-opinion.html>

# **Rhode Island media**

# The Providence Journal

## Housing is a dire need nationally as well

May 14, 2023

I commend House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi for his guest column "Sounding the alarm about RI's housing shortage" (News, May 7), in which he highlights the dire housing shortage in Rhode Island. It is important to recognize that this housing shortage is not unique to Rhode Island but is a widespread issue across the country. While state-level efforts are commendable and necessary, it is crucial to address this problem nationally as well.

"The Gap," a recent report by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, brings attention to the severe shortage of 7.3 million affordable rental homes for individuals with extremely low incomes in the United States. Moreover, only 33 affordable rental homes are available for every 100 households consisting of extremely low-income renters. These statistics emphasize the urgency of finding a solution.

One potential approach to tackle this issue is the implementation of a Renters Tax Credit, which would provide assistance to households spending more than 30% of their income on housing expenses. It is imperative for citizens to actively voice their concerns and engage not only with their state government but also with their congressional representatives, urging them to prioritize the welfare of all Americans.

By raising our collective voices, we can encourage state and national action to ensure adequate housing for every citizen.

**- Sarah Miller, St. Louis, Missouri**

No online link



## **The importance of home**

*Affordable housing addresses a lot more than putting a roof over people's heads*

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network.

Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

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Building on my mother and grandmother’s work in mutual aid, I’ve found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and “protecting” wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let’s work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.progressive-charlestown.com/2023/12/the-importance-of-home.html>

# **South Carolina media**

# Greenville News

## SC Sen. Tim Scott, other lawmakers need to extend Child Tax Credit to fight child poverty

October 1, 2023

The most recent U.S. Census data sounded an alarm that we all need to hear: The child poverty rate more than doubled between 2021 and 2022. That's more than 5 million additional American children living in poverty. We know the reason for this increase in poverty, and we don't have to stand by while our children suffer and fail to thrive. In 2021 Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to all families with low or no income and sent it in monthly payments. As a result, parents had the financial resources and flexibility to meet their children's basic needs. Unfortunately, a small group of politicians in Washington blocked an extension of the CTC monthly payments at the end of 2021. Census data confirms the disastrous consequences: an increase from a record-low child poverty rate of 5.2 percent in 2021 to 12.4 percent — more than one in 10 of our children — living in poverty in 2022. We were on the road to ending child poverty in 2021. This year, it's time to finish the job. South Carolina's Sen. Tim Scott has a particularly influential position as a member of the Senate Finance Committee. I urge Scott and all our representatives and senators to expand the CTC to all families with low income and to reject any tax legislation that does not.

**- Mary Lash, Piedmont**

<https://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/10/01/tim-scott-child-poverty-rate-shows-why-lawmakers-must-extend-child-tax-credit/70980336007/>

**Reprinted in:**

**The Post and Courier**  
GREENVILLE | SPARTANBURG

<https://epaper.postandcourier.com/app/POS670/editionguid/bb401934-fe72-4220-b0e8-9db791f031a9>

# Tennessee media

## **Seeking rental, child subsidies**

March 18, 2023

President Biden has released his new budget. Among his many priorities, a huge one is making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans.

I agree. There are two things Congress could do right now to make it happen. First, expand the Child Tax Credit. In 2021 Congress expanded the CTC for all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty immediately plummeted, and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit (RTC). Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent.

For decades, Congress has skewed the tax code for the wealthy. The president is calling on them to start putting everyday Americans first. I urge our members of Congress to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting an RTC now.

**- Jessica Claudio, Hixson**

<https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2023/mar/18/letters-city-prioritize-rail-crossing-safety-tfp/>



## **Congress should expand Child Tax Credit again**

May 21, 2023

How about a tax credit that would help those most in need in our communities and pump money into our local economies? That's exactly what the Child Tax Credit expansion during the COVID-19 pandemic did. Those monthly payments to families struggling to make ends were used for food, rent, school supplies and clothes. Contrary to fears that people would quit work, parents worked more because they could pay for child care. When that expansion expired, child poverty increased to prior levels.

Instead of a budget plan making disastrous cuts to safety net programs while protecting the wealthy from tax audits, Congress should invest in children, the future leaders of our country. I urge our members of Congress to expand the Child Tax Credit to all families with low incomes this year.

**- Anne Child, Oak Ridge**

No online link

# OAKRIDGER

## **Expand full Child Tax Credit to help low-income families**

To the Editor:

The Oct. 17 article “TN near bottom in helping struggling families” says “Tennessee ranks 49th with... fostering economic security, early childhood development and health.” There is a federal program that could help.

Pandemic-related aid expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to include very low or no-income families leading to the largest single drop in child poverty in CTC history. Recent 2022 U.S. Census data shows that child poverty more than doubled last year, mainly because Congress failed to extend the 2021 expanded CTC.

When the U.S. House gets itself in order and focuses again on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, it will consider tax breaks for corporations. They should also prioritize reducing child poverty by expanding the full CTC to low-income families in that tax legislation. This would help struggling Tennessee families.

**- Anne Child, Oak Ridge**

<https://www.oakridger.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/10/29/letter-expand-full-child-tax-credit-to-help-low-income-families/71239715007/>





## **Provide more assistance for families in poverty**

October 22, 2023

“How much federal money your school district spends” showed how federal funds support “programs for low-income students, students with disabilities and school lunches, among others.”

Now Tennessee is studying possible “excessive overreach” by the federal government attached to these funds and if our state could get by without these funds. I bet schools appreciate this funding.

Changes in policy to another government, the Child Tax Credit (CTC), demonstrated positive and negative impacts on children living in poverty.

Pandemic-related aid expanded the CTC to include very low or no-income families leading to the largest single drop in child poverty in CTC history.

When that funding expired, child poverty more than doubled.

Now, families living on minimum wage don't qualify for the full tax credit but a family earning \$400,000 will get the full \$2,000 credit per child. Which families do you think would use those funds for necessities?

As Congress grapples with the FY2024 budget, it will consider tax breaks for corporations. They should also prioritize reducing child poverty by expanding the CTC to low-income families in that legislation.

**- Anne Child, Oak Ridge**

No online link



## **How Congress can reduce child poverty**

November 19, 2023

'How much federal money your school district spends' showed how federal funds support 'programs for low-income students, students with disabilities and school lunch, among others.' Now Tennessee is studying possible 'excessive overreach' by the federal government attached to these funds and if our state could get by without these funds. I bet schools appreciated this funding.

Changes in policy for the Child Tax Credit benefit had positive and negative impacts on children living in poverty. Pandemic-related aid expanded the CTC to include very low or no-income families, leading to the largest single drop in child poverty in CTC history. When that funding expired, child poverty more than doubled. Now, families living on minimum wage don't qualify for the full tax credit, but a family earning \$400,000 will get the full \$2,000 credit per child. Which family do you think would use those funds for necessities?

As Congress grapples with the fiscal year 2024 budget, it will consider tax breaks for corporations. It should also prioritize reducing child poverty by expanding the CTC to low-income families in that tax legislation.

**- Anne Child, Oak Ridge**

No online link

# **Texas media**

## Many Are Falling Short While Chasing The American Dream

By Chaila R. Scott

April 18, 2023

Most of us have been given the same life directives: go to college, get a good job, get married, have kids, retire. As a former alumni adviser for high school grads, I can assure you that narrative is alive and well.

We get this plan from well-meaning people who love us, often long before we can form a definition of what happiness means to us. There's nothing wrong with these goals, of course. But they may not be for everyone — and in our unequal society, pursuing them can be a big risk that doesn't always pay off.

For my part, I thought following these steps was a direct route to the American Dream.

I earned my bachelor's degree in just three years. By 2012, I'd landed a job in my field that would build my resume. While the pay was modest, I was single with no kids and minimal bills. I was also in graduate school, sure to increase my earning potential.

The American Dream was in sight. But then I hit the infamous glass ceiling, which is doubly thick for Black women. Statistics report the national average for Black women's earnings of 63 cents on the dollar compared to every White male counterparts. Where I live in Louisiana, it's 16 cents lower.

As my earnings stalled out, life happened.

By the beginning of 2014, I was flat broke, divorcing, pregnant, and still in grad school. My growing belly gave me motivation, though. The moment my son was born via emergency C-section, I was grabbing my laptop to submit a final.

I pushed past my anxiety about unpaid bills and student loan debt, trusting in the promise that hard work and education added up to security and happiness for my

family. But even after obtaining my master's and working in social services for years, that security did not materialize.

I needed a change. In 2019, I switched gears to work in public education.

At first, I absolutely loved it. But eventually I learned that people of color in my workplace were getting paid significantly less than their White counterparts for comparable work. Our employer claimed outwardly to be anti-racist while gatekeeping raises, promotions, and power.

I worked for change within the organization and ran programs for students dealing with similar challenges. But I was severely underpaid for my experience and education, and this additional labor was unpaid too.

Hitting that glass ceiling again and in the wake of George Floyd's death, I heard a message loud and clear: As a Black woman in America, I was supposed to know my place and not complain. I should be grateful just to be in the room.

Eventually, it became too much. After pouring myself into this job while also overwhelmed with debt and raising a young child, I chose to quit and explore new career options that could balance fulfillment and stability with my mental health.

I chose to enter the great financial unknown.

My story shows what many Americans already know: It is possible to "do everything right" and still end up in a place of financial uncertainty.

One way or another, it's a story that Americans of every race, color, gender, and zip code end up learning the hard way. Some 140 million of us are poor or low-income, while nearly half of us lack the cash on hand to cover an emergency.

But we can change the narrative. Call or write your representative, share your story, and ask them what they are doing to counteract rising costs and low wages. Join a political action organization that fights poverty and oppression like RESULTS, the group I now work with.

Our elected officials work for us — and our silence costs us a better future.

*Chaila R. Scott, MPA is a RESULTS expert on poverty from Luling, Louisiana. This op-ed was adapted from a longer account at RESULTS.org and distributed for syndication by OtherWords.org.*

<https://texasmetronews.com/54002/many-are-falling-short-while-chasing-the-american-dream/>

# Austin American-Statesman

## **We should handle the debt crisis responsibly, but it shouldn't be at the expense of the poor**

June 3, 2023

While it is necessary for the nation to raise the debt, it should not come at the expense of those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

The fundamental question is why we are forced to decide between pushing people further into poverty and risking an economic catastrophe caused by default in the first place. I don't want our country to default, but I do expect Congress to care about all its people, not just the wealthy. Moving forward, I strongly urge our members of Congress to prioritize policies that alleviate poverty rather than make it worse.

**– Sarah Miller, University City**

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/06/03/austin-american-statesman-letters-to-the-editor-june-4-2023/70266721007/>

# Austin American-Statesman

## **Our congressional representatives should support expanding the Child Tax Credit**

August 27, 2023

During my first visit to the area recently, I was very glad to read that Austin pools are offering free admission through Sept. 30 due to Texas' heat wave. This will indeed bring relief to children and families in the community and is a great example of prompt and compassionate problem-solving that other political leaders should take to heart.

Many of the same folks helped by this decision could use some relief from the daily struggle of trying make ends meet. And that relief can come in the form of an expanded Child Tax Credit, which cut child poverty by more than a third in 2021 but has not been renewed since.

I hope that Representatives Greg Casar, Lloyd Doggett, Roger Williams, Chip Roy, and Mike McCaul will demonstrate the same can-do attitude when they return to Washington in September and offer their swift support to the expanded CTC.

**- Joanna DiStefano, Morgantown, WV**

No online link



## Poverty Just Jumped – And It Was No Accident

*I've lived and studied poverty most of my life. But you don't have to be an expert to see why it's spiking after lawmakers let antipoverty programs expire.*

**By Lakeisha McVey**

September 15, 2023

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C.. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me. Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools

were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.

I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don't end. The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100 percent of my health insurance. That's a rarity. If I'd been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would've gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day. But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8 percent — its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.

Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

*Lakeisha McVey is a bereaved mother, social justice advocate, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.gilmermirror.com/2023/09/15/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/>

***Reprinted in:***

**HILL COUNTRY NEWS**

<https://www.hillcountrynews.com/stories/commentary-poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident,147295>

## Poverty is fixable

November 4, 2023

The chaos and acrimony in the House right now is putting millions of families at risk of deeper poverty by cutting off federal assistance that feeds, educates, and houses millions each year. It is infuriating that the basic foundations of our social safety net are constantly being used as political pawns in Washington. It doesn't have to be this way. Poverty is fixable.

Supporting families through our tax code can minimize the harm these yearly funding battles inflict. For instance, when we expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in 2021 and made it available to families with the lowest incomes, we cut child poverty nearly in half. Unfortunately, child poverty more than doubled when Congress allowed the expansion to expire. West Virginia is ranked last among children under 5 with 30% living in poverty. Our state is only ahead of Mississippi in overall poverty and overall child poverty and was the only state to see an increase in poverty by the Census Bureau in 2022. Our leaders in Congress should be supporting policies that decrease poverty, not worsen it.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) estimated that 50,000 of our kids in rural WV are currently left out of the full value of the CTC because the family's income is too low. As an internist and pediatrician, I see the daily struggles my patients have with the rising costs of housing, food, healthcare along with the child care crisis. And it's not just our young families, we have so many grandparents who are now the primary caretakers of their grandchildren and are facing the same financial struggles. They are in a no win situation. We all know people who are caught in this continuous cycle of poverty- they're our family members, neighbors, church members, fellow WVians. It isn't right.

Families shouldn't be caught in the middle of the reckless and childish fights in Congress. Expand the Child Tax Credit permanently so that families can have

consistent support they can count on. Senators Capito and Manchin, along with Representatives Miller and Mooney must expand the Child Tax Credit now.

**- Jo Reece, Morgantown**

[https://www.cleburnetimesreview.com/cnhi\\_network/poverty-is-fixable/article\\_acf816d7-d0cf-5d0b-99d2-f470d19e8955.html](https://www.cleburnetimesreview.com/cnhi_network/poverty-is-fixable/article_acf816d7-d0cf-5d0b-99d2-f470d19e8955.html)

# The Gilmer Mirror

## The Importance of Home

*For generations, poor people have relied on each other to keep a roof over their heads. But in the world's wealthiest country, we need more.*

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 6, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among

themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://www.gilmermirror.com/2023/12/08/the-importance-of-home/>

**Reprinted in:**

**HILL COUNTRY NEWS**

<https://www.hillcountrynews.com/stories/commentary-the-importance-of-home,149983>



<https://dallasexaminer.com/affordable-housing-human-rights/>



# Utah media



## **Realtors shouldn't solve housing shortage on their own**

May 4, 2023

After reading the article, "NWAOR: New legislation helping tackle Utah's housing shortage," I want to commend the realtors for their efforts in addressing the housing shortage. However, since the problem is so complex, we need everyone involved in multiple approaches and solutions. Although the private sector can help, they cannot solve this problem alone. It is necessary for Congress to address this issue as well. One potential solution is a Renter's Tax Credit, which could limit spending to 30% of household income and offer a refund for those who spend more than that. Therefore, I urge realtors to push for the passage of the Renter's Tax Credit in addition to the excellent work they are already doing. Additionally, everyone can advocate for the passage of this policy by contacting their representatives before the crisis becomes worse. To Congress, please assist the citizens who are struggling with this issue.

**- Sarah Miller, St. Louis, Missouri**

<https://www.standard.net/opinion/letters/2023/may/04/letter-realtors-shouldnt-solve-housing-shortage-on-their-own/>

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## **Debt ceiling: Utah lawmakers weren't hired to play chicken with our economy or use extortion**

May 9, 2023

Utah's four congressmen (Blake Moore, Chris Stewart, John Curtis and Burgess Owens) all voted recently to play chicken with our economy. Instead of being responsible adults and taking responsibility for actually paying the interest on the debts that congress has already committed to, they are threatening to default on America's obligations unless they petulantly get their way. They are trying to force the president to agree to severe federal spending cuts.

The 22% cuts in spending would hurt Americans, decrease veterans' benefits, curtail pandemic response funds, roll back student debt relief, add stringent new requirements for Medicaid and food benefits, hurt preschool and childcare, gut lifesaving global health programs, and even derail efforts to limit tax fraud.

Our congressmen apparently view indebtedness as evil, somehow morally wrong. Yet incurring debt is about freedom. A loan frees you to buy your home, a car, an education, or invest in a business in exchange for accepting the adult obligation to pay it back with interest. Without loans only the richest, with grocery bags of cash, could ever be able to purchase or invest in assets.

We hired our congressmen to invest our tax money wisely to improve our society. We did not hire them for their adolescent bravado to play chicken with our domestic and international economy, nor to use extortion rather than negotiation. The residents of Utah need our congressmen to be adults and act responsibly.

**- William Cosgrove, Cottonwood Heights**

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2023/05/09/letter-debt-ceiling-utah-lawmakers/>



## **Shopping smart is not going to solve food insecurity — here's what will**

*SNAP can lift people above the poverty line by providing food assistance*

May 19, 2023

We're all looking for good deals at the store, as referenced in a recent Deseret News article published May 9, "A guide to cheaper foods in grocery stores despite inflation," but we can't solve the problem of American food insecurity with clever shopping alone.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is our nation's flagship nutrition program. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, SNAP lifted 42,000 people above the poverty line in Utah, including 21,000 children per year between 2014 and 2018.

This year, we have a chance to improve SNAP when the U.S. Farm Bill is reauthorized. We can improve access to fresh produce for people experiencing poverty. We can eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the SNAP ban for former drug offenders and eliminating work requirements for low-income college students. I urge Sens. Mitt Romney and Mike Lee to include these improvements and support a farm bill that builds healthy and equitable food systems.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, Author/activist, St. Louis, Missouri**

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2023/5/19/23727483/snap-food-assistance-program>

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## **America's deficit must be addressed. But not irresponsibly.**

May 21, 2023

America's deficit must be addressed. But local businesses will lose sales and profits, and many of us will lose jobs too, if steep, unpopular cuts are made that House Republicans are insisting upon before agreeing to pay our nation's bills.

Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi warns that the proposed cuts would lead to slow growth, job loss and a greater likelihood of recession.

Why? Because seniors and people with disabilities could miss Social Security payments. Veterans could lose benefits. Cuts to health care mean sicker employees who are less able to work. I could go on. All of these people will have less money to spend at local businesses.

And all of this has ripple effects, with Goldman Sachs economists predicting that nearly one-tenth of the U.S. economy would dry up. That's a lot of lost sales, lost profit and lost jobs.

Meanwhile, default would downgrade our nation's credit rating, leading to higher interest rates on mortgages, credit cards and loans generally. Higher interest on our national debt would even make it grow faster!

Notably, neither Republicans nor Democrats threatened not to pay U.S. bills unless deep, economy-crippling budget cuts were made when Donald Trump was president.

Yes, Sens. Mitt Romney and Mike Lee and Reps. John Curtis, Blake Moore, Burgess Owens and Chris Stewart should do something about the deficit. But blowing up the economy by refusing to pay our bills unless steep cuts are made is not a responsible route to a responsible budget.

**- Georgia Platts, South Jordan**

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2023/05/21/letter-americas-deficit-must-be/>



## **We know how to alleviate child poverty. Why did we stop?**

*The Child Tax Credit was used by parents and guardians to feed, clothe and shelter kids and purchase school supplies. It made a difference*

September 24, 2023

Impoverished kids live in misery, through no fault of their own. Worse, childhood poverty diminishes their life chances because poor nutrition harms their small brains, as does a home made stressful by lack of money. It all hurts their ability to learn, leaving them less likely to graduate and find good paying jobs.

Yet child poverty can be alleviated, as we learned when Republicans and Democrats joined efforts during the covid crises to ensure that each child received a child tax credit of at least \$3,000. Studies found this money was used to feed, clothe and shelter kids and purchase school supplies.

Some say kids shouldn't get the child tax credit if their parents lack jobs or don't make enough money. But should children be forced into poverty through no fault of their own?

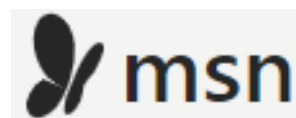
Crime rates rise — with attendant costs for police, courts and prisons — when life-chances are squelched. Really, it's cheaper to feed and clothe kids. Not to mention humanitarian concerns.

As budget negotiations approach I encourage our Utah delegation to expand the child tax credit to our poorest kids.

**- Georgia Platts, South Jordan**

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2023/9/24/23878744/child-tax-credit-poverty>

**Reprinted in:**



<https://news.yahoo.com/opinion-know-alleviate-child-poverty-140000582.html>



<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/personalfinance/opinion-we-know-how-to-alleviate-child-poverty-why-did-we-stop/ar-AA1hbmud>

## **Bring the expanded child tax credit back**

*Childhood poverty rates dropped from 2020 to 2021. This gain quickly reversed with the expiration of the expanded benefits*

October 1, 2023

Last year, Congress let a Rescue Plan expansion of the child tax credit benefits expire, harming children and families. Expanded benefits were \$3,600 per child ages 0-6, and \$3,000 per child ages 6-17 vs. just \$2,000 per child previously. Families received monthly installments of the full child tax credit, even when benefits exceeded their tax bill. Using a poverty measure which incorporates basic costs of living and income from government benefits, childhood poverty rates dropped from 9.7% in 2020 to 5.2% in 2021 — by 46%. This gain quickly reversed with expiration of the expanded benefits — 2022 rates rose to 12.4%.

We strongly encourage our delegation to fix this via the budgeting process and ensure that those most in need receive help. Currently, a couple must earn \$50,000 to receive the full \$2,000 per child credit, while those earning \$5,000 receive just \$187.50 per child. Recipients in lower income brackets used child tax credit payments for basic expenses, debt repayment and investments in their children's education. The expanded child tax credit reduced food and housing insecurity substantially, and contrary to perceptions, recipients participated in the workforce at higher rates than nonrecipients. We can't claim to be family friendly if we don't invest in the future of our children and families.

**- Ellen Brady, RESULTS-UT domestic group lead, Murray**

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2023/10/1/23889249/bring-back-expanded-child-tax-credit>



# The Salt Lake Tribune

## **Child poverty is a political choice. We can do better.**

October 19, 2023

Poverty is miserable to live within, and it also dampens a child's life chances. Both a lack of food and a family's financial stress can harm children's brains, impairing their ability to learn throughout their lives. Kids raised in poverty are then less likely to do well in school or graduate and find good employment.

It doesn't have to be like this. During Covid, Congress passed legislation assuring each child a Child Tax Credit of \$3,000, minimum. This money was overwhelmingly used to feed, clothe and shelter children, researchers found.

Yet after the Covid crises Congress did not renew this legislation and as a result, Census Bureau data found that the child poverty rate doubled.

Many members of Congress believe the Child Tax Credit should only go to parents who are working. But that leaves out parents who have recently left abusive circumstances and grandparents raising grandkids.

And should children be left without adequate food, clothing and shelter — through no fault of their own?

Utah Congressmembers have a long and strong history of supporting the Child Tax Credit, with Sens. Mitt Romney and Mike Lee recently proposing legislation to increase the amount of the credit.

Year-end budget negotiations are approaching and I encourage Sens. Lee and Romney, along with Reps. Blake Moore, John Curtis, Burgess Owens and Celeste Maloy to make a strong effort to expand the Child Tax Credit as much as possible for our poorest kids.

**- Georgia Platts, South Jordan**

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2023/10/19/letter-child-poverty-is-political/>

# **Vermont media**



## **Focus on ending poverty, not making it worse**

*Expand the Child Tax Credit permanently so that families can have consistent support they can count on.*

September 28, 2023

The chaos and acrimony in the U.S. House right now is putting millions of families at risk of deeper poverty by cutting off federal assistance that feeds, educates and houses millions each year. It is infuriating that the basic foundations of our social safety net are constantly being used as political pawns in Washington.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Supporting families through our tax code can minimize the harm these yearly funding battles inflict. For instance, when we expanded the Child Tax Credit in 2021 and made it available to families with the lowest incomes, we cut child poverty nearly in half. Unfortunately, new Census data shows that child poverty more than doubled when Congress allowed the expansion to expire.

Families shouldn't be caught in the middle of the reckless and childish fights over funding the government. Expand the Child Tax Credit permanently so that families can have consistent support they can count on. Our representatives and senators must fund the government and expand the Child Tax Credit now. Rep. Balint, Sen. Welch and Sen. Sanders, don't let this important issue be overlooked in the shutdown debacle. Please continue to fight to do what's right for Vermont families.

**- Julia Russell, Charlotte**

<https://vtdigger.org/2023/09/28/letter-to-the-editor-focus-on-ending-poverty-not-making-it-worse/>

# SEVEN DAYS

## 'Support Vermont Families'

October 4, 2023

We in Vermont have been the fortunate beneficiaries of several substantial gifts from MacKenzie Scott's charitable giving organization, Yield Giving. The most recent gift of \$20 million to the Champlain Housing Trust will make a significant difference for Vermonters ["MacKenzie Scott Donates \$20 Million to Champlain Housing Trust," September 27].

Yet, as housing trust CEO Michael Monte notes, "With housing prices escalating in Vermont and nationwide, \$20 million won't solve northwestern Vermont's housing problems. But it helps." The issues facing Vermonters are complex and intertwined. While substantial charitable gifts are more than welcome, they are not enough. One powerful, effective financial tool we already have at our disposal is the federal tax system, which can immediately reduce child poverty and promote housing stability.

In 2021, an expansion of the Child Tax Credit dramatically reduced child poverty. New census data show that child poverty more than doubled when Congress allowed the expansion to expire. Now, with families again struggling to make ends meet, expanding the Child Tax Credit must be a top priority for Congress.

In addition, millions of American renters, including many Vermonters, can't keep up with the high cost of rent. A Renter Tax Credit for rent-burdened households (those paying more than 30 percent of their total income for rent) would result in housing stability, fewer evictions and reduced homelessness.

Our elected representatives in Congress — Rep. Becca Balint, Sen. Peter Welch and Sen. Bernie Sanders — must do all they can to support Vermont families. We can't afford to leave the work to others.

**- Julia Russell, Charlotte**

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/letters-to-the-editor-10-4-23/Content?oid=39235195>

# Virginia media

# Daily News-Record

## Child Tax Credit

May 4, 2023

When families submitted their taxes this spring, many households in our region saw their tax refunds drop or disappear altogether. That's because Ben Cline and his republican colleagues in Congress let the expanded Child Tax Credit expire last year. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates 25.8% of Harrisonburg residents were living in poverty in 2022, more than double the poverty rate across the state of Virginia. Our neighbors, friends, and colleagues are suffering, and our children are going without basic necessities due to the greed of our elected officials.

In 2021 Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to all low and middle income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty dropped and parents got more freedom to make ends meet, and afford groceries, housing, and childcare in this difficult economy. But the Senate let the expansion expire. Now, 19 million children in families with low-income across America will receive a much smaller CTC this year, including 2 million who will get nothing. Meanwhile, families making \$400,000 per year will get their full child tax credit.

Children should not have to grow up in poverty so we can make the rich richer. We need a tax code that works for all Americans. Congress must start right now by expanding the CTC to families with low incomes in any tax legislation this year.

**- Melissa Strobel, Harrisonburg**

[https://www.dnronline.com/opinion/letters/child-tax-credit/article\\_ec7c3fb9-72be-52bd-b46c-c90c3afd3870.html#comments](https://www.dnronline.com/opinion/letters/child-tax-credit/article_ec7c3fb9-72be-52bd-b46c-c90c3afd3870.html#comments)

# STAR TRIBUNE

## **Congress can aid in housing crunch**

May 11, 2023

To the editor:

Regarding the news that “Caesars to help in efforts to ease local housing shortage,” I appreciate Caesars Casino and Resort’s decision to contribute to addressing the housing crisis. However, given the complexity of this issue, we need multiple approaches and solutions involving everyone. While the private sector can assist, it cannot tackle the problem in isolation. It is crucial for Congress to take action as well. One potential solution could be a renter’s tax credit, which would restrict household spending to 30% of income and provide refunds for expenditures beyond that limit. I encourage everyone to urge their representatives to support this policy before the situation worsens. I also hope that Congress will step in and aid citizens struggling with this matter.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Mo.**

[https://www.chathamstartribune.com/opinion/article\\_72f4a42e-ef5a-11ed-b0d0-1bb98b55592c.html](https://www.chathamstartribune.com/opinion/article_72f4a42e-ef5a-11ed-b0d0-1bb98b55592c.html)

## Bring back tax credits for Virginia families

July 1, 2023

On the heels of the enthusiastic campaigns and primary voting for Virginia state delegates and senators last week, I can't help but think that we and our elected officials can do better for all Virginians. Yes, we have made progress, as we've seen in the recent expansion of broadband. But there is so much left to do to help lift our fellow citizens out of undeserved and unwanted poverty. Every month I receive solicitations requesting housing, food and financial support for Virginia families. Those letters reference double digit child poverty rates across much of our state.

According to the most recent (2021) census statistics, child poverty ranges from 11.7% to 22.8% in seven of 11 Virginia congressional districts. The rate is 22.4% in the home of our State Capitol; 14.8% in our fifth congressional District where I live. Is that really acceptable for our families and our children?

The 2021 expanded Child Tax Credit was a game-changer for families, and in combination with the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and similar relief efforts, cut child poverty by more than 45% across our nation. Those expanded credits expired at the end of 2021. Now millions of children are left out of the full Child Tax Credit including those from working families with lower incomes, while wealthy families receive the full amount.

Whether in Richmond or in Washington, DC, our state and congressional representatives of both parties must work together to restore the parts of these tax credits most beneficial to low- and no-income families. These modest changes would encourage work and lift millions of Americans, many of them children, out of poverty.

As we approach July 4, let's make it a point to work towards freedom that includes freedom from poverty, for all.

– Susan Shultz, Keene

[https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-bring-back-tax-credits-for-virginia-families/article\\_76249ba4-15de-11ee-9c88-4ffdaa4a18c4.html](https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-bring-back-tax-credits-for-virginia-families/article_76249ba4-15de-11ee-9c88-4ffdaa4a18c4.html)



# The Winchester Star

## **Learn how to support poverty programs**

October 11, 2023

If public policy is the reflection of the values of a society, what does the end of the Child Tax Credit [CTC] expansion say about America?

The CTC expansion, which was introduced as a COVID relief measure, allowed an additional 19 million children to access federal financial support. Many CTC beneficiaries lived in households with minimal or no formal income. The overall expansion contributed significantly to the 46% reduction in child poverty reported by the Census Bureau for 2021.

Investing in our families and children through the CTC expansion allowed hard-pressed families to improve living conditions for their children. According to the 2022 U.S. Census surveys, Virginia's 6th congressional district (including Winchester, Roanoke, and most of the Shenandoah Valley) reports a whopping 13.3 percent of our population is below the poverty line. This is higher than the average of 10.6 percent across Virginia. Our federal government snatched an opportunity to improve lives away from many of our community members — with children suffering the most.

If you are interested in a conversation about how to support poverty programs and building a more equitable society, please join a free workshop entitled "Building a Future Without Poverty" on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10-4 p.m. at the Rotunda of the Health End Life Sciences Building of Shenandoah University, 720 Wade Miller Drive, Winchester. The workshop is organized by Shenandoah University and RESULTS, a movement of citizen advocates who focus on poverty reduction, both in the U.S. and internationally. The workshop will build your understanding of poverty issues in our country and identify how you can make a difference. Register at [tinyurl.com/5n7x9r55](https://tinyurl.com/5n7x9r55).

Let's not be silent any longer. Learn how to raise your voice as an advocate for change.

**- Nancy Morgan is a citizen advocate for RESULTS.**

[https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester\\_star/open-forum-learn-how-to-support-poverty-programs/article\\_9acba081-316c-508d-9839-c0e7943ee86f.html](https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester_star/open-forum-learn-how-to-support-poverty-programs/article_9acba081-316c-508d-9839-c0e7943ee86f.html)

# The Virginian-Pilot

## Child tax credit

December 10, 2023

The holiday season always reminds me of family gatherings at the beach. This isn't because my family ever spent a Christmas on the shore, but because it's when we start making our summer plans. In lieu of elaborate and expensive gifts, my parents, siblings and I place what money we can toward spending time together with our families at the beach. Over the years, that's included many trips to the Virginia Beach area, from the North End to Sandbridge.

I have noticed something as simple as a short family vacation is getting further out of reach for many American families. It's not only that the price of home rentals has increased, but the cost of about everything else has, too. When you're trying to raise a family, that limits options for recreation, especially the annual family beach trip.

There is an opportunity for Congress to help folks who are struggling to make ends meet, and that is expansion of the child tax credit. In 2021, expansions dramatically cut child poverty, but this went right back up in 2022 when those expansions were not renewed.

When families can't afford food, housing or heat, the thought of having a nice vacation is out of the question, and that directly impacts the economy in Virginia Beach. I urge Rep. Jen Kiggans to give her support to child tax credit expansions in an end-of-year tax package.

**- Joanna DiStefano, Morgantown, West Virginia**

<https://www.pilotonline.com/2023/12/10/letters-for-dec-11-look-to-the-netherlands-with-its-massive-system-of-dams-to-address-sea-level-rise-in-america/>

# Daily News-Record

## Our Children

December 19, 2023

Congressman Ben Cline was one of 150 representatives from around the country to sign on to a letter to newly elected Speaker of the House Mike Johnson at the end of November, urging the Speaker's support in adopting and passing a tax package soon.

Thank you, Congressman Cline, for your advocacy on behalf of our community! I appreciate our Congressman's enthusiasm for protecting American businesses in any tax legislation to come. I hope he is equally vocal and generous when it comes to support for our district's children in this tax package as he is for corporate tax breaks. According to the most recent census, 14% of Rockingham county children, age 0-18, are living in poverty, a rate nearly 10% higher than the average in our state.

Corporate tax breaks will not help them. The best tool we have available to help our children is reinstating the Child Tax Credit in the next tax package, which was shown to immediately cut child poverty in half when it was in place in 2021. Our children may not be voters yet, but they still need our care and protection. An investment in Virginia's children and families is an investment in their potential, our community, and a better future for all of us.

***Melissa Strobel lives in Penn Laird.***

[https://www.dnronline.com/opinion/letters/our-children/article\\_c0f834da-6480-5dee-bd3b-c05b7d0a76c8.html](https://www.dnronline.com/opinion/letters/our-children/article_c0f834da-6480-5dee-bd3b-c05b7d0a76c8.html)



# Washington media

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

## Godwill from Congress

January 2, 2023

In response to: "Tis the season of anticipation" by Sue Lani Madsen (Dec. 22): I grew up lighting those vey candles of Advent inn my church, reading Longfellow's poetry and working for peave on earth. Madsen is right: Our republic "will require a lot more than goodwill to survive."

Kindness for each other is a good start. Let's expect the same from Congress, pasing critical legislation I the new year like renewing the Child Tax Credit and modeling a renters' tax credit in the same way. These two ladders out of poverty will bring hope to millions and a better future for America. Take a few moments to reach out to your members of Congress to thank them for their hard work and encourage them to pass these two family-centered pieces of legislation, and continue on the road to equity and a better future for all.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

*No link available*

# The Seattle Times

## Thanks, call to action

January 4, 2023

Thanks for continuing to publish stories that matter: the need for universal health care, eliminating food insecurity, the affordable housing crisis, how Go Fund Me hides the tragedy of poor insurance, and the need for the Child Tax Credit to be renewed.

Often, sending these articles to those who represent you in Congress and asking for action, or giving your representative and senators a call and referring to articles can make a difference.

This is especially true with our Western Washington congressional delegation that is already working hard on these issues. Our communications thanking them and encouraging them to keep up the work to pass these initiatives can help put America on the road to equity.

- **Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/congress-thanks-call-to-action/?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=article\\_inset\\_1.1](https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/congress-thanks-call-to-action/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=article_inset_1.1)



# YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

## Let's trash our worries and get to work in 2023

January 9, 2023

To the editor — Love the idea of writing down our worries and tossing them into the trash as a New Year's tradition. (Column: "Good riddance to 2022 and all its zany characters," by Leonard Greene, Yakima Herald-Republic, Jan. 6.)

Once that is done, it is time to get down to the business of creating a more equitable country by using our voices to guide Congress to pass legislation that makes a difference. Let's start by asking them to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families with children and cut child poverty nearly in half. Then model a renters' tax credit the same way to put a stop to the slide into homelessness.

Speaking up for families can help Congress make our country a better place!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-lets-trash-our-worries-and-get-to-work-in-2023/article\\_00aac466-8f88-11ed-8b5e-f76af0e01d91.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-lets-trash-our-worries-and-get-to-work-in-2023/article_00aac466-8f88-11ed-8b5e-f76af0e01d91.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# Kitsap Sun

## **Congress needs to keep working to ease housing crisis**

January 17, 2023

Across the United States, there seems to be a consensus that our country is suffering from a "housing crisis." Renting a home keeps getting more difficult for people with less money.

To the dismay of struggling families and anti-poverty advocates, Congress ended 2022 without expanding the Child Tax Credit. With its enactment in 2021, US Census data showed that child poverty dropped by 45 percent. Two recent articles in the Kitsap Sun: "Child Tax Credit isn't a frivolous freebie for parents like me" (December 28) and "Showing that it's possible" (January 9), highlight the need to continue to address this issue of the high number of people struggling to make ends meet in 2023. Fears that families would squander extra income proved to be unfounded. Data from the Census Bureau showed that payments provided critical support covering basic living expenses such as housing, food, utilities, and clothing.

In a January 10th article in Forbes Magazine by Roger Valdez, Director of the Center for Housing Economics, one suggestion is to offer a renter tax credit. If you earn less than 60% of Area Median Income and are paying more than 30% of your gross monthly income, you can get a tax credit in the amount you're paying over 30%.

Clearly, going forward, Congress needs to address these issues to find innovative solutions. I am grateful to Rep. Derek Kilmer, and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell for past support, and urge them to continue their advocacy.

**- Leslie Boyer, Bremerton**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/01/17/congress-needs-to-keep-working-to-ease-housing-crisis/69816012007/>

## **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*Continuing to look to act on equity*

January 18, 2023

To the Editor:

Once again we honor Dr. King and the principles of love, peace, equity, and justice he embodied. ("Opportunities to recognize, honor The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. this year," Jan. 11 Tribune) The celebrations and days of service bring us together.

But beyond this week of honoring Dr. King, the urgency remains.

Fortunately, groups like RESULTS (results.org) are strong in Snohomish County and give us an opportunity to take ongoing actions, working with Congress to pass equity legislation. Both Reps. Larsen and DelBene support Dr. King's principles and are working hard to put America on the road to equity. Legislation like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit, dealing with the housing crisis, and more are possible when we work together. So, let's celebrate the work of Dr. King on his birthday, and then take actions all year to guide Congress to make his dream a reality.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<http://snoho.com/html/letters.html>

## Tax justice means looking out for children

February 2, 2023

You and I are probably comfortable in our homes, with a well-stocked refrigerator. Not so for more than 1 in 5 kids here in the U.S. For Black kids, it's more than 1 in 4! And the COVID-19 pandemic only made child poverty worse. Did you know that one prominent estimate suggests that child poverty costs the U.S. about \$1 trillion annually in reduced adult productivity, increased crime and higher health costs?

In 2021, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) was increased and expanded to include all low-income children. Then child poverty dropped astoundingly 46 percent! But 51 U.S. Senators let the expansion expire, with a dramatic increase in child poverty.

A study of MRI scans showed that kids from poorer, less-educated families tended to have thinner subregions of their brain's prefrontal cortex, which is needed for critical thinking. Dire poverty hinders neural development! If Congress passes tax legislation this year, an expansion of the CTC to all low-income families – with monthly payments – must be it.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) research shows the each additional dollar spent on tax enforcement could yield \$5 - \$7 in revenue. We tax investment income at a much lower rate than salaries and wages are taxed. This is why you and I have a far higher tax rate than the very rich.

Our tax laws must be made fair and just. And certainly for our youngest, in their critical formative years.

**- Donna Munro, Bremerton**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/02/02/tax-justice-means-looking-out-for-children/69867713007/>



## **Reach out to your influential federal lawmakers**

February 9, 2023

Alicia Crank does a good job illustrating the importance of listening to each other ("Alicia's View: Our differences can describe and not divide," The Herald, Jan. 27).

Her webinar forum is an excellent example that could be replicated across the country. It is also a good reminder for us to speak up with our opinion.

Another forum available to all of us is our democracy, where we can speak to those who represent us. Fortunately, both Snohomish County Congressional Reps. Rick Larsen and Suzan DelBene, along with both Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell are good listeners. Call, write, or visit them and see.

Murray, Cantwell and DelBene are in new positions of power and can do even more with our input. Rep. Larsen also in an important position on the transportation committee and welcomes our thoughts. Not sure what to say? How about renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty in half and reached 90 percent of families across America. Not sure how to do this? RESULTS (results.org) has an active group in Snohomish County for volunteers of all ages, working with both parties, and helping people use their voices. Email [snohomishcountyresults04@gmail.com](mailto:snohomishcountyresults04@gmail.com). So let's listen to each other and speak up to make a difference!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/reach-out-to-your-influential-federal-lawmakers/>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

## Speak up to make a difference

February 13, 2023

Bret Stephens, questions how President Biden will be remembered in the future, and his answer is foreign policy ("Biden's entry in history books hinges on how crises end, not how he managed them," Feb. 4).

Millions of Americans who were lifted out of poverty by the expanded Child Tax Credit are hoping it will be that this president cut poverty in half. The question is: Will the expanded Child Tax Credit be renewed and once again cut child poverty in half? Will a renter's tax credit be added to curb the slide to homelessness that is plaguing our country?

These ladders out of poverty can pass if voters raise their voices. President Biden could be remembered for both cutting poverty and his successful foreign policy. What say you, Americans?

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2023/feb/13/letters-for-feb-13-2023/>

## **A tax credit for renters is one option to make housing affordable**

February 17, 2023

In regards to a recent letter to the editor in favor of more accessory dwelling units, I would agree with the comment made in the letter that there is an issue with affordable housing. We have an affordable housing crisis on our hands across the nation, not just in Washington.

One possible solution is a renter's tax credit at the federal level. A renters' tax credit would cap out-of-pocket rent and utilities expenses, so that low-income families can afford a safe place to live without sacrificing other basic needs. Renters tend to earn less and yet our tax code leaves them behind while providing more subsidies to wealthier homeowners.

It would make a huge difference in the lives of many hard-working Americans who are not able to afford owning a home. I hope that this new Congress will work together to provide a piece of key legislation aimed at directly addressing the affordable housing crisis and helping people get out of sleeping in cars and off the streets.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Mo.**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/a-tax-credit-for-renters-is-one-option-to-make-housing-affordable/>



## **Hunger among US soldiers is 'unbelievable'**

February 18, 2023

Unbelievable: hunger is rampant in the world's richest country, even among our soldiers! ("Congress barely dents scourge of hunger in military' by John M. Donnelly," The Daily News, January 15, 2023)

This situation is unacceptable: time for those who represent us in Congress to take action to end the blight of hunger in America. The expanded Child Tax Credit did a good job of helping families until Congress let it lapse. Renewing this ladder out of poverty would be a good start. A living wage for our soldiers would end this problem in our military. Let's speak up and follow up to make sure our senators and representatives take these and other actions to end this critical situation in our country.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-hunger-among-us-soldiers-is-unbelievable/article\\_6b89d460-992f-11ed-9dfb-5706981b4ef8.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-hunger-among-us-soldiers-is-unbelievable/article_6b89d460-992f-11ed-9dfb-5706981b4ef8.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

***Reprinted in The Daily News again on March 11, 2023***

[https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-hunger-among-us-soldiers-is-unbelievable/article\\_6b89d460-992f-11ed-9dfb-5706981b4ef8.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-hunger-among-us-soldiers-is-unbelievable/article_6b89d460-992f-11ed-9dfb-5706981b4ef8.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



# YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

## Congress needs to pass a renters' tax credit

February 28, 2023

To the editor — Thanks to First Story for helping a family move into a home of their own. ("Nonprofit seeks family for affordable home in Grandview," by Jasper Kenzo Sundeen, Yakima Herald-Republic of Feb. 24).

Millions of American families need a connection like this to make the dream of home ownership come true. Meanwhile, millions of renters are facing rent increases they can't afford and are faced with the future of homelessness. We can do something about this by asking our members of Congress to pass a renters' tax credit that would relieve families paying 50% or more of their income for rent.

Remaining housed is the first step to the dream of home ownership, but how can families facing the decision of paying rent or buying food ever save toward the dream of home ownership? The renters' tax credit is a national answer. Ask Rep. Newhouse and Sens. Murray and Cantwell to support this initiative of hope for families in the Valley and across the country.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-congress-needs-to-pass-a-renters-tax-credit/article\\_579ad680-b549-11ed-82a8-63b3ec98769f.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-congress-needs-to-pass-a-renters-tax-credit/article_579ad680-b549-11ed-82a8-63b3ec98769f.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# The Columbian

## Ladders out of poverty are needed

February 28, 2023

Great to see the Vancouver Housing Authority using creative methods to increase affordable housing. ("Vancouver Housing Authority master lease agreement to add affordable housing," The Columbian, Feb. 20).

In addition, a proposed renters' tax credit would help renters pay less than 50 percent of their income for rent. These ladders out of poverty will be passed if we remind new U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez that these critical initiatives need to be passed.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/feb/28/letter-ladders-out-of-poverty-are-needed/>

# Kitsap Sun

## Follow Carters' example and work for a better world

March 2, 2023

President and First Lady Rosalynn Carter always set a humbling example, living their lives to make a difference. ("What the Carters can teach the country about sticking together," Kitsap Sun Opinion Feb. 24)

How can we follow this great American couple's example? Take an action to make the world a better place: be kind to those around you and speak up to your members of Congress to pass legislation making sure every American has a part of the dream. For example, tax fairness: the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families with children and cut child poverty in half. We can ask those who represent us to renew it. Or what about families paying 50% and more for rent? A renters' tax credit is the answer.

There doesn't have to be people struggling to survive: hungry, and homeless in the world's richest country. By being kind and using our voices we can help make a difference for millions! The Carters would agree with working for a better world.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/03/02/follow-carters-example-and-work-for-a-better-world/69963632007/>

# **Tribune**

## **Kudos**

March 15, 2023

To the Editor:

Mary Martin's letter of appreciation for the Tribune is timely (Feb. 22 letters). The Tribune continues to let us know the local news. This gives those who represent us a chance to see what matters to We The People.

We can thank our members of Congress like Rep. DelBene for her efforts to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit, Rep. Larsen for his work to secure the infrastructure package that includes local funding, and both Senators Murray and Cantwell for their work for families in the areas of housing, childcare and global health that protects us locally. At the same time, we can ask them to redouble their efforts to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families and cut child poverty in half. A renters' tax credit similarly could reach millions of families that pay 50% and more of their income for rent, which can help end the increasing problem of homelessness.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



## **Tax Credit, adopt Renter Tax Credit**

March 19, 2023

President Biden has released his new budget. Among his many priorities, a huge one is making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans.

I agree, and there are two things Congress could do right now to make it happen. First, expand the Child Tax Credit. In 2021 Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty immediately plummeted and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit. Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent.

For decades, Congress has skewed the tax code for the wealthy. The president is calling on them to start putting everyday Americans first. I urge our members of Congress to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting an RTC now.

**Vana Spear, Lynnwood**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/congress-should-expand-child-tax-credit-adopt-renter-tax-credit/>

## **Fight poverty by offering tax credits for kids, rent**

March 26, 2023

Sad to read about millions of Americans trapped in poverty, in “the richest nation on earth” (“Why are so many Americans poor? Because we allow it, 2 books argue.” by Timothy Noah in the March 16 Daily Herald).

Raising the minimum wage makes sense, especially connecting it to inflation. Those making up the top 20 percent of wealth in American getting 50 percent of the tax deductions and credits does not make sense.

Why not renew the expanded Child Tax Credit and make it permanent? After all, it was proven to cut child poverty nearly in half. And how about a tax credit for low income renters, so they no longer pay over 30 percent, some over 50 percent, of their income for rent. We help home owners with tax deductions; why not renters? Why does this curse of poverty continue? There is a lack of political will to turn it around.

We can change that by speaking up to our members of Congress, demanding they legislate these and other initiatives to give all Americans the opportunity to provide for their basic needs. Our continued calls, letters and follow-up can make the difference.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/fight-poverty-by-offering-tax-credits-for-kids-rent/>

# YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

## Renter tax credit would be a boon to local families

April 13, 2023

A "For Rent" sign hangs near an apartment complex in Yakima, Wash., Wednesday, March 7, 2018. Washington legislators have passed a bill that prohibits landlords from turning away potential renters who rely on Section 8 vouchers, Social Security or veterans benefits. (SHAWN GUST/Yakima Herald-Republic)

To the editor — Congrats to the Yakima County Department of Human Services for keeping their costs low so \$1.3 million can go to help stressed renters. ("Yakima County allocates \$1.3 million to rental assistance as program winds down," by Jasper Kenzo Sundeen, Yakima Herald-Republic of April 7.)

It is a difficult time for families across America. With millions paying over 50% of their income for rent, no wonder evictions and homelessness are on the rise. One answer in the other Washington is a renter tax credit, so no low-income family would pay over 30% of their income for rent. Similar to the powerful expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty nearly in half (sadly not renewed), families would benefit monthly.

We can help by asking our members of Congress, like Rep. Dan Newhouse, to support both of these ladders out of poverty. Our calls and letters can help millions of families build hope for the future.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-renter-tax-credit-would-be-a-boon-to-local-families/article\\_a1be411e-d70b-11ed-9dfd-03e9908ea108.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-renter-tax-credit-would-be-a-boon-to-local-families/article_a1be411e-d70b-11ed-9dfd-03e9908ea108.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Renter Tax Credit Proposal**

*Tax fairness gives equity*

April 26, 2023

To the Editor:

Mariam Ahmed makes a great case for us to support the wealth tax proposal currently being considered in our state legislature, HB 1473/SB 5486 (April 12 Tribune letters).

Tax fairness is an excellent way to put America on the road to equity, ending homelessness, hunger, and poor health care of those experiencing poverty, along with the 40% of Americans that are one \$400 emergency away from poverty. On the national level the power of the tax system was shown by the expanded Child Tax Credit: cutting child poverty by 46% and helping families pay rent, buy food, and pay bills. Sadly, it wasn't renewed, but it is not too late. Another initiative on the national level is a renter tax credit to help working families pay only 30% of their income for rent, not the 50-90% millions pay today. We can raise our voices to our state and national representatives to redouble their efforts to use tax fairness to bring hope by passing ladders out of poverty like these.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



# The Columbian

## Cut flow of evictions, homelessness

April 26, 2023

Excellent article about the complex issues surrounding homelessness (“Is homelessness a threat to public safety in Clark County?” The Columbian, April 18).

Recently Drayton Jackson, executive director of the Foundation of Homelessness and Poverty Management, spoke of the state’s 10-year plan to end homelessness, which he helped craft. He said often the drugs came in after people became homeless and used methamphetamines to stay awake, fearing being robbed or injured in the night. So local and state are doing their part.

Federally, prevention is the key. The tax code initiatives work quickly and reach families to help afford food and unexpected expenses that would normally drive them into poverty. The expanded Child Tax Credit was a good example of how that can work; sadly it expired. A renter tax credit could also end low-income renters paying 50 percent and more of their income for rent. We can help by asking our members of Congress to support these equity initiatives. In the process we can cut down the flow of evictions, hunger and homelessness.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/apr/26/letter-cut-flow-of-evictions-homelessness/>

# Kitsap Sun

## Child Tax Credit needs to be expanded

April 26, 2023

The U.S. Congress did not pass the expanded Child Tax Credit. This “expansion” allowed the folks at the low income to receive payments rather than crediting their taxes. With the CTC if you don’t owe taxes, you don’t get the credit.

Two hundred U.S. economists in an open letter agreed “the expanded Child Tax Credit is one of the easiest, most effective, and direct tools currently at our disposal to help families deal with the impact of inflation on family budgets”. They also agreed that implementing this would be too small an impact to increase overall U.S. inflation.

Those making up to \$400K will continue to get a tax credit, but those at the low end will not. Children should not have to grow up in poverty so we can give a tax break to the rich while giving nothing to the poor. We should help those in need.

**- Bill Budd, Port Orchard**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/04/26/child-tax-credit-needs-to-be-expanded/70150977007/>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

## Tax fairness creates equity

April 30, 2023

Lu Hill makes a sensible argument about why taxes are important for public services and asks why our taxes are unfair, with the highest payers having the lowest incomes ("Let's talk about what taxes pay for and why they're important," April 16). Makes no sense that those with the lowest income would pay the most and those with the highest pay the least.

Another aspect of the tax system is the power to bring equity to all Americans. In addition to reforming Washington's tax system, the national tax system showed its power to cut poverty when the expanded child tax credit reached 90% of families and cut child poverty by 46%. Yet it wasn't renewed.

Time to speak out to our members of Congress to renew the Child Tax Credit and add a renter tax credit to end people experiencing poverty to pay 30-90% of their income for rent.

Equity in the tax system is possible, our voices to the state and national legislators can bring about this change. Speak up for equity.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

No online link



## Homeless Prevention

May 3, 2023

Thank you, Ann Schlecht, for presenting the compelling stories of many struggling with housing needs, seniors and young people alike, in your April 2 and April 26 opinion columns. Yes, a strong community starts with stable housing for all.

Housing insecurity is a complex problem, worthy of complex solutions. Many households find themselves "rent-burdened", paying over 30 percent of their income in rent. This requires making choices between food, heat, health care, and a roof over one's head. A renter tax credit (RTC) would benefit these households that existing programs don't serve.

This housing problem is not limited to Thurston County. I call on Congress to be proactive in addressing the diverse housing needs of constituents across the country.

We can ask our members of Congress to explore adjusting the tax policy to serve the potential solutions that a renter tax credit allows. As citizens, we can learn what this might mean for Thurston County. Ms. Schlecht has done her part, providing us with an abundance of background information.

There is no tax credit policy yet, but there are federal proposals for RTC-like policies that address that "rent burden". The RTC policies invest in community needs at a federal level, allowing reinvestment of untaxed earnings by those who face this housing problem. Thurston County would benefit at a very personal level.

**- Nancy Curtiss, Olympia**

No online link



## **Good ideas needs support; contact your members of Congress**

May 17, 2023

Great to read opinion pieces about building bridges and strengthening our democracy by “Honing our democratic skills” by The Herald Editorial Board and by Ron Friesen in the Weekend Herald.

We live in a democracy that gives us many opportunities beyond just voting, like speaking up to our members of Congress. Thanks are often due, like right now to Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Suzan DelBene for introducing a bipartisan bill to address the affordable housing shortage, creating 64,000 new homes in our state and 2 million nationwide.

Thanks also to DelBene along with Reps. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., and Ritchie Torres, D-N.Y., for introducing the American Families Act that will renew the Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty by 46 percent. At the same time, asking both of these members of Congress to support a renter tax credit that would end millions of people, currently experiencing poverty across our country, from paying over 30 percent of their income for rent. Not only would this keep people housed, it would bring hope for a brighter future.

These are examples of the actions and initiatives that make a difference to families and strengthen our democracy.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/good-ideas-needs-support-contact-your-members-of-congress/>



## **Expand the SNAP food aid program**

May 21, 2023

I agree with Willie Dickerson's praise for the Child Tax Credit in his letter, "Good ideas need support contact your members of Congress" of May 17. Another highly effective program that needs to be expanded instead of cut is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, SNAP lifted 183,000 people in Washington above the poverty line, including 81,000 children, per year between 2013 and 2017.

This year, we can improve SNAP when the U.S. Farm Bill is reauthorized by improving access to fresh produce. We can also eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the SNAP ban for former drug offenders who have served their sentences and eliminating work requirements for low-income college students.

I urge Sens. Murray and Cantwell to support a farm bill that builds healthy and equitable food systems.

**- Cynthia Changyit Levin, St. Louis, Mo.**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/expand-the-snap-food-aid-program/>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

## Hungry children pay the price

May 24, 2023

We all should know the importance of having too much debt. What I can't understand is why the debt ceiling has to be curbed at the expense of children living in poverty. According to a reliable charity (Feeding America) Spokane county has over 15,000 children that are not getting enough food to eat.

The LTE about Second Harvest indicated their resource for food distribution is insufficient to meet demands. People are starving. Children are starving due to no fault of their own. According to the plan by Congress we are taking food out of children's mouths to solve our debt problem. Have we as a nation quit caring about starving children? Not extending tax cuts seems like a more humane option.

**- Andy Clarke, Gig Harbor WA**

No online link

## **Don't cut vital safety net programs in debt ceiling deal**

June 1, 2023

In response to a recent letter to the editor regarding the debt ceiling crisis, I am relieved that there is a potential to avert a default on our payments. However, I am deeply concerned about the proposals that would impose the burden on ordinary citizens who are honest, hard-working Americans simply striving to make ends meet.

It is essential that we have compassionate leaders who appreciate the contributions of hardworking individuals by ensuring they have access to nutritious food, adequate health care and housing. Unfortunately, it seems that many people in positions of power are indifferent and failing to prioritize the needs of these individuals. I sincerely hope that a comprehensive agreement can be reached, one that avoids significant cuts to vital programs such as SNAP (formerly known as "food stamps") and TANF, in order to address this pressing issue.

**- Sarah M. Miller, St. Louis, Mo.**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/dont-cut-vital-safety-net-programs-in-debt-ceiling-deal/>



# YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

## Pay heed to Tom Hanks' wise advice, graduates

Jun 1, 2023

To the editor — Fabulous to see Tom Hanks cut to the chase with Harvard graduates: Defend the truth and resist indifference. ("Tom Hanks urges Harvard grads to defend the truth and resist indifference," by AP in the Yakima Herald-Republic of May 25.)

This translates right now in calling on our representatives in Congress to pass initiatives of equity, like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty by 46%. A renter tax credit that would slow evictions and homelessness if we call on our representatives, 202-224-3121, to pass these initiatives.

That's more than just resisting indifference, it is supporting our democracy by taking action. Our future depends on it, graduates, and each of us doing our part to create the path to equity.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-pay-heed-to-tom-hanks-wise-advice-graduates/article\\_acbdf908-ff54-11ed-bf7e-cfb0bf468400.html](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-pay-heed-to-tom-hanks-wise-advice-graduates/article_acbdf908-ff54-11ed-bf7e-cfb0bf468400.html)

# The Columbian

## **Congress must do its job**

June 3, 2023

It appears Republican leaders and President Joe Biden have reached an agreement to avoid a catastrophic default on our nation's debt. The deal is far from perfect. It imposes new SNAP reporting requirements that put older adults at serious risk of losing food assistance. It also risks investments in programs that reduce poverty around the globe. The nation must pay its bills, but not by asking people already struggling to sacrifice what little they have.

The real question is why are we choosing between pushing people deeper into poverty and risking an economic catastrophe from default in the first place? I don't want our nation to default but I do want Congress to do its job. This is a manufactured crisis but with real lives at stake.

We should never again have to make this false choice. Going forward, I demand our members of Congress prioritize policies that reduce poverty, not make it worse.

**- Avery Leinova, Portland**

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/jun/03/letter-congress-must-do-its-job-3/>

# Tri-City Herald

## Thanks, Rep. Newhouse

June 16, 2021

Thanks to Rep. Dan Newhouse for his vote for the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. It allowed the US to pay its bills, increase the debt ceiling, and cap federal spending. He knows, as a businessman and Representative, the importance of the bill. Rep. Newhouse has also voted for the Global Malnutrition Prevention & Treatment Act and READ Act-which funds early childhood learning.

Now I ask for his support for the American Family Act to restore the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to 2021 levels. This would be good fiscal responsibility and provide care for the most vulnerable.

After Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021, data from the Census Bureau and the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that investing a modest amount in children and families made a huge difference. Food insecurity and other material hardship dropped. Not only could parents pay their bills but most importantly children ate healthier.

The expanded CTC ended in 2021. The CTC was created by and has been expanded multiple times with bipartisan support. I ask Rep. Newhouse to be a policymaker who can make that happen again.

**- Barbara Puigh, Richland**

No online link



## **Finding Your Voice**

Summer 2023

Lynne Iser's reminder to find courage by thinking of the "future ones" and this courage to make a difference comes at an important time ("Summon your Superpower: Courage to Face the Future," Winter 2022/2023). With homelessness, poverty, hunger, and climate change challenging us, we need to speak up. We are never too old to speak to our members of Congress about passing legislation to curb these issues of inequity. The renewal of the expanded Child Tax Credit and renters' tax credits would be good starts. RESULTS (results.com) helps volunteers of all ages become more effective at this process. More voices equal more action and a better world. Find the courage to use yours.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://issuu.com/3rdactmagazine/docs/3rdact-summer-2023>



## **Expand Tax Credit for Workers and Families**

June 18, 2023

House Leaders have released their new tax proposal. Instead of including tax breaks to help Americans get out of poverty, they are playing the same old broken record again-- more tax cuts for the wealthy.

Instead of prioritizing the welfare of the rich, Congress should help workers and families. Start with expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Right now, millions of children are left out of the full CTC, including those from working families with lower incomes. Families who work full time, earning minimum wage, do not receive the full CTC. Yet, for example, high earners making \$200,000 or more receive the full tax credit. Thus current legislation does not value work equally.

We thank Derek Kilmer and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell for their ongoing commitment to workers and families.

**- Michael and Leslie Boyer, Bremerton**

No online link

# Tribune

## **Homelessness**

*Action is needed, Child Tax Credit can help*

June 21, 2023

To the Editor:

Sad to see homelessness in our county increasing, a situation reflected across the country. (June 7 Tribune article) Not surprising to see these increases, with inflation, cuts to the safety net, and the inability of the housing voucher program to reach more than 25% of those who qualify. Action on all levels of government is needed. On the national level, U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Suzan DelBene have introduced legislation to increase affordable housing across the country. A renter tax credit would be an important initiative to keep families housed, reaching them like the now expired expanded Child Tax Credit did. This tax credit cut child poverty by 46% and helped families pay rent and buy food. Fortunately, the American Family Act has been introduced by Rep. DelBene that would renew the Child Tax Credit. Each of us can participate in passing these equity initiatives by calling those who represent us, 202-224-3121, thanking them for their efforts and asking them to renew their efforts to pass these ladders out of poverty and ensure a brighter future for all Americans.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>

# THE COURIER-HERALD

## **Enumclaw is addressing affordable housing**

*Black Diamond resident Maureen Schnell talks about the 2021 Child Tax Credit*

June 23, 2023

I'd like to commend the City of Enumclaw for hosting a housing planning meeting to address the issue of affordable housing. This is a national issue and it needs a national solution for working families and seniors. We need our Senators and representatives in Washington D.C. to consider a Renters Tax Credit modeled after the Child Tax Credit of 2021 to help working families with the high cost of renting.

The Child Tax Credit of 2021 was successful by taking 46% of children out of poverty. Let's help those living in poverty by renewing the Child Tax Credit in the American Family Act and create a Renter Tax Credit to alleviate the high cost of rent throughout the United States and here is Washington State. Let's use the tax code to help Americans the way it was designed to do.

**- Maureen Schnell, Black Diamond**

<https://www.courierherald.com/letters/letter-to-the-editor-enumclaw-is-addressing-affordable-housing/>

# YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

## Renter tax credit, other measures offer housing relief

July 6, 2023

To the editor — Lt. Gov. Denny Heck recently pointed out the many problems caused by Washington's lack of housing. ('Housing shortage limits Washington's economic development' by Joel Donofrio, Yakima Herald-Republic, June 26.)

Lack of housing discourages businesses from wanting to locate here and burdens families. No wonder homelessness is increasing with nearly half of renters cost burdened and two-thirds of those paying over half of their income on housing. In addition to our state Legislature working on this challenge, there is also federal legislation pending. Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Suzan DelBene have a bill that will encourage new housing, including affordable housing, over the next 20 years.

In the meantime, a renter tax credit would ensure families experiencing poverty would pay no more than 30% of their income for housing. This would also help keep families housed, slowing the slide to homelessness. We can help these initiatives pass by thanking these two members of our state delegation for the housing legislation and asking them and others who represent us to support a renter tax credit. This will help counter the many problems caused by a lack of housing in our state, encouraging new economic expansion and equity.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-renter-tax-credit-other-measures-offer-housing-relief/article\\_95ad76e6-1aa5-11ee-84ed-73ae371167c1.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-renter-tax-credit-other-measures-offer-housing-relief/article_95ad76e6-1aa5-11ee-84ed-73ae371167c1.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



# THE COURIER-HERALD

## **Let's encourage our reps to help us achieve affordable housing**

*Former resident Willie Dickerson comments on the affordable housing crisis*

July 21, 2023

Excited to read about Enumclaw addressing affordable housing, in the town I student taught in and lived near for many years (Letter: "Enumclaw is addressing affordable housing", published June 23).

Affordable housing is a crisis across America that needs addressing at all levels of government.

Maureen Schnell's suggestion of renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families, along with a renter tax credit to keep low income renters housed, are excellent ideas. Each of us can help by encouraging our representatives in D.C. to pass these ladders out of poverty, along with encouraging local government to do their part.

Our voices can help put American on the road to equity for all!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.courierherald.com/letters/letter-to-the-editor-lets-encourage-our-reps-to-help-us-achieve-affordable-housing/>

# Kitsap Sun

## Help for renters makes a difference to families across the country

August 1, 2023

The story of Colleen and Rob becoming homeless due to fire, point out the flaws in our safety net and the power of a caring community. ("The nearly impossible challenge of unexpected homelessness," by Charmaine Doherty and Ruth Westergaard, Kitsap Sun opinion)

A renter tax credit being discussed in Congress would end people experiencing poverty paying over 30% of their income for rent. Indeed, millions of families pay over 50% of their income for rent. The proposed American Family Act, cosponsored by over 200 members of the House, including Rep. Kilmer, would bring back the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90% of families and cut child poverty by 46%. Both of these equity initiatives would slow homelessness and hunger, which shouldn't exist in the world's richest country.

Time to thank Rep. Kilmer and encourage him to continue his hard work to pass initiatives like these that make a difference for families across America.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

No online link

# Tribune

## **Housing**

*Fighting shortages*

August 2, 2023

To the editor:

Great to see local efforts being made to ease the housing shortage in Snohomish. ("Snohomish considers strategies for more housing," July 26 Tribune)

Nationally, Senator Cantwell and Rep. DelBene have introduced legislation to increase affordable housing unit built across the nation over the next 20 years. Additionally, a renter tax credit, would help low-income renters, capping their rent at 30% of their income, helping them stay housed. Let's encourage our local and national leaders to pass these and other initiatives to alleviate this crisis that causes increasing evictions and homelessness.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>

# YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

## Letter points out serious problems seniors faces

August 10, 2023

To the editor — J. Nogan busts some myths about senior citizens. ("A couple of things worth noting for seniors," Yakima Herald-Republic, Aug. 6).

As a senior citizen myself, I love to walk and often have to walk next to cars because of lack of sidewalks. But the poverty among seniors is no laughing matter. According to Lt. Governor Heck, 44% of renters are cost burdened.

No wonder a renter tax credit keeps being brought up in Congress, it would end those experiencing poverty don't have to pay over 30% of their income for rent. Calls to our members of Congress can help this to pass.

It is time America ends homelessness, hunger and the stress poverty brings. We are the richest country in the world, with more poverty than any of our peer countries.

Our voices can help pass initiatives to change this catastrophe.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-letter-points-out-serious-problems-seniors-faces/article\\_14e99118-355b-11ee-9ae3-a3ce997436cb.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-letter-points-out-serious-problems-seniors-faces/article_14e99118-355b-11ee-9ae3-a3ce997436cb.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Congress should pass expanded child tax credit**

August 18, 2023

I enjoyed reading Eugene Robinson's explanation of Bidenomics and its flip from insult to slogan for the current administration in the Aug. 2 Herald.

However, it didn't even mention the initiative that reached 90 percent of families, cut child poverty by 46 percent, and helped Americans stay housed and put food on the table: the expanded Child Tax Credit. Fortunately, Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., fought for it to be included initially and hasn't stop fighting to have it renewed to help 90 percent of families! No wonder it worked so well, a fact not lost on DelBene who hasn't given up and introduced legislation that would renew it and other initiatives to help the majority of Americans to have hope, the American Family Act.

More than 200 members of the House co-sponsored it, including the majority of Washington's delegation. Time to thank them for taking action to help America's struggling in poverty. Millions of children not knowing about where to sleep, or if they will eat, in the world's richest country. That's not OK. Call your representative and ask them to make sure the American Family Act passes, your voice matters, use it to make a difference.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/congress-should-pass-expanded-child-tax-credit/>

# The Seattle Times

## **Child Tax Credit: Expand to as many families as possible**

August 25, 2023

Re: "Look in mirror spurs Tacoma Housing Authority to set \$32 minimum wage" [April 17, Local News]:

Bravo to April Black, the executive director of the Tacoma Housing Authority who, after looking at the wages of her employees and how too many of them were struggling to make ends meet, found a way to raise their pay to \$32 per hour.

There is no shortage of stories of people with low wages struggling to meet their families' basic needs. But it does not have to be this way. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) remains one of the most powerful tools for helping families make ends meet. Current research shows that 91% of households earning \$35,000 or less used CTC funds for food, utilities, rent and education. But this is the rub.

Currently, families with high incomes get the full CTC while children from families with low incomes (an estimated 19 million) are the ones missing out on the full CTC. Leaving out those with the lowest incomes translates to worsening inequities for people marginalized by race, geography, ability and more. It is time to ensure that the CTC reaches as many families as possible. Please write to your member of Congress and urge them to expand the CTC to as many families as possible.

**- Zelda Foxall, Seattle**

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/child-tax-credit-expand-to-as-many-families-as-possible/>

# The Columbian

## Ask hard questions of candidates

August 30, 2023

Thank you for the excellent editorial about the first Republican debate needing to be concerned about our democracy and candidate beliefs about the importance of preserving it ("Elevate democracy in GOP presidential debate," In Our View, Aug. 23).

This editorial should be an inspiration to us all to ask the hard questions of candidates, locally and nationally. Are they in favor of family-friendly legislation, like renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit that reached 90 percent of families, helping them pay rent and bills, while cutting child poverty by 46 percent? Do they think affordable housing matters? Is it OK to hold the federal government hostage with votes to increase America's borrowing power or use budget time to bargain for special interests? Are tax breaks for the rich all that matter or is an equitable tax system and the IRS funding to enforce it what matters?

We the voters can ask these questions now and vote accordingly.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/aug/30/letter-ask-hard-questions-of-candidates/>

# Kitsap Sun

## Let's get back to addressing child poverty

September 22, 2023

The majority of American voters, across all districts and states, agree that we should invest in the safety and prosperity of our children. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) remains one of the most powerful tools for investing in the well being of our kids. The US census has released poverty data for 2022 and the news is alarming. Between 2021 and 2022, more than 5 million children fell into poverty, more than doubling the child poverty rate. The reason? Congress' inaction on the Child Tax Credit (CTC). In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC to all families with low or no income and sent it in monthly payments. As a result parents got the financial resources and flexibility to meet their children's basic needs and child poverty dropped to an historic low. Research on the CTC shows that 91% of households earning \$35,000 or less used CTC funds for food, utilities, rent, education and childcare. But under current law, low income families do not qualify to get the full CTC. However, a small group of politicians in Washington blocked an extension of the CTC monthly payments. The new poverty data confirms the disastrous effects of their inaction. In 2021 we were on the road to ending child poverty. It's time to finish the job. We urge our Members of Congress to expand the CTC to families with low incomes.

**- Michael and Leslie Boyer, Bremerton**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/09/22/lets-get-back-to-addressing-child-poverty/70934767007/>



## **Resumption of expanded child tax credit can fight poverty**

September 22, 2023

The U.S. Census Bureau has released poverty data for 2022 and the news is alarming.

Between 2021 and 2022, more than 5 million U.S. children fell into poverty, more than doubling the child poverty rate. The reason? Congress' inaction on the child tax credit.

As an early childhood educator I am daily confronted with the effects of poverty on children. Poorly fitted shoes means a child can't keep up with her classmates; parents can't afford lice shampoo, so lice is spread to many more in a classroom; parents quarrel about money and a child can't sleep; just to name a few of the daily irritations of poverty.

A well-documented solution is in front of our faces!

In 2021 Congress expanded the child tax credit to all families with low or no income and sent it in monthly payments. As a result, parents got the financial resources and flexibility to meet their children's basic needs and child poverty dropped to an historic low. But a small group of politicians in the other Washington blocked an extension of the child tax credit monthly payments. The new poverty data confirms the disastrous effects of their inaction.

In 2021, we were on the road to ending child poverty. It's time to finish the job. I urge Washington's representatives and Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to expand the child tax credit to families with low incomes and reject any tax legislation that does not.

**- Diana Tyree-Eddy, Hansville**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/resumption-of-expanded-child-tax-credit-can-fight-poverty/>

## **Congress can pass housing tax credit to make housing affordable**

September 29, 2023

Thanks to The Herald for keeping the housing crisis in front of us.

The recent editorial did a nice job summarizing a recent Herald Forum, bringing the experts to explore the issue “How do we housing within reach of everyone?” The Herald, Sept. 16).

With the large needs for affordable housing, it is not surprising Congress is proposing some solutions that will help the local efforts. U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Suzan DelBene have introduced legislation to encourage the building of millions of new units across the country, including our state. Addressing the speed to help keep people housed, a renter tax credit has been proposed. Similar to the expanded Child Tax Credit (that reached families immediately, cutting child poverty nearly in half, until it wasn't renewed) a renter tax credit would reach low income renters so they no longer paid over 30 percent of their income for rent.

Currently, millions are paying over 50 percent of their income on housing, leaving little for food and other basics. No wonder homelessness is increasing. We can help by calling our representatives and senators (202-224-3121), thanking them for their efforts and asking them to pass these legislation initiatives. Our voices to those in power can make the difference!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/congress-can-pass-housing-tax-credit-to-make-housing-affordable/>

## **Child tax credit works against child poverty; renew it**

*After the expanded credit ended in 2021, child poverty doubled. It's an investment we should make.*

**By Mary A. Minor**

September 30, 2023

Child poverty more than doubled last year after hitting record lows, Census Bureau data shows

In case you missed it, the U.S. Census Bureau reported on poverty in the United States in 2022, and the news is not good, especially for children. The New York Times reported that poverty among children more than doubled in the United States last year, as living costs rose and many pandemic aid programs ended.

In 2021, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan which included expansion of the Child Tax Credit. This \$1.9 trillion economic relief and stimulus package made three important changes to the child tax credit.

It temporarily increased benefit levels to a maximum of \$3,000 per child aged 6-17 and \$3,600 per child under six.

It made the full benefit available to families with low or no income, which closes the gap that left a third of children excluded if their parents don't earn enough income to qualify for the tax credit. This includes, for example, children living with grandparents who are retired and living on Social Security.

It paid the credit monthly instead of all in a lump sum at tax time.

These changes and other pandemic-era measures reduced child poverty in the U.S. by a whopping 46 percent. Most wealthy countries provide something like the expanded child credit, only they call it a child allowance. One estimate of the cost of this program per year is approximately \$100 billion. However, the cost/benefit analysis indicates improvements in child health, educational attainment, with reduced involvement with

child welfare and criminal justice systems, and more, the policy generates approximately \$800 billion in societal benefits, representing a rate of return of eight to one,

Research on what families spent their child tax credit money on indicates it mostly went to pay for food, rent, school and household bills.

By the time eligible families received their first CTC checks in mid-July, 2021, many of the earlier forms of covid-19 relief had expired or were near expiration. In fact, by mid-summer 26 states had announced early termination of the federally funded expanded unemployment program because they were concerned that parents would leave the workforce.

In the real world, a number of researchers found that that the opposite was true. Providing the cash benefit provided resources to address barriers to employment, such as securing child care or getting automobile repairs, which expanded labor force participation. For example, one study found that parents reporting they were unemployed because they had to care for children decreased from 26 percent to 20 percent in the first three months of the expanded CTC. Even the conservative-leaning American Enterprise Institute found in their study that 90% of families receiving the CTC had no change in employment with about 5 percent working more and 5 percent working less. Most of the parents that reduced the number of hours they worked were parents of infants and toddlers.

Congress is back in session now and working to avoid another unnecessary and costly government shutdown.

Instead of playing political games with our economy, how about focusing on things that work? In 2021, we found the solution to child poverty. Then Congress let it expire and, with the spike in child poverty last year, we see the consequences of its inaction.

It's not too late to change course. This year, Congress should make the expanded child tax credit available to the people who need it most, and it should be permanent and fully refundable. It is a good investment.

*Mary A. Minor is a retired naturopathic doctor and a member of RESULTS, dedicated to achieving economic justice for under-resourced people. She lives in Snohomish.*

# THE NEWS TRIBUNE

September 30, 2023

Another day, another headline in The News Tribune about a possible government shutdown.

I can only imagine what worse things could happen to those people least capable of handling an economic crisis if a shutdown occurs.

When Congress failed to act to extend the Child Tax Credit it resulted in doubling the number of children experiencing poverty in 2022.

The Child Tax Credit is the one big government expenditure to help children experiencing poverty. Why are we letting our government do this to our children?

It is time for voters to pay attention to what their Representatives are doing to help those children least responsible for experiencing poverty.

**- Andy Clarke, Gig Harbor**

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article279928294.html>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

## Make an inspired difference

October 16, 2023

Bryan Stevenson is an inspiration for a better America (“Bryan Stevenson speaks on how America can ‘do justice, love mercy and walk humbly,” Oct. 4). Facing the problems of poverty, Congress has discovered legislation that makes a difference, especially in the challenges of housing, hunger and health care. What is needed now is the political will for action. That is where we the people come in: call (202)224-3121, asking your members of Congress to pass equity initiatives, like renewing the Child Tax Credit (American Family Act) that cut child poverty nearly in half and helped families pay rent and bills.

Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Suzan DelBene recently introduced the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act that would increase affordable housing units across the nation. Why not join in and make a difference, calling your representatives, takes five minutes or less, time well spent.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Washington**

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2023/oct/16/letters-for-oct-16-2023/>

# Tri-City Herald

## Child Tax Credit Reduces Poverty

October 29, 2023

I am asking Tri-Citians to ask Rep. Dan Newhouse to encourage his colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee to reinstate the Child Tax Credit as it was in the American Rescue Plan of 2021. During 2021, child poverty was reduced by a significant 46%, as reported by the Census Bureau.

The credit was passed into law in 1997 by a Republican-controlled Congress to provide support to households with children. The expansion of the credit in 2021 was especially effective because it helped the poorest working people. By contrast, three million children fell back into poverty in 2022 as 19 million lost all or part of the credit. Poverty is not good for the individuals and families affected, our economy or our national security.

In December 2022, economists wrote in an open letter to Congress: "Extending the expanded Child Tax Credit is one of the easiest, most effective, and direct tools at our disposal to help families deal with the impact of inflation on family budgets." Please ask Rep. Newhouse to help expand the current Child Tax Credit so that more working families with low incomes receive the full benefit.

**- Barbara Puigh, Richland**

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article280907023.html>



## **Warden SD right to address mental health**

November 2, 2023

The Warden School District should be commended for securing funding to help address their students' behavioral and mental health needs. Araceli Flores, the new student assistance professional, states that "many young people face significant challenges, often in silence ..." Ms. Flores states that she will provide services to address, among other things, academics, and mental health.

In today's economy, many children worry about the stress their parents experience. They see their parents working hard trying to make ends meet and provide for their basic needs. And some of this stress and worry can adversely affect children's well-being.

We, as a caring nation, can help by asking our members of Congress to foster economic security, early childhood development and the health of our children by supporting the expansion of the child tax credit. The CTC has offered millions of hardworking families the tools to provide safety and stability for their children. The CTC is one of the most powerful tools for investing in the well-being of our children.

**- Zelda Foxall, Seattle**

<https://columbiabasinherald.com/news/2023/nov/02/letter-warden-sd-right-to-address-mental-health/>



# YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

## Congress needs to get back to work for us now

November 7, 2023

To the editor — Congratulations to the House majority for electing a leader and passing a resolution, similar to the Senate's one supporting Israel against terrorists. (Other Views: "The House is finally up and running," by the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Yakima Herald Republic, Nov. 2.)

Congress' commitment to "not waver or quit" in this support is laudable, but what about America's children? The failure to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit, more than doubling child poverty, was terrible. But it is not too late: we can call on our members of Congress (202-224-3121) turn this around and pass the American Family Act that contains this and other equity initiatives. America's children deserve a future brighter than poverty.

– **Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-congress-needs-to-get-back-to-work-for-us-now/article\\_c328c4e4-7c12-11ee-a577-936725ac606b.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-congress-needs-to-get-back-to-work-for-us-now/article_c328c4e4-7c12-11ee-a577-936725ac606b.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# CASCADIA DAILY NEWS

## ***No title***

November 8, 2023

Editor,

So many letters refer to the “best candidates” to vote for in local races (CDN, Nov. 1, 2023). At the same time, let’s remember our members of Congress we elected work for us. We can thank Representatives Larsen and DelBene, along with Senators Cantwell and Murray for their work to renew the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty nearly in half before it expired. Along with working to expand affordable housing across America, we need to encourage them to keep going.

Send them stories about why these equity initiatives matter to us and the difference they make. Our calls, emails and visits to those who represent us can make the difference between elections. Child poverty and homelessness are policy choices — let’s reverse them!

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.cascadiadaily.com/news/2023/nov/08/letters-to-the-editor-week-of-nov-8-2023/>

# Tribune

## **Poverty**

*New effort can rectify issues*

November 8, 2023

To the Editor:

Thanks to the Tribune for noting the Poverty 101 workshop that was offered Nov. 4 (Tribune Briefs).

Recently released census data shows that child poverty has more than doubled since the expanded Child Tax Credit expired. Rep. Suzan DelBene has introduced the American Family Act to renew it, so it once again reaches families in dire need. Studies show families used their monthly tax credit to buy food, pay bills, and pay rent. The way the tax credit is currently structured, the people most in need don't qualify, while families making over \$100,000 can qualify for the full credit. The American Family Act would rectify this and other tax fairness issues, once again cutting poverty significantly.

Not sure you understand? Attend the next poverty workshop in January. Want to do more? Let Congresswoman DelBene know (1-202-224-3121) you appreciate her efforts and encourage her to continue to work to pass this ladder out of poverty. 40% of Americans at or near the poverty level will greatly appreciate it.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



## **Congress Must End the Bickering and Get to Work**

November 12, 2023

If and when Congress gets its act together, their first actions will be funding the government. Since it is likely that they will continue bickering until the last minute (Nov. 17), now is the time to tell your representatives and senators what you care about.

I am urging U.S. Rep. Strickland and Senators Murray and Cantwell to make eliminating poverty their highest priority, whether they are considering domestic or foreign policies. Eliminating poverty is not impractical or impossible, it is essential. Poverty doesn't just affect the poor, it's at the root of many complex problems we face. It destabilizes the world, making it less safe for all of us.

A great place for Congress to start is with expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The federal tax system is a powerful, effective financial tool that can immediately reduce child poverty and promote housing stability. We have data that shows the number of children living in poverty was cut in half during the time the expanded CTC was in place (2021), and as soon as it expired, the number more than doubled (2022).

Children should not be forced to live in poverty while Congress avoids reality through incessant infighting. Encourage your representatives to work together, across the aisle, to make reducing poverty a priority in the upcoming budget debates.

**- Carol Kraege, Olympia**

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article281511683.html>

# Kitsap Sun

## **As Congress confronts spending, don't forget the kids in poverty**

November 17, 2023

Congress voted to keep the government working, for now, but they still have a lot of work on their plate, including taxes. Big corporations are pushing hard for Congress to expand tax breaks for corporations. According to the Pew Research Center there has been an “uninterrupted increase in inequality since 1980.” Those tax breaks will go directly into the pockets of already rich CEOs. This could happen in a few weeks.

As the rich grow richer, Census data shows that child poverty is increasing. It more than doubled in 2022. Any tax package Congress passes must include an expansion of the Child Tax Credit. We have witnessed how the expansion of the CTC lifted low-income families out of poverty in 2021. 3 million children were able to live less stressful lives by escaping poverty. Now that the CTC expansion has expired those children are being left behind. We must not abandon them.

Our members of congress need to put children first—not big corporations. These families need this help to meet basic needs. Any tax package must work to reduce child poverty by expanding the Child Tax Credit.

**– Marty Bishop, Port Orchard**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/11/17/as-congress-confronts-spending-dont-forget-the-kids-in-poverty/71624950007/>

# The Seattle Times

## Rep. Derek Kilmer: Thank you

November 17, 2023

Re: "I won't run again for Congress, but I remain hopeful that we can make things better" [Nov. 9, Opinion]:

I was sorry to read of U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer's retirement, since hopeful, bipartisan, hard workers like him are exactly the kind of people we want to represent us.

Speaking with Rep. Kilmer over the years in Washington, D.C., and locally, it is easy to see why he will be missed. He is a good listener. And he is a champion for global health, protecting us locally; global education that results in hope for children around the world; and ladders out of poverty in our country. The list goes on.

His bipartisan work once resulted in getting the entire Washington delegation, of both parties, to sign a letter to the president calling for bold support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, resulting in just that. He still has a year remaining to continue his good work, including renewing the READ Act to keep education improving around the globe; passing the End TB Now Act to battle a leading infectious killer in our world; and renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit to once again cut child poverty in half.

So take a minute to thank him and encourage him to continue his hard work on what matters.

- **Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/rep-derek-kilmer-thank-you/?utm\\_source=RSS&utm\\_medium=Referral&utm\\_campaign=RSS\\_all](https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/rep-derek-kilmer-thank-you/?utm_source=RSS&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign=RSS_all)

# Kitsap Sun

## Honor Carter's legacy of caring for people in need

November 30, 2023

Watching former first lady Rosalyn Carter's memorial service I am reminded of the impact and importance of truly caring. Mrs. Carter left a legacy that included giving voice to, and supporting people who needed help; including people serving as caregivers, people with mental health issues, and people who lacked housing. She recognized that so many need help, and she was instrumental in establishing programs that provided that help. (Rosalyn Carter Institute For Caregivers, passage of Mental Health Systems Act, Habitat For Humanity)

Currently, Congress has at least three opportunities to continue to provide help to people in need.

One: passing the End TB Now Act (HR1776 -already unanimously passed in the Foreign Relations Committee) to fight a disease that needlessly killed 1.3 million people last year.

Two: Passing the READ ACT Reauthorization Act of 2023 (HR 681, S41)- making certain that the US government renews and updates our efforts to ensure equal access to quality education for children throughout the world.

Three: revisiting and revising the CTC (Child Tax Credit) that reduced child poverty by 46%- making sure that the lowest income families are not left out.

All of these issues deserve bipartisan support, and would confirm our continuing commitment to helping people in need, as so beautifully demonstrated by Rosalyn Carter.

**- Leslie Boyer, Bremerton**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/11/30/honor-carters-legacy-of-caring-for-people-in-need/71755246007/>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

## Poverty in the richest country in the world

December 1, 2023

Stephanie Land's books on poverty illuminate the difficult situation millions of Americans face, especially mothers and children. This poverty in our country (world's wealthiest) is a policy choice. Really? Yes, just look at the outcome from passing the expanded Child Tax Credit: child poverty cut in half. Why wasn't it renewed? Good question to ask Rep. McMorris Rodgers. What is more important than protecting America's mothers and children from poverty? Congress can make the choice to turn this unconscionable situation around and is more likely to do so if our representatives hear from us, (202) 224-3121. It is time to end stories like Ms. Land's, let's use our voices to remind Congress what really matters.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2023/dec/01/letters-for-dec-1-2023/>



# Kitsap Sun

## Help families by expanding credit for children

December 8, 2023

Let's feed our hungry children! Lately, I have received, almost daily, request from various nonprofits to donate to help feed hungry children, many of these are for children of our own country. I certainly want those children fed and donate what I can.

How can it be that the wealthiest nation on the planet has children who do not have enough food to eat? Yes, we have SNAP, but it does not reach everyone in need.

Our government has a program, the Child Tax Credit, that in its past expanded version helped reduce childhood poverty by 46% -- subsequently also reducing childhood food insecurity.

Let's get the Child Tax Credit expanded again so more families and their children have increased food security, reducing hunger.

**- Karen L. Scott, Bremerton**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/12/08/help-families-by-expanding-credit-for-children/71858134007/>

# YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

## Engaging the public in decisions will improve voter turnouts

December 13, 2023

To the editor — Excellent editorial detailing the need for new strategies to increase voter turnout ("Low voter turnouts call for fresh strategies") by the Yakima Herald-Republic Editorial Board on Dec. 8.

All elections are important and those in office make decisions that affect us all. And of course after voting we can speak to those we elect, reminding them about what is important.

Education can be a part of this process, students learning to participate by calling or writing their representatives, school boards, mayors and/or councils. Asking questions, like why wasn't the expanded Child Tax Credit renewed when it cut child poverty nearly in half? can be a good way to start.

Having discussions about current issues is good for all of us, and our members of Congress need to hear about it. Then voting becomes a logical next step in all elections.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-engaging-the-public-in-decisions-will-improve-voter-turnouts/article\\_15bea1be-986b-11ee-ad1c-9bd6faa6360b.html](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letter-engaging-the-public-in-decisions-will-improve-voter-turnouts/article_15bea1be-986b-11ee-ad1c-9bd6faa6360b.html)

# THE NEWS TRIBUNE

## Child Tax Credit

December 14, 2023

This holiday season, too many children in our country face the harsh reality of not having even the basic necessities. Holiday toys and treats are increasingly out of reach when families cannot afford food, housing and warm clothing.

Congress could help by expanding the federal Child Tax Credit. No other tool works better at putting these items back in reach.

Supporting low-income families during this holiday season through giving trees, donations to food banks and toy drives is wonderful — but it only lasts this one season.

A gift that would last longer is contacting your member of Congress in support of expanding the Child Tax Credit.

**- Jennie Vano, Fircrest**

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article283070358.html>

# Kitsap Sun

## Thanks to Rep. Kilmer for standing up on behalf of kids

December 14, 2023

Many people don't care who represents them in Congress. But to me it matters a lot. For 11 years Rep. Derek Kilmer has represented the residents of Kitsap County and beyond. Next year will be his last year representing us, as he's announced that he is term limiting himself. How many members of Congress have the courage to do that! During his six terms in Congress, he's stood up for working people, for students and their schools and training institutions, for healthcare, for veterans, for small businesses, for the Tribes, for the environment, and most importantly, for children.

I am particularly grateful for his persistent focus on reducing poverty, in the U.S. and around the world. He's always been a strong supporter of policies and investments in the well being of children, their families, their schools, and their health. Currently he is supporting the expansion of the Child Tax Credit that will lift almost half of the children in Washington State out of poverty, improvement of policies governing our nation's investment in global education, and eradication of TB (the largest infectious disease killer globally). Derek, you are a hero to so many people. Thank you for your service to us all.

**- Beth Wilson, Olalla**

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2023/12/14/thanks-to-rep-kilmer-for-standing-up-on-behalf-of-kids/71913273007/>



## **The Importance of Home**

*For generations, poor people have relied on each other to keep a roof over their heads. But in the world's wealthiest country, we need more.*

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 16, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

## ***No title***

December 20, 2023

Editor,

Carole Jacobson's recent letter reminds us of the many emergencies around the world that need our help, even if they don't get headlines (CDN, Dec. 13, 2023). Inspired by her call for us to help, there are many avenues to make a difference. Beyond giving cash, there is also using our voices to encourage our government's positive initiatives. Calling for the renewing of the expanded Child Tax Credit that cut child poverty by 46% is a good start. Passing the End TB Now Act will help people around the world by battling tuberculosis, the world's number one infectious killer.

Renewing the READ Act will continue reaching children with a quality education where many have no opportunity. So you can make a difference by calling your members of Congress, 202-224-3121, and encouraging them to pass these and other ladders out of poverty for our country and our global community.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.cascadiadaily.com/news/2023/dec/20/letters-to-the-editor-week-of-dec-20-2023/>

# Tribune

## **Preventing Homelessness**

*Child tax credit one ladder out of poverty*

December 20, 2023

To the Editor:

With the holidays food and toy drives become familiar sights. The overflowing boxes are evidence of local caring for those with less. Meanwhile Everett will soon have a new pallet shelter for mom's with kids and pregnant women ("VOAWW to create shelter for moms," Dec. 6 Tribune). Recently a study by Dr. Mark Robert Rank, of Washington University, shows 59% of Americans will experience poverty for at least some of their lives. Congress needs to take action to end this crisis. Ladders out of poverty, like the expanded Child Tax Credit which was proven to work needs to be renewed. Other equity initiatives like a renter tax credit need to be passed along with quality health care for everyone. Now is the perfect time to thank Reps. Larsen and DelBene, along with Senators Cantwell and Murray for all of their efforts to end the devastating effects of poverty, and encourage them to keep up this critical work until there is no need for shelters, food banks, and emergency room care for people without insurance. This can help create happy holidays for all.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



# The Columbian

## Reducing homeless deaths

December 29, 2023

Thanks to the 80 people who lit the candles to the memories of 43 of Clark County's homeless community who died in 2023. Sad to think of this number multiplied by the thousands of counties in the richest country in the world. Good news is the new shelters available adding new beds for those experiencing homelessness.

Continuing to shine our lights, we can encourage more of this work locally and nationally. Nationally, renewing the expanded Child Tax Credit and adding a renter tax credit will help end the flow to the record number of homeless in our country this year. The renewal of the Vancouver levy the Affordable Housing Fund locally is a great example for Congress to pass Sen. Maria Cantwell's affordable housing bill. If we keep reminding our local and national elected representatives of this need, in the future there will be fewer and fewer candles. Our voices matter and can help save lives by calling for this lifesaving legislation.

- **Willie Dickerson, Snohomish**

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2023/dec/29/letter-reducing-homeless-deaths/>

# The Seattle Times

## Headlines readers would like to see in 2024

By The Seattle Times editorial board

December 31, 2023

Happy New Year! Or let's hope so.

On the bright side, the pandemic as a serious threat to public health is well on the wane, although yet another subvariant is making trouble. Still, more people are back at work, enjoying movies, concerts and community festivals. Sure, you might get the side-eye for a coughing attack, but people tend to be returning somewhat to normal.

Ukraine is approaching its third year bravely fending off Russian invasion, while watching international support start to go wobbly. Israel and Hamas have been at war since Oct. 7 with haunting images every day.

A former U.S. president faces criminal charges related to his role in encouraging the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. And polls suggest former President Donald Trump could be the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination.

That, together with the uncertainty of artificial intelligence's role in political campaigns, bodes for another difficult, divisive election season. Get ready.

So, on a day that signals new beginnings, let's do a little imagining about what could make this a happy new year. For the eighth year, The Seattle Times editorial board invited readers to submit headlines they would like to see in 2024.

We received 214 headline submissions from 139 readers (people could submit two each). Our contestants hailed from cities throughout Washington, and from Idaho and Oregon.

Our Opinion staff voted on the submissions. The hands-down favorite was from Seattle's Rafael Brewer, 14, about the plight of the increasingly unreliable Washington State Ferries system. Our annual headline contest wouldn't be the same without a few wistful hopes for Seattle to be an NBA city again, and Steve Jeske of Seattle didn't

disappoint, snagging second place. In third was the subtle coda that Redmond's Travis S. Craig wrote for Trump's travails.

All three winners will get a selection of Seattle Times swag. Enjoy their headlines and those of the honorable mentions.

Happy New Year.

Here's a list of the editorial board's favorite contest entries:

— Awaiting new boats, Gov. Inslee announces plan to catapult citizens across Puget Sound, Rafael Brewer, Seattle

— Bezos buys NBA Thunder, returns Sonics to Seattle, Steve Jeske, Seattle

— Former President Trump retires to Saint Helena 'for the golf,' Travis S. Craig, Redmond

— Salmon breathe sigh of relief: Tire chemistry changed nationally, Terry L. Smith, Tacoma

— Sound Transit installs turnstiles in light-rail stations to improve passenger and fare accountability, Mark F. Guntrum, Seattle

— Smart aquatic robots safely removing mountains of plastic debris from oceans and beaches, restoring habitat, Glenda Brown, Bonney Lake

— Human-created art bests AI in every category, Livia Cicchillo, Seattle

— New Middle East era begins as Palestine and Israel exchange ambassadors, Mike Kelly, Bainbridge Island

— Putin flees to Syria as Ukraine completes liberation of Crimea, Michael Gordon, Redmond

— **Bipartisan support of fully funded Child Tax Credit raises all U.S. children above poverty line, Melessa Rogers, Burien**

— Alabama, Michigan, Rutgers bolt for Pac-2, Warren Errig, Seattle

— Gov. Dave Reichert makes Washington state the Evergreen State again: All graffiti, trash and encampments removed from state properties, Tim Cox, Seattle

- 10 months after Gov. Bob Ferguson bans all gas vehicles, Washington's climate improves to best in world, Neal Starkman, Seattle
- Due to a massive downturn in donations, the National Rifle Association declares bankruptcy, John Black, Bellingham
- City buys stalled high-rise project at 707 Terry Ave. for affordable housing, Sara J. Glerum, Seattle
- State fourth graders best in nation in reading and math scores, Noma Edwards, Bow

*The Seattle Times editorial board members are editorial page editor Kate Riley, Frank A. Blethen, Melissa Davis, Josh Farley, Alex Fryer, Claudia Rowe, Carlton Winfrey and William K. Blethen (emeritus).*

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/editorials/headlines-readers-would-like-to-see-in-2024/>

# **West Virginia media**

## Debt ceiling fight hurts vulnerable people the most

May 28, 2023

All of the partisan debt ceiling chatter in recent weeks has been tiresome. Does it matter how committed Republican leaders really are to their ideals or if Democrats truly are principled negotiators?! More attention should be given to the impact this stunt is having on people who are either experiencing poverty or will be if a resolution is not found soon.

Too easily we forget that the lives of everyday people depend on congressional decision-making. People in vulnerable circumstances especially rely on compassionate leadership for resources that allow them to live with dignity - resources that ensure access to healthy food, safe housing, and decent health care. Yet, their needs are treated with careless disregard, which is only possible because many in positions of authority carry on as though the disadvantaged among us are solely responsible for their circumstances and somehow deserve this ill treatment. Casting these needs as bargaining chips belies the social, economic, and political causes of poverty. It also absolves congressional leaders of the power and responsibility they have to help eradicate it.

Our country's economy is being held hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. This is far from fair and needs to stop. President Biden and congressional leaders should commit themselves to finding a swift and sensible resolution to this crisis, one that lifts the debt ceiling immediately and rejects any budget cuts that would increase poverty.

**- Joanna DiStefano, Morgantown**

<https://www.dominionpost.com/2023/05/27/may-28-letters-to-the-editor/>

## Poverty just jumped — and it was no accident

By Lakeisha McVey

September 20, 2023

I have lived and studied poverty most of my life. But you don't have to be an expert to see why it's spiking after lawmakers let antipoverty programs expire.

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa.

I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C.. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me.

Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.

I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don't end.

The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100 percent of my health insurance. That's a rarity. If I'd been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would've gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day.

But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8 percent — its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.



Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

*Lakeisha McVey is a bereaved mother, social justice advocate, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

[https://www.bdtonline.com/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/article\\_adc17896-5730-11ee-85b6-5f56bd052159.html](https://www.bdtonline.com/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/article_adc17896-5730-11ee-85b6-5f56bd052159.html)

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[https://www.fayetttribune.com/opinion/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/article\\_9a88b3ba-5830-11ee-b622-8fe1bab9e5b4.html](https://www.fayetttribune.com/opinion/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/article_9a88b3ba-5830-11ee-b622-8fe1bab9e5b4.html)

[https://www.bdtonline.com/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/article\\_adc17896-5730-11ee-85b6-5f56bd052159.html](https://www.bdtonline.com/poverty-just-jumped-and-it-was-no-accident/article_adc17896-5730-11ee-85b6-5f56bd052159.html)

# The Inter-Mountain

## Reader wants CTC expansions restored

September 30, 2023

Fall is in the air, and the Mountain State Forest Festival is just around the corner. I remember taking my kids to the festival and the excitement it fostered in them.

One feature of the festival that I respect is the unlimited ride wristband at the carnival, which allows all kids, regardless of family income, to ride all the rides for one low discounted price. I am not sure how it started, but I believe it reflects the best intentions of parents and community leaders, that no child should be excluded from this great celebration.

I feel much the same way about the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC), designed to alleviate childhood poverty. Its bipartisan creation in 1997 during a Republican controlled Congress is testament to the shared values that Americans have for uplifting children.

In 2021, an expanded version of the CTC helped cut American child poverty in half. However, Congress let these expansions expire at the end of that year.

The CTC helps low-income families provide better nutrition, pay rent and childcare expenses, and provide a more stable environment for kids.

There is strong evidence to show that it helps parents keep existing jobs and even find new jobs by improving financial stability in the home.

As our children enjoy this year's Forest Festival, please join me in encouraging Representative Alex Mooney along with Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin to restore CTC expansions and reject any tax legislation that does not.

**- Jon DiStefano, Elkins**

<https://www.theintermountain.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2023/09/reader-wants-ctc-expansions-restored/>



## **State's federal lawmakers must fund government, expand Child Tax Credit now**

**By Dr. Jo Reece**

October 29, 2023

The chaos and acrimony in the House right now is putting millions of families at risk of deeper poverty by cutting off federal assistance that feeds, educates, and houses millions each year. It is infuriating that the basic foundations of our social safety net are constantly being used as political pawns in Washington.

As Lakeisha McVey stated in her column on Sept. 21, 2023, "Poverty just jumped, and it was no accident," poverty is fixable. It doesn't have to be this way.

Supporting families through our tax code can minimize the harm these yearly funding battles inflict. For instance, when we expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in 2021 and made it available to families with the lowest incomes, we cut child poverty nearly in half. Unfortunately, new Census data shows that child poverty more than doubled when Congress allowed the expansion to expire.

West Virginia is ranked last among children under 5 with 30 percent of our young kids living in poverty. Our state is only ahead of Mississippi in overall poverty and overall child poverty (kids under 18) and was the only state to see an increase in poverty by the Census Bureau's official measure in 2022.

Combined with our state's poor economic growth in 2022 (ranked 49th in Growth Domestic Product growth over the last year), our leaders in Congress should be supporting policies that decrease poverty, not worsen it. Where are they?!?

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) estimated that 50,000 of our kids in rural West Virginia (accounts for 39 percent of all children in rural West Virginia) are currently left out of the full value of the CTC because the family's income is too low. As

an internist and pediatrician, I see the daily struggles my patients have with the rising costs of housing, food, healthcare along with the child care crisis. And it's not just our young families, we have so many grandparents who are now the primary caretakers of their grandchildren and are facing the same financial struggles.

They are in a no-win situation. We all know people who are caught in this continuous cycle of poverty — they're our family members, neighbors, church members, fellow West Virginians. It isn't right.

Families shouldn't be caught in the middle of the reckless and childish fights over funding the government. Expand the Child Tax Credit permanently so that families can have consistent support they can count on. Senators Capito and Manchin, along with Representatives Miller and Mooney, must fund the government and expand the Child Tax Credit now.

*Dr. Jo Reece, of RESULTS WV, is an associate professor, associate program director in the Department of Internal Medicine, and director of Global Health Track for the WVU School of Medicine. She can be contacted at [jreece@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:jreece@hsc.wvu.edu).*

[https://www.fayetttribune.com/opinion/state-s-federal-lawmakers-must-fund-government-expand-child-tax-credit-now/article\\_6f74a6ba-7686-11ee-94a7-0ff4ef15f366.html](https://www.fayetttribune.com/opinion/state-s-federal-lawmakers-must-fund-government-expand-child-tax-credit-now/article_6f74a6ba-7686-11ee-94a7-0ff4ef15f366.html)



# THE REGISTER~HERALD.

## **Poverty is fixable**

November 4, 2023

The chaos and acrimony in the House right now is putting millions of families at risk of deeper poverty by cutting off federal assistance that feeds, educates, and houses millions each year. It is infuriating that the basic foundations of our social safety net are constantly being used as political pawns in Washington. It doesn't have to be this way. Poverty is fixable.

Supporting families through our tax code can minimize the harm these yearly funding battles inflict. For instance, when we expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in 2021 and made it available to families with the lowest incomes, we cut child poverty nearly in half. Unfortunately, child poverty more than doubled when Congress allowed the expansion to expire.

West Virginia is ranked last with 30 percent of children under 5 living in poverty. Our state is only ahead of Mississippi in overall poverty and overall child poverty and was the only state to see an increase in poverty by the Census Bureau in 2022. Our leaders in Congress should be supporting policies that decrease poverty, not worsen it.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) estimated that 50,000 of our kids in rural West Virginia are currently left out of the full value of the Child Tax Credit because the family's income is too low.

As an internist and pediatrician, I see the daily struggles my patients have with the rising costs of housing, food, health care along with the child care crisis. And it's not just our young families; we have so many grandparents who are now the primary caregivers of their grandchildren and are facing the same financial struggles. They are in a no-win situation.

We all know people who are caught in this continuous cycle of poverty – they're our family members, neighbors, church members, fellow West Virginians. It isn't right.

Families shouldn't be caught in the middle of the reckless and childish fights in Congress. Expand the Child Tax Credit permanently so that families can have

consistent support they can count on. Sens. Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin along with Reps. Carol Miller and Alex Mooney must expand the Child Tax Credit now.

**- Josephine Reece, Morgantown**

[https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/poverty-is-fixable/article\\_fe575792-7997-11ee-a7c5-c3f9b72997c2.html](https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/poverty-is-fixable/article_fe575792-7997-11ee-a7c5-c3f9b72997c2.html)



# **Wisconsin media**



## **Expand child tax credit**

May 11, 2023

Dear Editor: This isn't shocking news but the GOP is back at it again. As part of their disastrous budget plan, the House plans to protect wealthy people at the expense of Americans struggling to make ends meet by cutting money from the IRS designed to go after wealthy tax dodgers.

If Congress wants to do something meaningful on taxes (that is not for the wealthy), how about expanding the child tax credit instead? In 2021, Congress expanded the credit to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. As a result, child poverty dropped because parents were finally helped out with paying for food, rent, child care and other basic necessities. It turns out poverty is a policy choice. To no one's shock, the Senate let the expansion expire. Not surprisingly, child poverty is on the rise and families are again struggling.

Congress should be protecting children, not wealthy tax cheats. I urge our members of Congress representing Wisconsin to expand the child tax credit to all families with low incomes this year.

**- Sid Jacob, West Allis**

[https://captimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-expand-child-tax-credit/article\\_f205fb34-5a2a-592a-bb5b-d64c22b69632.html](https://captimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-expand-child-tax-credit/article_f205fb34-5a2a-592a-bb5b-d64c22b69632.html)



## **Renters tax credit would help solve housing issues**

May 26, 2023

Dear Editor: Regarding Russell Novkov's letter titled "More affordable housing needed," (May 23) I concur with the author's viewpoint.

We must mobilize collective efforts to address the scarcity of affordable housing. This pervasive issue demands a diverse range of solutions. One potential strategy involves the introduction of a renters tax credit, which would impose a reasonable limit on the expenses borne by individuals who spend over 30% of their income on rent. By implementing this initiative, we can assist those burdened by exorbitant rental costs, enabling them to afford their homes and meet other essential needs.

Importantly, this solution entails no additional bureaucratic procedures and benefits all parties involved. I encourage each of us to express our perspectives, amplify our voices, and urge our elected representatives to pass legislation for a renters tax credit, thereby benefiting the entire community.

**- Sarah Miller, University City, Missouri**

[https://captimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-renters-tax-credit-would-help-solve-housing-issues/article\\_31e8f493-bc69-59ec-94e6-41fe20b0ba48.html](https://captimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-renters-tax-credit-would-help-solve-housing-issues/article_31e8f493-bc69-59ec-94e6-41fe20b0ba48.html)

## **Child Tax Credit raised children out of poverty -- America Domingo**

September 19, 2023

I was upset to see the news that child poverty more than doubled last year, with over 5 million children falling into poverty, according to recent U.S. Census data. I see this here in Wisconsin. Lots of families struggle to find housing, food and clothing for themselves and their children.

Especially as school is getting started, winter approaches, and a COVID surge is likely, it's essential that we focus on ensuring our children are healthy, cared for and ready to learn.

The reason child poverty doubled is because Congress chose not to keep expansions of the federal child tax credit. These expansions of the credit allowed parents to have financial resources and flexibility to meet their children's basic needs. When parents have the means to support their kids, child poverty falls. The new poverty data confirms the disastrous effects of Congress' inaction.

I urge our representatives and senators to expand the child tax credit to families with low incomes, and to support Wisconsin families and children.

**- America Domingo, Mount Horeb**

[https://madison.com/opinion/letters/tax-credit-kept-kids-out-of-poverty/article\\_476dda9e-5276-11ee-bc87-eb1ae0bd86f8.html](https://madison.com/opinion/letters/tax-credit-kept-kids-out-of-poverty/article_476dda9e-5276-11ee-bc87-eb1ae0bd86f8.html)

## **A redeemed Scrooge would expand the Child Tax Credit -- Zachary Godfrey**

December 24, 2023

One of the timeless characters of the holiday season is Ebenezer Scrooge, the selfish, miserly businessman with no heart. But Scrooge's story was one of redemption. When faced with his role in perpetuating hunger and poverty, he changed.

This holiday season, too many children in our country still face those harsh realities. Holiday toys and treats are out of reach when families cannot afford food, housing and heat.

But Congress could help by expanding the Child Tax Credit. Every time this tax credit is expanded to children from families with low incomes, child poverty drops. No other tool works better at lifting kids from poverty.

This season, will our members of Congress follow the old Scrooge's lead and let those around them needlessly suffer? Or will they make "mankind their business" and enact legislation to help? At the end of the story, Scrooge learned his lesson.

U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, and Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, should do the same by expanding the Child Tax Credit now.

**- Zachary Godfrey, Verona**

[https://madison.com/opinion/letters/scrooge-child-tax-credit/article\\_c39faa20-9e9d-11ee-9fbf-331064fb9711.html](https://madison.com/opinion/letters/scrooge-child-tax-credit/article_c39faa20-9e9d-11ee-9fbf-331064fb9711.html)

# Wyoming media



## **Congress should do two things to make tax code more fair**

March 15, 2023

Many of us in Wyoming don't agree with President Biden on much. However, most of us can agree that the cost of living is too dang high, especially for those trying to raise a family.

Biden has released his new budget, and he has made making the tax code fairer for everyday Americans a priority.

I agree with this priority, and there are two things Congress could do right now to make it happen. First, expand the Child Tax Credit. In 2021, Congress expanded the CTC to all low-income families and sent it as monthly payments. Child poverty immediately plummeted, and parents breathed a sigh of relief. Sadly, Congress let the expanded CTC expire.

Second, enact a Renter Tax Credit (RTC). Millions of American renters are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents. While the tax code gives billions in tax breaks to homeowners, renters get nothing. The RTC would remedy this by giving rent-burdened households a refundable tax credit to help offset the high cost of rent.

I urge Senator Barrasso, Senator Lummis and Representative Hageman to follow suit by expanding the CTC and enacting an RTC now.

**- Letter from Jennifer Quinlivan, Cheyenne**

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/congress-should-do-two-things-to-make-tax-code-more-fair/article\\_426fdda4-c297-11ed-b49f-c7b34a1e9d23.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/congress-should-do-two-things-to-make-tax-code-more-fair/article_426fdda4-c297-11ed-b49f-c7b34a1e9d23.html)



## **Quinlivan was right about permanent expansion of Child Tax Credit**

March 22, 2023

Jennifer Quinlivan's March 15 letter makes a really good argument for establishment of a renter's tax credit, and permanent expansion and refundability of the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Many people may not know how CTC works. Low-income children receive partial benefit or, if they are in severe need, they receive no benefit at all. Wealthier children receive the full benefit as a bonus for being better off.

As Jennifer said, contact Sens. Barrasso and Lummis and Rep. Hageman to let them know you want CTC expanded and made fully refundable – permanently.

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/quinlivan-was-right-about-permanent-expansion-of-child-tax-credit/article\\_f65a6552-c826-11ed-856d-df088c64e831.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/quinlivan-was-right-about-permanent-expansion-of-child-tax-credit/article_f65a6552-c826-11ed-856d-df088c64e831.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

**- Ann Erdmann, Cheyenne**

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/quinlivan-was-right-about-permanent-expansion-of-child-tax-credit/article\\_f65a6552-c826-11ed-856d-df088c64e831.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/quinlivan-was-right-about-permanent-expansion-of-child-tax-credit/article_f65a6552-c826-11ed-856d-df088c64e831.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Congress looking at the wrong people to deal with debt**

By Ann Erdmann

May 17, 2023

I understand that our national debt is a problem. The World Population Review estimates that debt more than 77% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a cause for some concern.

In December 2020, dealing with COVID-19 relief, U.S. debt was 128% of GDP, but had dropped back to 107% by 2023. Japan is at 266% (you read that right); France, 98.1%; Great Britain, 85.4%; and Germany, 59.8% (and college is free).

Some of our leaders cry that we have to cut our spending — especially that for the most vulnerable members of our society — SNAP, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, etc. And they don't even want to pay what we already owe unless we quit caring about those who struggle.

I remember the image of a lady at a Tea Party rally all those years ago, holding a sign saying, "Don't touch my Medicare." Apparently, even someone as conservative as most Tea Party members understood then that spending isn't the problem.

Let's take a look at spending as a percentage of GDP (which generally continues to grow). In 1969, federal outlays were under 20% of GDP; by 1989, just over 20%; back under 20% until expenditures rose to nearly 25% in response to the recession of 2008, then dropped back to about 20% until the tax cuts of 2018 and COVID spending, when federal spending reached just over 30% of GDP in 2020, then dropped quickly back to 25% and continues to drop.

So where is the debt coming from, if spending is such a modest part of our GDP? How about a parable?

A family lived well on a good income. They ate well, went to the movies sometimes, even traveled on vacations. Then, their household got a raise. "Wow," Mom and Dad

said. "Let's buy a new car." So they did, though that purchase ate up their new income and then some.

Then another raise came along, and they decided to buy a bigger house, even though it pushed their finances a little harder. They had worked hard and deserved some benefit, they figured. Anticipating another raise, they decided it was time to join the country club like other people in their new neighborhood, which pinched the finances tighter yet, so they started putting their groceries on the credit card.

Of course, the debt and interest started piling up, since they weren't paying as they went. But they needed the right clothes to wear to the country club and to eat at the restaurants they preferred. Groceries were still covered by the credit card, and they could add their utility bills to the card, as well.

Suddenly, they realized they couldn't even cover the minimum payments on those basic expenses, so they decided the kids should eat less. They could turn down the thermostat while the parents were at work or the country club. They could limit the kids' showers to twice a week. The kids could get jobs to pay for their lunches at school, buy clothes (if they really needed them) at second-hand stores and drop out of their extracurricular activities. The kids were healthy and didn't need health insurance.

The problem, as the parents saw it, was that they were spending too much on the kids.

Now, like these parents, some of our leaders refuse to pay the debt without making sure the most vulnerable are hit the hardest. Yes, the debt needs to be addressed, but not by taking food out of the mouths of children or letting our parents go without medical care and heat in their homes while corporations and billionaires earn more and more.

And refusing to pay what we already owe will only make the problem worse for everybody.

Tell Congress that they are looking at the wrong people to deal with our national debt.

*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:*

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[https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/guest\\_column/erdmann-congress-looking-at-the-wrong-people-to-deal-with-debt/article\\_92e6306c-f40b-11ed-9bd6-c74b550a0514.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.wyomingnews.com/opinion/guest_column/erdmann-congress-looking-at-the-wrong-people-to-deal-with-debt/article_92e6306c-f40b-11ed-9bd6-c74b550a0514.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **US leaders must pay bills without cuts to poverty assistance programs**

May 18, 2023

Dear Cheyenne,

Congress has a responsibility to pay the bills it runs up. For decades, this was not an issue. But now House leaders are refusing to pay unless they get deep cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, housing assistance, and core global poverty programs. For them, people struggling to make ends meet are the problem, not reckless tax cuts Congress has enacted over the last 40 years.

These proposed budget cuts would force deep hardship onto tens of millions of people still recovering from the economic downturn and rising costs of basic needs. Even worse, a debt default would trigger a deep recession and throw millions of Americans out of work.

Instead of being responsible, House leaders are holding the U.S. economy hostage to punish Americans experiencing poverty. This must stop. I strongly urge President Biden and congressional leaders to reject any budget cuts that would increase poverty and to lift the debt ceiling immediately.

**- Jennifer Quinlivan, Cheyenne, Wyoming**

<https://capcity.news/opinion/2023/05/18/opinion-letter-us-leaders-must-pay-bills-without-cuts-to-poverty-assistance-programs/>

# **National media**

## Don't let politicians cut housing aid

*Housing vouchers and food stamps helped my family escape a dangerous situation. Will families today get the same chance?*

**By Pamela M. Covington**

February 1, 2023

We all need physical safety before we can do anything else. Without a roof over our heads, that sense of security is impossible. And with two small children in tow, things get scary.

And after fleeing a dangerous domestic situation with my baby and 9-year-old son, with no home but the small moving truck I had rented to escape, I still felt unsafe and terrified.

I left economic security and a beautiful Victorian home overlooking a lush green park in Savannah, Georgia and drove to Jacksonville, Florida — where I discovered the only affordable options for housing for us were uninhabitable apartments.

In my comfortable Savannah neighborhood, I'd been that person who looked down at people who got government help. Maybe because of what I'd heard from the media.

I didn't seek government assistance to find appropriate housing when I left, because I didn't know anything about it. Instead, I settled for an apartment with no appliances, no air conditioning, no heat, dangerous concrete stairs, and suspected asbestos flooring.

Though we had a roof over our heads, we were barely surviving. Then another single mom in our dilapidated tenement building told me about food stamps.

That was a big help, but it wasn't easy. Our stamps only covered pantry staples that could be cooked at home — and we didn't have a stove. Still, in those days, I received cash as change from food stamp purchases and saved it to use for laundry, bath soap, or shoes for my children.

This same neighbor also convinced me to sign up for Section 8 housing vouchers — but warned me to do it immediately, as the waiting list was long.

A year and a half later, we finally got federal assistance to find a better apartment. It was a lifesaver. The kitchen had a stove and a refrigerator, and we had subsidies for heat. I could finally exhale and focus on how to get us out of poverty.

And I did. I went back to college and worked my way up to being one of the few black female journalists in the country in those days, with my big break as a freelance writer for USA Today. I even went on to write a book about my journey into — and out of — poverty.

But will my children's and grandchildren's generations have the same opportunity to get help if they need it?

The new Republican-led House of Representatives is trying to cap all discretionary spending at 2022 levels, despite inflation and rising need. This would cut funding for Housing and Urban Development by over \$8 billion — all at a time when rents are rising at a historic clip. There is no state in the U.S. where a two-bedroom apartment is affordable on the prevailing minimum wage.

This new agenda takes aim at people who are in the same spot I was, just trying to do the right thing for our families and get out of poverty. Cuts to food and housing assistance move us in the wrong direction.

President Biden, on the other hand, has released a new plan to ensure fairness in the rental market as part of the White House's new Blueprint for a Renters Bill of Rights. It affirms that renters deserve "safe, quality, accessible, and affordable housing." It's not nearly enough, but it's a step in the right direction.

All of us need the basic security of housing and food. We all must come together to protect this critical assistance that's helped folks like me, in temporary need, go on to bigger and better things. Don't bargain with our basic human needs.

*Pamela M. Covington is the author of A Day at the Fare: One Woman's Welfare Passage and a RESULTS Expert on Poverty. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

<https://otherwords.org/dont-let-politicians-cut-housing-aid/>

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**COUNTERPUNCH**

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**Boston Herald**

<https://www.bostonherald.com/2023/02/25/covington-housing-aid-is-vital-dont-let-pols-cut-it/>





## **Day care waitlists are so long, moms are quitting their jobs or choosing to stop having kids**

*After the pandemic decimated the child care industry, parents are now routinely waiting years for care and doing anything they can to get off a waitlist.*

By Chabeli Carrazana, Economy Reporter

March 30, 2023

How have long day care waitlists affected you and your family? Have you seen success in securing a slot, and if so, how long did that take? What questions or concerns do you have about the process? The 19th wants to hear from you.

Erica Manoatl got on waitlists for child care when she was about 12 weeks pregnant with her daughter. It should have been enough time, she thought then. Now, her daughter is almost a year and a half old. Manoatl is still waiting.

In early 2021, Manoatl got on three waitlists for area day cares in Denver, paying about \$150 for each application. With 16 weeks of parental leave, that gave her almost a year of runway to get off of the lists. But shortly after her daughter was born in November 2021, the day cares all told her it could be another year and a half to two years' wait.

After her leave ended, Manoatl hired a nanny at a much higher cost than a child care center, but after a few weeks the nanny quit when she was recruited to a job with higher pay. So Manoatl and her husband tried to do the unsustainable: care for their daughter while both working full-time from home.

The arrangement lasted eight months before it was clear it was putting an immense strain on their work and family lives.

“We both looked around and were like, ‘This is just really stressful and we are not very happy,’” Manoatl said. “I don’t know what kind of parenting we were able to provide for our kid when that was the situation.”

By the end of 2022, they still didn’t have a day care spot. They couldn’t both keep working from home with a 1-year-old. Something had to give — so Manoatl did. Her husband took an offer for a job that paid a bit more, and she quit hers.

Now, she spends her days caring for her toddler, and at night, after bedtime, she’ll work three to four hours as a consultant, mostly writing work for the public health industry. It’s far removed from her previous work in child advocacy and policy.

“It’s still rough acknowledging that I spent a lot of time prepping to come into this career, which I really love,” she said. She loves spending time with her daughter during the day, and she’s trying to focus on the opportunities this path is giving her. But the journey here has been tinged with sadness and genuine surprise: How could something as simple as a waitlist derail her life in such a profound way?

The months- and yearslong wait to get into a child care center, even for parents who get on lists as early as conceivably possible, is one of the most infuriating symptoms of a child care industry in market failure, still struggling to recover after it was wrecked by the pandemic.

While almost every industry has returned to pre-pandemic levels, child care is still short 60,000 teachers as of last month. Nearly 16,000 centers and home-based day cares closed between December 2019 and March 2021, according to a report by Child Care Aware, a leading child care advocacy organization. That amounts to a drop in the supply of child care of 9 percent overall and 10 percent for family child care homes, a more affordable option for many families.

“The fragile equilibrium, the treading water that child care was doing before the pandemic, has now failed,” said Elliot Haspel, the director of climate and young children at the think tank Capita, and author of “Crawling Behind: America’s Childcare Crisis and How to Fix It.”

“So we’re seeing a whole lot more parents and a whole lot more programs end up underwater. There is no question that we are seeing bigger waitlists in a whole lot of communities.”

Centers spend an enormous portion of their revenue paying for staff costs. On average, states mandate one teacher for every four babies for safety, and the ratio grows as kids get older. That requires a lot of staff to operate a center or even keep a classroom open. As a result, day cares can only afford to pay teachers just about minimum wage. In fact, child care teachers are some of the lowest paid people in the entire country. On average, doggy day care workers are paid more than child care teachers.

Yet parents still shoulder a huge sticker price. Day care costs more than in-state college tuition in 34 states and Washington, D.C., with the average cost coming in at almost \$11,000 a year.

It's a system that doesn't work for the centers, doesn't work for the teachers and doesn't work for the parents.

Calculating just how much the pandemic increased waiting lists is a challenge. There is no centralized source for the data, and extreme variability exists across states, localities and even individual centers on how the data is collected. Some waitlists are kept in notebooks rather than digitized.

But there's evidence lists are getting longer.

An October survey of 12,000 child care providers by the National Association for the Education of Young Children found that 38 percent have longer waiting lists as a result of recent staffing shortages and about half say they want to serve more children. A survey of Pennsylvania's child care providers in February turned up much the same: 38,321 children are on waiting lists compared with 32,500 a year ago, an 18 percent increase.

An analysis of data for The 19th by WaitlistPlus, a software provider that manages lists on behalf of child care centers, found that the average length of a list has ballooned 28 percent from February 2020 to February 2023, growing from 185 kids on average to 236.

For those who linger on those lists, like Manoatl, the waiting has uncovered just how little autonomy parents actually have when it comes to choosing what care they want for their babies. They are at the mercy of a phone call: Whichever center calls first is where they'll go. And if they don't call, it's usually mom's work that will be disrupted.

“In my opinion, we were not given a choice here,” Manoatl said. “Maybe if we had been given a choice we would have chosen this setup, but this setup now doesn’t really bother me as much — it’s more the lack of choice. We wanted her to be in a child care center.

“It’s very hard for me to accept that we can’t do that.”

As waitlists grow, many of the parents stuck on them have resorted to all manner of workarounds to get a slot.

Some get on lists before they even conceive a child or the second they find out they’re pregnant — before the “stick is dry,” as one parent put it. Day cares have found out about pregnancies before family members.

Centers often field incessant calls from parents hoping their interest will bump them higher on lists. Other parents have joined churches to get priority in those child care centers. Even Mother’s Day Out or Mother’s Morning Out programs, part-time child care programs typically run by churches, have seen parents camping out in parking lots on registration day to try to get a slot.

Parents with means have offered to pay several months up front if it means skipping the list, Haspel said. And in some cases, parents told The 19th they’ve had other families with kids already at a center write them letters of recommendation to see if that will push them higher on a waitlist.

It’s a system born of desperation, but it’s deepening the inequalities already present in child care.

“The bigger concern there is who tends to have the wherewithal to navigate complicated systems, and it tends to be those with privilege or the affluent,” Haspel said. “The vast majority of child care administrators do their level best to have a fair system,” and ultimately there is only so much maneuvering that parents can do because there are so few spots to begin with.

Child care is hard to access even for high-or middle-income families. At best, there is one spot for every two children who need care, said Linda Smith, director of the early childhood initiative at think tank the Bipartisan Policy Center. Add any additional factor — a single parent, a child with a disability, twins — and getting quality child care

is near impossible. It's those same families who most need the care that have fewer resources when it comes to finding a way off a waitlist.

"In the years I've been doing this, the folks that are always the hardest hit by this issue are typically single parents and simultaneously parents of disabled children. The options of care are so few and far between for them," said Nina Perez, the national director of early learning at MomsRising, an advocacy network made up of mothers across the country.

There's a knowledge gap to even begin the process: The families who know they need to get on a list during pregnancy often are in higher socioeconomic brackets, Smith said. Low-income families and families of color with fewer resources may not have the information sources — from a quality gynecologist and obstetrician to a highly involved parent group that knows the ins and outs — to inquire about child care early.

There's also the cost barrier. The 19th spoke to nearly a dozen parents who were on waitlists, and most reported application fees of \$50 to \$200 to get on a list, some of which are nonrefundable.

Places with no waiting list tend to be higher cost, and the option of going to a center with a smaller waitlist that is further away could be nonexistent for a single-parent household.

When things don't line up, single parents usually can't quit a job to focus on care.

"We work with moms who live at the poverty line, and candidly, there is no option — you have to work," said Chastity Lord, the president and CEO of the Jeremiah Program, a nonprofit that works with more than 1,500 single mothers and runs five child care centers. Moms have to compromise "the development of their child, the development of themselves, as well as the financial implications."

Not getting off a waitlist means putting a child in the care of a family member or a neighbor. It means sacrificing the educational environment a center offers. It may mean moving to another city closer to family to cobble together some child care, or mounting credit card debt to pay for the only center without a wait. It could mean being stuck in a situation where you're not confident in the care your child is getting.

It means you are deprived of choice.

Perez is currently working with families whose children go to a center in Florida that has been accused of child abuse. While those families wait for the investigation to conclude, they can't move their children elsewhere.

Where would they go? The waiting lists are too long.

When Deyanira Contreras looks down her waiting list, she sees hundreds of families she will never be able to serve.

The list for her day care center, Kids Campus in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has 504 children on it. The longest wait is for her two infant classrooms — 185 kids for two classrooms with 16 total spots, neither of which has current availability. Already for the next school year, one of the two infant classrooms will be made up entirely of siblings of older kids who are at the center already and get priority.

The wait is one to two years for most classrooms. Contreras said her staff is often fielding calls from desperate parents asking where they are on the list. The center gives priority to students and staff at the nearby Santa Fe Community College, and parents will go so far as to take classes if it'll mean moving up on the list.

"Every time we open a spot they feel like they won the lottery because it's hard to get," said Contreras, who is in her first year as director. "It's sad at the same time because we receive [difficult] phone calls from families — 'I can lose my job if I don't find child care.'"

Since the pandemic, Contreras can count at least four area day cares that closed, and some could only reopen at reduced capacity because of insufficient staffing. That has made her waitlist longer, and she knows that investing in her staff is the only thing that is going to shorten it, if only marginally.

The median hourly pay for a child care worker in the United States was \$13.22 in 2021, the most recent date for which data is available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Workers earn more in retail (\$14.03 an hour) or as housekeepers (\$13.84 an hour). One of Contreras' prekindergarten teachers was working at McDonald's and making more money than working at the center, she said, adding that it was "very embarrassing" for her.

That's why Kids Campus spent nearly all the money it received through the pandemic's American Rescue Plan economic package — that largest single investment in

American child care in history — toward raising salaries. About 90 percent of the \$453,700 received from a stabilization grant went to salaries, raising hourly pay for teacher assistants from \$13 to up to \$17 depending on their certification. Hourly teacher pay went up from \$14 to \$20 if a teacher had an early childhood certificate or as much as \$28 with a master's degree. Cooks now earn \$15.50, from \$13 an hour.

"Some centers were investing in playgrounds. We were like, 'That's not OK, we have to invest in teachers,'" Contreras said. The money helped them retain every single teacher at the center.

But the labor shortage at child care centers is difficult to tackle. In Hawaii, for example, there's a requirement that educators have a degree in childhood education to work at a day care, which makes attracting college graduates to earn about \$15 an hour in one of the most expensive states in the country an enormous challenge, said Carol Wear, the interim executive director of PATCH, the state's child care resource and referral agency.

As a result, some centers have entirely closed their infant classrooms, where the ratios of teacher to student are smallest and it's most expensive to provide care. On one island, Kaua'i, there are no spots for infants under a year old at any licensed child care center. Other centers have stopped keeping lists altogether.

In Alaska, many providers have also stopped keeping lists — demand is so high and there are so few spots spread out across the state that it's easier for centers to take the next referral or "fill those spots with the next caller" than to manage a list, said Stephanie Berglund, CEO of thread, Alaska's child care resource and referral agency. It's an equity issue that is potentially blocking parents who don't have the means to constantly call or travel to a center for a tour.

Among the calls that thread receives from parents are those who say they are quitting their jobs because they can't find care, she said. Parents are leaving the state. They're deciding not to have more children.

"We've never seen parents more desperate and more frustrated," Berglund said.

There are some things that can be done to help with the waitlists themselves, like helping centers automate and "clean" their lists. That's where companies like Kinside have been growing — they work with centers to digitize lists so that they are

searchable and they are up to date, reflecting parents who are still searching for care. Offered as an employee benefit, Kinside helps parents see where they are on a list, and the company will call centers on their behalf to search for an open spot.

“What’s happening for a lot of providers is when they do have an open spot ... they are calling 10,12, 20 families to offer a seat and those families have either found other child care, they are no longer of age or they’ve just made it work by leaving the workforce or changing their schedule or changing jobs,” said Julia Barfield, the head of employer engagement at Kinside.

But list automation only goes so far. What Smith and other advocates see as the real solution is to funnel money into child care — to subsidize it. And that will take investing in a workforce and an industry that has been undervalued because of “gender attitudes, racial attitudes in terms of who is doing the work, how the work is seen,” said Karen Schulman, the director of state child care policy at the National Women’s Law Center.

About 95 percent of child care workers are women, and nearly 40 percent are people of color.

President Joe Biden’s 2024 budget calls for more than \$600 billion over 10 years to expand child care access for more than 16 million children. It includes an additional \$9 billion for the block grant that currently serves as the main mechanism for funding child care in the states and expands a tax credit that encourages businesses to provide child care benefits to employees. Another \$325 billion would go toward creating a paid family and medical leave policy over the course of a decade with up to 12 weeks of leave covered for “eligible employees,” though it’s not yet clear what those parameters are. It’s something of a magnitude that has never been proposed by a presidential budget.

But Republicans are in control of the House with goals to lower spending, meaning that plan is not likely to get far, despite bipartisan agreement that child care is in crisis.

In the meantime, the president is trying something else. Manufacturers who are looking to tap into subsidies under the Chips Act, focused on bolstering U.S.-made semiconductors, will have to offer their employees child care if they want to qualify for \$150 million or more in government subsidies.



It's a well-intentioned attempt, Haspel said, and an acknowledgment that to attract more women to those fields there have to be better care options. But it could also help make the case for child care as an employer benefit, like health care, which could lock out workers in low-paid industries, making a dire situation even worse.

"It's not a short-term solution because it's such a marginal impact and the danger of getting this idea of, 'child care should be done through employers' in the water does material damage to the case for universal child care," Haspel said.

If the United States really wanted to fund child care, it could look like Germany, where every child over 1 has the legal right to a child care slot and their parents can sue the government for lost wages if they are unable to find adequate care, Haspel said. Or the United States could just look closer to home and fund child care like it does public education for kids over the age of 5.

"There are plenty of issues [in public education]," Haspel said, "but no one's on a waitlist for a slot at their public school."

Until there's major change, families like Manoat's and countless others will see their lives foundationally changed because they could not get care when they needed it.

It's what happened to Lindsay Saunders and her husband when she got pregnant. He had just immigrated from Zambia and she had a high-risk pregnancy that drained them both as they focused on keeping her healthy. When she did get on a wait list, she was more than halfway through her pregnancy. They put down a nonrefundable deposit for more than \$100 at a center they liked, but couldn't afford to do so at more day cares.

When her baby was born in October 2021, there still wasn't a spot for him. Because she'd changed jobs that year, Saunders didn't qualify yet for any paid leave. The most she could afford to take were seven unpaid weeks. Her husband, meanwhile, was trying to find a job, but because they were still waiting for care, it was difficult for him to commit to anything.

"How could he know when we could start a new job and we could both work full-time if we didn't know when we would have care?" Saunders said.

They were offered part-time care in January, and they tried to cut every expense possible to make it work. They were going to a food pantry, she said. And then in February a full-time spot opened up, and her husband got a job. Impeccable timing.

But getting care was the first challenge. Saunders knew the cost would likely be high, but she wasn't fully prepared when the final price tag was \$1,590 a month — more than their \$1,100 mortgage for a two-bedroom townhouse in Raleigh, North Carolina. Saunders works from home, her son's changing table next to her desk.

She's called other centers to check for lower costs, but the tuition was higher. Why bother going through the waitlist debacle again then?

"When you want the best for your child and your resources are limited, then that really does completely limit your trajectory, but also your children's trajectory," Saunders said.

She feels trapped. They can't move to a house that better fits their family's needs because care costs them a second mortgage. They can't even fly to Zambia so her son can meet his family. He's almost 2.

And Saunders recently came to another devastating conclusion.

In large part because of the high cost of care, she now realizes she will have to compromise on another dream: It is unlikely they will be able to have a second child.

"I am still not accepting of that decision," said Saunders, who has two siblings and always imagined having multiple kids. "But that is the best decision unless something were to dramatically change with both our resources and the child care system."

**[Lindsay Saunders** is a volunteer and Grassroots Board Member at RESULTS. She and her family live in Raleigh, NC]

## Many Are Falling Short Chasing the American Dream

*My story shows what many already know: you can “do everything right” and still end up in financial uncertainty.*

**By Chaila R. Scott**

April 5, 2023

Most of us have been given the same life directives: go to college, get a good job, get married, have kids, retire. As a former alumni adviser for high school grads, I can assure you that narrative is alive and well.

We get this plan from well-meaning people who love us, often long before we can form a definition of what happiness means to us. There’s nothing wrong with these goals, of course. But they may not be for everyone — and in our unequal society, pursuing them can be a big risk that doesn’t always pay off.

For my part, I thought following these steps was a direct route to the American Dream.

I earned my bachelor’s degree in just three years. By 2012, I’d landed a job in my field that would build my resume. While the pay was modest, I was single with no kids and minimal bills. I was also in graduate school, sure to increase my earning potential.

The American Dream was in sight. But then I hit the infamous glass ceiling, which is doubly thick for Black women. Nationally we’re paid only 63 cents on the dollar compared to our white male counterparts. Where I live in Louisiana, it’s even lower — just 47 cents.

As my earnings stalled out, life happened. By the beginning of 2014, I was flat broke, divorcing, pregnant, and still in grad school. My growing belly gave me motivation, though. The moment my son was born via emergency c-section, I was grabbing my laptop to submit a final.

I pushed past my anxiety about unpaid bills and student loan debt, trusting in the promise that hard work and education added up to security and happiness for my

family. But even after obtaining my master's and working in social services for years, that security did not materialize.

I needed a change. In 2019, I switched gears to work in public education.

At first, I absolutely loved it. But eventually I learned that people of color in my workplace were getting paid significantly less than their white counterparts for comparable or even the same work. Our employer claimed outwardly to be anti-racist while gatekeeping raises, promotions, and power.

I worked for change within the organization and ran programs for students dealing with similar challenges. But I was severely underpaid for my experience and education, and this additional labor was unpaid too.

Hitting that glass ceiling again and in the wake of George Floyd's death, I heard a message loud and clear: As a Black woman in America, I was supposed to know my place and not complain. I should be grateful just to be in the room.

Eventually, it became too much. After pouring myself into this job while also overwhelmed with debt and raising a young child, I chose to quit my job to explore new career options that could balance fulfillment and stability with my mental health.

I chose to enter the great financial unknown.

My story shows what many Americans already know: It is possible to "do everything right" and still end up in a place of financial uncertainty.

One way or another, it's a story that Americans of every race, color, gender, and zip code end up learning the hard way. Some 140 million of us are poor or low-income, while nearly half of us lack the cash on hand to cover an emergency.

But we can change the narrative. Call or write your representative, share your story, and ask them what they are doing to counteract rising costs and low wages. Join a political action organization that fights poverty and oppression like RESULTS, the group I now work with.

Our elected officials work for us — and our silence costs us a better future.

Chaila R. Scott, MPA is a RESULTS expert on poverty from Luling, Louisiana. This op-ed was adapted from a longer account at RESULTS.org and distributed for syndication by OtherWords.org.

<https://otherwords.org/many-are-falling-short-chasing-the-american-dream/?emci=7bcbf509-f3d3-ed11-8e8b-00224832eb73&emdi=9a328bca-8ad4-ed11-8e8b-00224832eb73&ceid=3916482>

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<https://www.blackstarnews.com/money/economy/chasing-american-dream-many-fall-short-face-financial-insecurity.html>

**Daily Camera**

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2023/04/12/guest-opinion-chaila-r-scott-many-are-falling-short-chasing-the-american-dream/>

**THE GOOD MEN PROJECT**

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[https://www.flcourier.com/commentaries/many-are-falling-short-chasing-the-american-dream/article\\_4b959524-dfd7-11ed-93be-d31b237390be.html](https://www.flcourier.com/commentaries/many-are-falling-short-chasing-the-american-dream/article_4b959524-dfd7-11ed-93be-d31b237390be.html)



<https://www.populist.com/29.08.Scott.html>



## **COVID Care**

April 8, 2023

Thanks for the Marc Cover Story (“Three Years In, How the Pandemic Has Changed Our Lives”). No doubt we’ll continue to understand ore as time goes on. One thing we learned: We can significantly cut poverty and help families directly with tax fairness. The expanded child tac credit actually cut child poverty nearly in half when passed as part of COVID relief. Sadly, it wasn’t renewed. But there is no reason not to ask our members of Congress to do just that.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, WA**

No online link

## Don't Shred the Safety Net – Expand It

*Conservative lawmakers are threatening to slash the programs that helped my family escape poverty. We should be doing the opposite.*

**By Kali Daugherty**

April 19, 2023

Most of us rely on some cash assistance to get by at some point, whether we realize it or not.

For wealthy people, that might include a family trust or any number of elaborate tax breaks. For middle-income people, it might come in the form of a mortgage interest deduction on their taxes, an inheritance, or a grandparent's contribution to a college fund.

But for many working people, that kind of help can only come from public programs — the kind that are now under threat from conservatives in Congress.

I worked in a homeless shelter for disabled adults for a decade. The work was grueling, physically and emotionally. And even after 10 years, my hourly pay was just \$10 without benefits. I had a second job as a waitress, but it still wasn't enough.

All this was supposed to finance my college education. But instead I accrued debt from unpaid college fees and had to drop out. A few years later I was a single mom with a child on the spectrum who needed expensive care that my jobs simply couldn't cover.

Then, at tax time a few years ago, I got my first Child Tax Credit (CTC) refund. I paid off those college fees, returned to school, and got my degree. In another year, I used my CTC benefit to buy my child a bed.

Other programs, like federal food aid and state health insurance, helped keep us afloat the rest of the year. Meanwhile I worked two jobs, lived with two roommates, got a better job as a case worker with my degree, and went to grad school.

When the pandemic hit, my work and home life were upended. The extra help provided by the Biden administration's American Rescue Plan Act was a lifeboat for us. Most important was the expanded Child Tax Credit, which paid out bigger amounts monthly instead of just once a year.

It was life-changing. I stopped putting groceries and bills at the end of the month on credit cards. I paid down debts. I took my child to a water park! I could breathe easily for the first time in my hard-working life. I don't know what I would have done without the expanded Child Tax Credit.

Then it was gone.

Conservative lawmakers on Capitol Hill refused to renew the credit's expansion, letting it expire in late 2021. Child poverty immediately increased. Now the House is trying to extend permanent tax breaks to the ultra wealthy and slash nearly every social program that's helped keep families like mine afloat in times of need.

We shouldn't be denying help to the people who need it most so we can give more to those who need it least. My family and millions of others are living proof of the need for greater investments in social assistance.

These programs helped all my hard work pay off. They helped me get a college education, serve my community, get a better job, escape a bad relationship, and get my child the care he needed.

When we invest our tax dollars in social programs that help everyday people get ahead, our whole society benefits. We become healthier, more productive, and able to access opportunities for a good life. And that's good for the entire economy.

Lawmakers should be expanding that safety net, not shredding it. They can start by bringing back the expanded Child Tax Credit.

*Kali Daugherty is a mother, advocate, and RESULTS Expert on Poverty from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

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**INEQUALITY**<sup>ORG</sup>

<https://inequality.org/research/expand-child-tax-credit/>



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

<https://www.chn.org/voices/dont-shred-the-safety-net-expand-it/>

**Common Dreams**

<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/expand-don-t-shred-safety-net>

**COUNTERPUNCH**

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2023/04/21/expand-dont-shrink-the-safety-net/>

**THE GOOD MEN PROJECT**

<https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/dont-shred-the-safety-net-expand-it/>

## Poverty Just Jumped – And It Was No Accident

*I've lived and studied poverty most of my life. But you don't have to be an expert to see why it's spiking after lawmakers let antipoverty programs expire.*

**By Lakeisha McVey**

September 13, 2023

After hitting a record low of 7.8 percent in 2021, new data shows the government's Supplemental Poverty Measure jumped to 12.4 percent last year. That's a nearly 60 percent increase. And it's all because politicians allowed proven income support programs to expire.

I'm an expert on poverty. I've lived it most of my life in Iowa. I studied it as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow in rural West Virginia and in Washington, D.C.. And now I help people experiencing poverty across the country tell their own stories to change policy.

People can pull themselves up by their bootstraps, get an education, and work multiple jobs. But in the face of rising prices, low wages, high rents, and a broken healthcare system, it's often not enough. Without a safety net and a level playing field for families, financial security is often out of reach.

When I was growing up in Des Moines, my mom had a stable job with the state, but her pay wasn't enough for a real home for my two siblings and me. Iowa, like every state, has a low-income housing crisis. And families of color like mine experience greater challenges obtaining affordable housing. We bounced around shelters, churches, and motel rooms.

Despite a stigma about accepting public assistance, we benefited from SNAP (aka "food stamps") and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But like other low-income families, we had to navigate the "benefits cliff." When my mother made just \$10 more, we'd lose the benefits we needed for sufficient, regular meals.

My father suffered from opioid addiction. When he was eventually able to get stable employment and rejoin our family, we finally got an apartment where the schools were decent. But a brain aneurysm suddenly took his life and we ended up back on the opposite side of the city where the underfunded schools offered less opportunity.

I wanted to stay in my school, so I spent four hours a day commuting on public buses and on foot. I knew I needed to get into college to be able to help my family financially. Now I have a steady job, and so does my husband.

But everyday struggles don't end. The brokenness of our healthcare system burst into my life again when our baby was born with a fatal condition. The medical costs ran nearly \$1 million in just the first few months of his tragically short life.

What could prepare someone for that?

Thankfully, my employer pays 100 percent of my health insurance. That's a rarity. If I'd been out of work or worked elsewhere, we would've gone bankrupt as we suffered the most tragic thing that could ever happen to us as parents.

These are just a few of the structural obstacles low-income people face every day. But there are solutions. The advocates I work with reported enormous relief after politicians finally agreed to invest in helping children and families during the COVID-19 crisis.

The expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty nearly in half. Expanded food programs through SNAP lifted more than 3 million people out of poverty and staved off an expected spike in hunger. Housing subsidies kept nearly 2.5 million people out of poverty and in their homes. And Medicaid enrollment protections reduced the number of uninsured people by 1.5 million.

The year those programs were implemented, the Supplemental Poverty Measure fell to 7.8 percent — its lowest ever level. But when politicians rejected continuing this vital help for families, it increased by a record amount.

This is a failure for families across the country. We need to renew and expand those programs as soon as possible.

Poverty is solvable. We know what works. Why don't we do it?

Lakeisha McVey is a bereaved mother, social justice advocate, and leader of the Experts on Poverty Program at RESULTS. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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# The Washington Post

## **E.J. Dionne was right on child poverty**

September 24, 2023

E.J. Dionne Jr. was right in his Sept. 18 op-ed, "Bidenomics can overcome McCarthy's messy House." House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) has made a mess, and American children are paying the price.

How can the richest country in the world tolerate a doubling of child poverty, much less any child poverty at all? We can help wake up Congress to this fact by calling our representatives and senators and telling them to reverse this. Renewing the expanded child tax credit would be a good start. The American Family Act includes this and other ladders out of poverty. Let's demand Congress pass it immediately.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/09/24/ej-dionne-right-child-poverty/>

# The Washington Post

## The expanded child tax credit should be reinstated

October 3, 2023

Douglas J. Besharov and Douglas M. Call essentially told millions of American families that they are better off living in poverty. Imagine that: two academics lecturing struggling families that their kids being hungry is a good thing because, you know, tax inefficiencies. The 2021 child tax credit cut child poverty by more than one-third in six months. Find me a program that can do that better, and I'm sold.

Instead of focusing on impoverished kids, perhaps these gentlemen should have turned their attention to the hundreds of billions of dollars in "tax inefficiencies" benefiting America's wealthy class every year. I won't hold my breath.

In 2021, we found the solution to child poverty. Mr. Besharov and Mr. Call might not like it, but they can't deny it.

**- Jos Gary Linn, Kansas City, Mo.**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/10/03/expanded-child-tax-credit-reinstated/>

# The Washington Post

## The expanded child tax credit should be reinstated

October 3, 2023

Why would the 86,000 children now living below the poverty line in West Virginia ever thank Sen. Joe Manchin III (D) for their daily challenges? They might not even be sure where their next meal is coming from or where they'll be sleeping tonight. Do they owe him any expressions of gratitude for the hardships they face?

It is insulting and dehumanizing to suggest that Mr. Manchin somehow got it right when he opposed child tax credit expansion, as Douglas J. Besharov and Douglas M. Call did in their op-ed. Some of the starkest child poverty indicators from the recent census data are in Mr. Manchin's home state. His lack of support only highlights the depth of this missed opportunity.

And the data from before, during and after the expansion proves that federal legislators have incredible power to change the course of poverty in the United States. Some simply choose not to use it.

If the expanded tax credit's impact was grossly inefficient, there are more effective ways to correct this than doubling down on work requirements. An idea already gaining bipartisan interest is adjusting the income phase-in. As it stands, there are 26 million children whose caregivers in the workforce qualify for only a partial credit. Allowing them access to the full credit would immediately benefit these families. This is hardly any version of Mr. Manchin's 2021 offer, though it's one that he should fight for in an end-of-year tax package.

**- Joanna DiStefano, Morgantown, W.Va.**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/10/03/expanded-child-tax-credit-reinstated/>

# The New York Times

October 30, 2023

To the Editor:

Re "Welcome, Speaker Johnson, to the Worst Job in Politics," by Benjamin Domenech (Opinion guest essay, nytimes.com, Oct. 27):

The new House speaker, Mike Johnson, faces a critical challenge in our country's history and the history of his party. Let's join together and wish him the best, and call on him to prove his "pro-family priorities" by passing family-friendly legislation like the expanded child tax credit, which cut child poverty nearly in half, until it wasn't renewed.

With 40 percent of Americans near or below the poverty level, the speaker can lead the way with legislation that makes a difference for families to have enough to eat, a roof over their heads, a quality education and health care not dependent on ZIP code.

So, good luck, Mr. Speaker. All America is depending on you.

**- Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/30/opinion/speaker-mike-johnson-religion-politics.html?smid=em-share>





## The Importance of Home

*For generations, poor people have relied on each other to keep a roof over their heads. But in the world's wealthiest country, we need more.*

**By Kazmyn Ramos**

December 6, 2023

Too many of us have to depend on sheer good luck to make it — especially when it comes to putting a roof over our heads.

We grow up hearing that hard work alone will lift us above the hardships we're born into. But many of us also watched as our parents worked two and three jobs, relied on extended family to watch us, and still struggled to afford stable housing. Far too many of us are living that same struggle ourselves.

It's not that we aren't resourceful. My grandmother, who barely scraped by with factory work and countless odd jobs, pulled together with neighbors who supported each other through a mutual aid network. Thanks to her resourcefulness, our community, and luck, we had someplace to call home. That gave my mother the chance to become the first one in our family to go to college. I followed in her footsteps to attend graduate school.

We made it work. But I've learned through generational poverty that the lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest obstacles to thriving. I learned even more through my work with Healthy Families, a national, research-backed program.

I conducted home visits with low-income mothers, addressing maternal health, birth outcomes, and child development. Their poverty was different from what I grew up with. Many of these mothers were immigrants with language barriers and no access to the extended networks, mutual aid, or stable housing that I had.

Evictions were rampant. I saw conditions that you wouldn't believe existed in the richest country in the world.

I'm a strong believer in mutual aid. But in the world's wealthiest nation, should we really have to rely solely on working people sharing their meager resources among themselves? To eradicate poverty and housing instability, we're going to need more than that.

Nationally, a worker would need an hourly wage of at least \$28.58 to afford a modest two-bedroom rental — or nearly \$24 an hour for just one bedroom. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Almost half of low-income renters spend over 30 percent of their incomes on housing alone.

Building on my mother and grandmother's work in mutual aid, I've found community engagement to be invaluable — not only to connect families to housing, but also to organize our collective voices to push lawmakers toward solutions.

Solutions like building more affordable housing, more public housing, and more housing in general. Guaranteeing workers a living wage for their hard work. Making sure we have a strong social safety net so families can survive lean times.

Unfortunately, housing policy often takes human rights and the need for community out of the policy process. It focuses on zoning, commerce, profit-maximization, and "protecting" wealthy communities from low-income neighbors. This does a disservice to the rich sense of community affordable housing can create.

Housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder. It should be a way to lift us all up rather than segregate us and perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

The more we separate ourselves from our fellow humans, the more damage we do to all of us as a society. My mother and grandmother taught me that. I bet yours did too. So let's work together to make the dream of housing for all a reality.

*Kazmyn Ramos is a Program Manager for an NGO that delivers cash to people in poverty, founder of the affordable housing nonprofit Seeking 1610, and a Poverty Expert at RESULTS. She lives in Indianapolis. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.*

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## Celebrating the Resilience of Low-Income Women

*I've spent the last few years working with poor people advocating for change. Seeing their resilience firsthand, I feel hopeful.*

**By Karen Dolan**

December 13, 2023

It's been a difficult few years for poor people in this country. Just a year after the pandemic era safety net expansion saw poverty fall to its lowest level on record, we saw a historic 60 percent increase as those programs expired.

Women and children have been among the hardest hit. In 2022, the last year we have data for, at least 32 million women and children were living in poverty.

Despite that hardship, I feel some hope.

That's because I've spent the last few years working with poor and low-income people — mostly single moms — impacted by systemic poverty. Through helping them tell their stories, I've learned that they're some of the strongest — and most resilient — members of our society.

Take Amy Adams from rural Kentucky.

She has two associate degrees. Yet with a dearth of child care options, no public transit, and wages too low to afford even a second bedroom, her daily challenges are astounding. She walks to and from work late at night, depends on family for child care, and somehow fits her family of four into a small one-bedroom apartment.

Despite these challenges, Amy still gives her time as a member of a non-profit advocacy board to help other struggling mothers fight for policies that will improve their lives.

Or Joyce Kendrick. Joyce grew up in a middle-income family but suffered abuse as a child that led to lifelong physical and mental health challenges. The increase in food

benefits and cash assistance during the pandemic briefly lifted her out of poverty. But when Congress failed to renew those critical supports, she fell right back in.

Yet even as she struggles to make ends meet, Joyce co-leads an Ohio chapter of the Poor People's Campaign, a national coalition of poor and low-income people working together for more just policies.

Growing up poor and escaping an abusive partner later in life, Trish Brown has benefited from safety net support not only to take care of her family, but also her community. She volunteers as a coordinating committee member of the Poor People's Campaign in Florida and gives back as the founder and director of Power Up People in Tallahassee.

Wisconsin mom Kali Daugherty's family was transformed by the expanded Child Tax Credit included in the American Rescue Plan, which cut child poverty by half nationally. With that help, she was able to return to school, get her child new clothes, and take her to a water park for the first time. When Congress let that expansion expire and these advances for families were reversed, Kali advocated for their return as a RESULTS expert on poverty.

Kazmyn Ramos, another RESULTS expert on poverty in Indiana, learned through generational poverty how key housing is to well-being. Believing that "housing should be seen as a human right and a community builder, not a wealth builder," she founded the affordable housing non-profit Seeking 1610.

My organization, the Institute for Policy Studies, partnered with the Poor People's Campaign to study the increase in suffering since the expiration of the pandemic era supports that helped these women keep their families heads above water.

Alongside increases in poverty, we found increases in food and housing insecurity, the loss of critical health care, and declines in life expectancy — even as billionaire wealth nationally grew by \$2 billion a day between 2020 and 2022. It's clearer than ever that poverty is a policy choice.

But that means we can choose differently. Amy, Joyce, Trish, Kali, and Kazmyn are just a few of the millions of poor and low-income women leading the way against these systemic policy failures that impact all of us. We need to join them and demand our nation make the investments to end structural poverty.

We know what works. Collectively, we have a voice powerful enough to make it happen.

*Karen Dolan directs the Criminalization of Race and Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies.*



## **Wage war against hunger, poverty**

December 16, 2023

In response to: "Oklahoma governor's executive order to put higher education diversity programs under review."

Oklahoma politicians are fighting the wrong war. Instead of waging war on DEI initiatives, Native American tribes, and the so-called "woke movement," politicians need to focus on waging war against hunger and poverty in the state.

According to Hunger Free Oklahoma, 208,110 children aren't getting the nutrition they need, which translates to more than 1 in 5 children facing food insecurity.

The group also reported Oklahoma is one of five states with food insecurity rates above 14.5%. Their studies show students who go to school hungry have more behavioral and social problems in school, are at a higher risk of having lower math and reading scores, and have lower high school graduation rates.

Given these outcomes, politicians shouldn't have been upset or surprised when Oklahoma's State Report Card from the Oklahoma State Department of Education disclosed only 27% of students met or exceeded grade-level standards by scoring at or above the proficient level on the state test in math, reading and science.

What future do our children have to look forward to when such outcomes dim the lights of their bright minds?

Simply put, the biggest threat to our children and their future is hunger and food insecurity, which are caused by poverty. Our children need solutions such as the child tax credit and free lunch pilot programs to be implemented now.

Let this be a call to action for Oklahoma politicians to start implementing solutions that will keep hunger out of the classroom so our children can start to focus on learning and succeeding. Let's show our children we care by ensuring their basic needs are met.

— **Tiffany Tagbo, Oklahoma City**

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