

August 30, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Permanent Child Tax Credit including immigrant children and those in Puerto Rico

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Chairman Neal, and Chairman Wyden:

As leaders of civil rights and advocacy organizations that work to empower the more than 62 million Latinos in the U.S., we write to urge you to permanently expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and ensure that *all* children, including immigrant children and those in Puerto Rico, have access to this critical tax relief. This is the consensus opinion of the organizations that comprise the NHLA, as [laid out](#) in our 2021-24 Public Policy Agenda.¹

Earlier this year, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide emergency aid to working families struggling to make ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession. This legislation included a temporary expansion of the CTC that provides \$3,600 for children 5 and younger and \$3,000 for those 6-17 – a significant increase from the \$2,000 that children in both age brackets received before ARPA. The legislation also made the CTC fully refundable, allowing families with low incomes or no incomes at all to receive the full value of the credit. ARPA also expanded the number of children who qualify for relief by increasing the maximum age from 16 to 17 and making the credit available for children living in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.

This relief has also been key to decreasing child poverty, which is especially vital for Latino children who make up 26% of all children in the country, but 41% of those who live in poverty. Experts estimate a drop of 4.1 percentage points in monthly child poverty from June to July due primarily to the first payment of the expanded CTC. The CTC on its own kept approximately 3 million children from poverty in July; without it, the monthly child poverty rate would have been 25.6 percent higher. This

- Alianza Americas
- American G.I. Forum
- ASPIRA Association
- AVANCE Inc.
- Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- Farmworker Justice
- Green Latinos
- Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
- Hispanic Federation
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Hispanics in Philanthropy
- Inter-University Program for Latino Research
- Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- MANA, A National Latina Organization
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- Mi Familia Vota
- NALEO Education Fund
- National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
- National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
- National Association of Latino Independent Producers
- National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
- National Day Laborer Organizing Network
- National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
- National Latinx Psychological Association
- Presente.org
- SER Jobs for Progress
- National Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
- U.S.- Mexico Foundation
- UnidosUS
- United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
- United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
- Voto Latino

¹ See pages 34, 35 and 41.

expansion has been especially impactful for Latino families, with over 1 million children moved out of poverty last month.

Unless Congress takes action, this CTC relief will expire at the end of the year, throw millions of children back into poverty, and threaten our economic recovery. That is why we are urging you to make the CTC provisions included in ARPA permanent and to restore CTC eligibility to children with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs). The 2017 Trump tax cuts – in addition to benefitting big businesses and wealthy Americans at the expense of workers – eliminated the CTC benefit for about 1 million children and Dreamers with ITINs.

Congress must fix this unjust exclusion, ensuring that children with ITINs are once again included in the CTC, just like other American kids. The goal of reducing child poverty cannot be achieved if nearly a million children are left out of these expansions. And it is essential that policies intended to mitigate poverty do not leave some children—including those specifically and historically targeted for exclusion—tragically behind.

It has been heartening to see President Biden and Democratic leaders advocate for an extension of the CTC expansion. That is why we encourage you to match word with deed and permanently extend the CTC expansion and restore the eligibility of children with ITINs via the budget reconciliation process. This process offers the scope and mechanism needed for providing this much-needed economic stability for working families and children.

Sincerely,



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UnidosUS
Senior Vice President
Policy and Advocacy
NHLA Economic Empowerment
and Labor Committee Co-Chair



Bruce Goldstein
Farmworker Justice
President
NHLA Economic Empowerment
and Labor Committee Co-Chair



Kenneth Romero
National Hispanic Caucus of State
Legislators
Executive Director
NHLA Chair