Economic Security Project Action Urges Swift Action on Build Back Better

Washington, D.C. - Today, as Congress reaches an agreement on the Build Back Better Act, Economic Security Project Action urges legislators to take immediate action to pass this vital package to support families across the country.

“The expanded Child Tax Credit is a once-in-a-generation investment into our country’s future,” said Natalie Foster, Co-Chair of Economic Security Project Action. “While we will not rest until the expanded Child Tax Credit with full refundability is a permanent guarantee that all families can count on, a one-year extension in the Build Back Better package is a powerful tool to support working families.

“Even before the pandemic, the rising costs of raising children have long been a challenge for many Americans. Every family should have the ability to provide for and care for their children and the Child Tax Credit has proven its ability to help all families succeed.

“We applaud this proposal for including permanent full refundability, the portion of the Child Tax Credit which ensures full and equal payments to the families in deepest poverty, many of whom are people of color. Prior to the Child Tax Credit’s expansion in the American Rescue Plan, nearly half of all Black and Latinx children were excluded from the Child Tax Credit; permanent full refundability will ensure that those most in need are able to count on the monthly payments next year. However, we are extremely disappointed that the framework does not restore eligibility to the 1 million Dreamers and other immigrant children who were cruelly cut out by the Trump tax law and we urge Congress to include them. In an America as good as its ideals, no family should have to struggle to get by, and that includes immigrant families.

“The child tax credit and Earned Income Tax Credit extensions are an extremely powerful investment into working families, and we urge Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act without further delay. However, this extension is just for one year - we need to make it permanent. As long as families struggle to make ends meet, direct cash policy programs like the expanded Child Tax Credit are essential to an economy that works for all families. Today, the next phase of our fight begins.”

The expanded Child Tax Credit could be one of the biggest successes of the Biden Administration -- providing millions of families a lifeline during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. It has already lifted more than 3 million children out of poverty and slashed hunger rates amongst families of color.

For more information about the Economic Security Project Action visit: economicsecurity.us

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