



CIRCLE *of* PROTECTION

April 23, 2024

Members of the U.S. Senate

Dear Senator,

As leaders of a diverse group of Christian communities, we believe the Senate has an important opportunity and a clear responsibility to help vulnerable families and children. **The Senate should immediately pass the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act (H.R. 7024)** to strengthen the Child Tax Credit and renew other tax provisions.

We commend the House for taking this critical step and urgently and prayerfully request that the Senate schedule a vote on this legislation and approve this lifeline for children and families.

No other legislation being considered during this Congress would do so much to reduce child poverty while also strengthening economic opportunities for families. The proposed Child Tax Credit expansions would lift as many as 400,000 children out of poverty and make an additional 3 million children in poverty better off. These provisions are targeted to those most in need, helping 16 million children in families who do not receive the full credit because the hard working adults in their families do not earn enough money to qualify for the maximum credit. The CTC improvements in the bill would make a real difference in the lives of many families in our communities.

There is strong bipartisan support for this bill. Politics should not derail this step forward for families and the nation. Our political leaders often express their desire to help children and families. This is a concrete and needed opportunity to match words with action. Failure to pass this bipartisan measure would be a failure of responsibility, compassion, and leadership.

We call on you to vote for and pass the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act immediately upon returning from the April recess.

Signed:

Rev. Dr. David Beckmann, Dean's Advisor for Political and Economic Justice, Virginia Theological Seminary; Coordinator, Circle of Protection

John A. Berry, President, The U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Rebecca Linder Blachly, Director of Government Relations, The Episcopal Church

John Carr, Founder, Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Georgetown University

Rev. Eugene Cho, President and CEO, Bread for the World

The Most Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Christopher J. Kellerman, SJ, Secretary of Justice and Ecology, Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States

Rev. Walter Kim, President, National Association of Evangelicals

Rev. Carlos Malavé, President, Latino Christian National Network

Bridget Moix, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches

Bishop A.J. Richardson, Senior Bishop, Tenth Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church

Kerry Alys Robinson, President and CEO, Catholic Charities USA

Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero, President and Founder, National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President, Sojourners

Rev. Jim Wallis, Inaugural Chair and Founding Director, Center on Faith and Justice at Georgetown University

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Convener, National African American Clergy Network; President, Skinner Leadership Institute