April 26, 2012

Honorable Sander Levin Ranking Member Ways and Means Committee U.S. House of Representatives Honorable Chris Van Hollen Ranking Member Budget Committee U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Rep. Levin and Rep. Van Hollen:

We ask you to reject the proposal approved by the House Ways and Means Committee to restrict eligibility for the refundable Child Tax Credit (ACTC). This provision, which will be part of the Ryan Reconciliation bill, requires either the tax filer or spouse to have a Social Security number in order to be eligible for the ACTC. This represents a tax increase on low income working families, harming millions of children, most of whom are U.S. citizens. Child poverty in the U.S. is the highest it has been in over 20 years and this proposal would push it even higher, while the wealthiest among us would remain protected. It is unacceptable to target children - no matter their circumstance or immigration status - to bear the brunt of our budget challenges.

The average adjusted gross Income (AGI) for the families affected by this proposal is \$22,200 per year. Because they are at that income level, these families quickly spend nearly every dollar from the current child care tax credit on childcare, housing, groceries, and other basic necessities, funds that in turn support the local economies of the communities where they live. As a result, eliminating the refundable Child Tax Credit for these families will further depress the prospects of all who live and work in these already-struggling communities.

It was just two months ago that Congress refused to include this harmful provision in the payroll tax package. We ask you to once again oppose any limitations to eligibility for the refundable Child Tax Credit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Asian American Justice Center, a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice (AAJC) CAUSA, Oregon's Immigrant Rights Organization Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) Disciples Justice Action Network Disciples Women, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) The Episcopal Church Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Family and Children's Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) First Focus Campaign for Children Franciscan Action Network Greater Coalition for Immigration Justice Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM, MN) Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC), Chicago Korean Resource Center (KRC), Los Angeles Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR) Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition Migrant Support Services of Wayne County Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) National Community Tax Coalition National Council of La Raza (NCLR) National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) National Immigration Forum National Immigration Law Center New York Immigration Coalition Pineros y Campesinos Unidos (PCUN) Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Silicon Valley Alliance for Immigration Reform (SVAIR) Service Employees International Union (SEIU) United Farm Workers Foundation Wayne Action for Racial Equality

Cc:

Rep. Charles Rangel Rep. Pete Stark Rep. Jim McDermott Rep. John Lewis Rep. Richard Neal Rep. Xavier Becerra Rep. Lloyd Doggett Rep. Mike Thompson Rep. John Larson Rep. Earl Blumenauer Rep. Ron Kind Rep. Bill Pascrell Rep. Shelley Berkley Rep. Joseph Crowley Rep. Allyson Schwartz Rep. Marcy Kaptur Rep. Betty McCollum Rep. John Yarmuth Rep. Michael Honda Rep. Tim Ryan Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz Rep. Gwen Moore Rep. Kathy Castor Rep. Heath Shuler Rep. Paul Tonko Rep. Karen Bass