For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Contact:
press@economicsecurityproject.com

Child Tax Credit National Day of Action, Events Held Across the Country to Call on Congress to Keep Families Afloat

Activists in seven states hold “It’s More Than a Check” events to highlight broad support of Child Tax Credit; Kerry Washington launches national resource for families

WASHINGTON, DC – On Wednesday, September 15, parents, kids and local organizations from seven states across the country held nationwide “More Than a Check” events at local Congressional offices thanking their representatives for passing the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) in the American Rescue Plan and demanding that Congress keep families afloat by extending the CTC as part of the Build Back Better Act. As part of this nationwide effort, Emmy and NAACP Image Award-winning actress Kerry Washington also launched MyChildTaxCredit.org, a resource to help families sign up for the CTC and understand their benefits.

Across the country, families and advocates shared stories of how the Child Tax Credit has given families much needed support to buy food and school supplies during their event, showing the power of providing families with support that they can direct to their own basic necessities.

“We have the power to cut childhood poverty in half through the Child Tax Credit, and Congress must act,” said Natalie Foster, co-chair of the Economic Security Project. “In its first three months, we've seen the Child Tax Credit give families everything from the dignity they deserve to the ability to buy healthy foods. Imagine what we can do and how our children could thrive if this tax credit was extended beyond 2021.”

September 15 marks the third distribution of CTC payments, which so far have:

- Reached 61 million children in 36 millions families, most of whom automatically received the payments;
- Lifted 3 million children out of poverty in July alone;
- Eliminated hunger for one-third of Latinx and one-quarter of Black families who were struggling to put food on the table; and
- Reduced financial anxiety for 56% of all families.

“More Than a Check” events were held in California, Delaware, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Virginia, and West Virginia with handwritten notes from children and parents, balloons and cake dropped off to the offices of Senators Manchin, Hassan, Shaheen, King, Tester, Carper, and Warner as well as Congresswoman Katie Porter.

In order to not erase the progress that the Child Tax Credit has already made for our nation’s children, it is essential that Congress extends the Child Tax Credit as a part of the Build Back Better package, making the program a fixture in the lives of every child until they turn eighteen.

The nationwide day of action was organized by the Economic Security Project Action and Parents Together. MyChildTaxCredit.org was created by Kerry Washington and Influence Change in partnership with the Economic Security Project and Community Change.

The House and Senate are expected to vote on the Build Back Better plan in late September.

###

Photographs of the day’s events are available through Getty Images.