



# CIRCLE *of* PROTECTION

July 31, 2024

To: Members of the U.S. Senate

We represent a diverse coalition of church bodies and related organizations that include 100 million people. We are writing together as a demonstration of the breadth of support in the Christian community for the Child Tax Credit expansion that will come to the Senate floor this week.

This legislation would help 16 million low-income children in families where hard-working parents do not earn enough money to qualify for the full credit. It is pro-life, pro-family, and pro-justice. Past improvements in the Child Tax Credit have lowered child poverty like nothing else.

The House combined this Child Tax Credit expansion with provisions that will help U.S. businesses. The resulting bill, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, also includes provisions that would keep it from adding to deficit spending. The House passed this legislation on a bipartisan basis, and our conversations with Senate offices confirm bipartisan interest in an expansion of the CTC in the Senate, too.

We know that families are hurting and need help to buy groceries, pay for housing costs, and more. Single moms and dads are working two or three jobs just to get by. This bill, if passed, will bring great help and needed relief.

Jesus told us that we help him when we help people in need, and he showed special concern for children. We pray that the Senate will approve the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

Rev. Dr. Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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

Rebecca Blachley, Director for Government Relations, 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

Rev. Dr. Thomas De Vries, President and CEO, Citygate Network

Rev. Walter Kim, President, National Association of Evangelicals

Rev. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

Rev. Carlos Malavé, President, Latino Christian National Network

Bridget Moix, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Rev. Amy Reumann, Senior Director, Witness in Society, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

Monica Schaap Pierce, PhD, Executive Director, Christian Churches Together

Rev. Lori Tapia, National Pastor and President, Obra Hispana, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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