

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Comer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady, Chairwoman Maloney, Ranking Member Comer, Chairman Wyden, and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of over 100 organizations dedicated to ending child poverty in the United States, we are writing to urge you to swiftly pass the Child Poverty Reduction Act (H.R. 1558/S. 643), led by Congressman Danny Davis (D-IL) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA).

2021 was a landmark year for reducing child poverty in the United States. We applaud Congress for passing improvements to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) included in the American Rescue Plan Act. These improvements reduced child poverty by close to 30 percent, keeping 3.7 million children from experiencing poverty at the end of 2021.¹ CTC payments had an outsized impact on reducing poverty for Black and Latino children, many who were previously ineligible for the full credit.

Our organizations remain committed to a swift and robust extension of these enhanced CTC payments to ensure that millions of children are not forced back into poverty. The fact that these payments have yet to be extended, despite their documented effectiveness and

¹ Zachary Parolin, Sophie Collyer, and Megan A. Curran, "Sixth Child Tax Credit Payment Kept 3.7 Million Children Out of Poverty in December," Columbia Center on Poverty & Social Policy, 2022, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5743308460b5e922a25a6dc7/t/61ea068f13dbfa56bfc9be17/1642727056209/>.

popularity,² means there remains a lack of adequate political will to keep child poverty reduction a priority in the United States.

This is why we are calling on you to establish a national child poverty reduction target and solidify your commitment to ultimately ending child poverty in the United States.

The effectiveness of poverty reduction targets is well-established. The United Kingdom cut its child poverty rate in half between 1999 and 2008³ and before the outbreak of COVID-19, Canada had reduced child poverty by over a third since 2015.⁴ There is also growing momentum here in the United States, with child poverty reduction targets established in New York state⁵ and Puerto Rico⁶ at the end of 2021.

The Child Poverty Reduction Act would both codify a national target to cut child poverty by half in a decade in the United States as well as task the National Academy of Sciences to analyze and monitor progress towards this goal. In addition, the Child Poverty Reduction Act would improve the access to accurate and timely data on child poverty by:

- Requiring the U.S. Census Bureau to develop an anchored Supplemental Poverty Measure to use to annually track progress on child poverty and include data on children in the U.S. territories;
- Directing the National Academy of Sciences to establish a Child Poverty Reduction Strategy Clearinghouse;
- Mandating the National Academy of Sciences to update the 2019 consensus study, *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*, within three years.

Child poverty is a long-term problem in need of long-term solutions. The National Academy of Sciences confirms that a permanent, fully refundable child allowance delivered monthly is the most effective policy to address child poverty in the United States, but it is not the only one.⁷ A child poverty reduction target would create the accountability needed to get a permanent child allowance and other policies over the finish line and ultimately end child poverty in the United States.

² "Attitudes Towards the Expanded Child Tax Credit," Fighting Chance for Families: A project from Data for Progress and Groundwork Collaborative, July 2021-January 2022, https://www.filesforprogress.org/decks/2022/1/dfp_fighting_chance_ctc_tracker_full_deck.pdf.

³ Natalie Branosky and Jane Mansour, "A Look Back at the UK Child Poverty Target: Transferable Themes for the U.S.," First Focus on Children, 2015, <https://firstfocus.org/resources/report/a-look-back-at-the-uk-child-poverty-target-transferable-themes-for-the-united-states>.

⁴ "Over 1 million Canadians have been lifted out of poverty since 2015," Government of Canada, News Release, February 25, 2020, <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/over-1-million-canadians-have-been-lifted-out-of-poverty-since-20150.html>.

⁵ "Child Poverty Reduction Act Signed Into Law, Boldly Commits NYS to Fighting Child Poverty," Schuyler Center on Analysis & Advocacy, Press Statement, December 2021, <https://scaany.org/child-poverty-reduction-act-signed-into-law-boldly-commits-nys-to-cutting-child-poverty-in-half/>.

⁶ "Puerto Rico already has a law to reduce child poverty in half in 10 years," Institute for Youth Development, 2021, <https://en.juventudpr.org/blog/puerto-rico-ya-cuenta-con-una-ley-para-reducir-la-pobreza-infantil-a-la-mitad-en-10-anos>.

⁷ "A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty," National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, National Academies Press, 2019, <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25246/a-roadmap-to-reducing-child-poverty>.

The future of our nation depends on the success of our children. We are grateful for your leadership in making child poverty reduction a priority, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the well-being of America's children and youth.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL

First Focus Campaign for Children
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Medical Women's Association
Association of Children's Residential & Community services (ACRC)
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Bread for the World
Catholic Charities USA
Center for Law and Social Policy
Child Care Services Association
Child Labor Coalition
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Health Fund
Children's Home Society of America
Children's Rights
Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Coalition on Human Needs
Comic Relief US
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S Provinces
COVID Survivors for Change
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
The Family Focused Treatment Association
Family Equality
Family Promise
Friends of the Children
Futures Without Violence
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Healthy Teen Network
HEAR US Inc.
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
National Association of Counsel for Children

National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Families Learning
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Community Action Partnership
National Consumers League
National Diaper Bank Network
National Family Support Network
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Network for Youth
National Organization for Women
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First
National WIC Association
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Oxfam America
Parents as Teachers
Partnership for America's Children
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Advocacy for Kids
RESULTS
Save the Children Action Network
SchoolHouse Connection
School Nutrition Association
Share our Strength
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Start Early
UNIDOS US
United Way Worldwide
Urban Colors Arts and Mentoring
Youth Villages
ZERO TO THREE

STATE AND LOCAL

ARIZONA

Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers
Child and Family Services, Inc.

CALIFORNIA

California Alliance of Child and Family Services
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Children Now
Children's Institute
The Children's Partnership
County Welfare Directors Association of California
GRACE/ End Child Poverty in California

COLORADO

Colorado Children's Campaign
Parent Possible

DELAWARE

Christian Council of Delmarva

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RESULTS DC/Maryland

FLORIDA

Miami Diaper Bank

HAWAII

Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!

ILLINOIS

Children's Home & Aid
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

KANSAS

Kansas Action for Children

KENTUCKY

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

MAINE

Maine Children's Alliance

MARYLAND

Public Justice Center
RESULTS DC/Maryland

MICHIGAN

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

NEVADA

Children's Advocacy Alliance

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.

NEW YORK

Children's Aid (New York City)
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
United Way of Westchester and Putnam

OHIO

United Way Greater Toledo

OKLAHOMA

High Flight Arts and Letters

OREGON

Metropolitan Family Service
Our Children Oregon

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
West Chester Food Cupboard

PUERTO RICO

Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

TENNESSEE

The National Society of Leadership & Success DeVry Southeast Chapter

TEXAS

CHILDREN AT RISK

VERMONT

Voices for Vermont's Children

VIRGINIA

Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
Voices for Virginia's Children

WASHINGTON

Partners for our Children
Westside Baby

WEST VIRGINIA

TEAM for West Virginia Children

WISCONSIN

Children's Wisconsin
Kids Forward
WI Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Wisconsin Council of Churches

WISDOM

* Dr. Tim Smeeding, *Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics, La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Member of the National Academy of Sciences study committee to build an agenda to reduce the number of children in poverty by half and co-author of the report, A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*