Statement from Co-Chair of Economic Security Project Action Natalie Foster on the Senate Allowing the Child Tax Credit to Expire

“For the Senate to recess and allow the expanded Child Tax Credit to expire is irresponsible and callous. Today, the Senate has reminded us that poverty is a policy choice. The expanded Child Tax Credit has helped more than 35 million families afford groceries, pay their bills, and make ends meet, and the Senate has chosen to not pass the Build Back Better Act ahead of the IRS’ December 28th deadline. Instead, they have given millions of families the gift of uncertainty this holiday season, as families are now very likely to be left hanging when their checks don’t arrive in mid-January.

“The expanded Child Tax Credit is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in a better future for the next generation of America’s children. It has already slashed food insecurity for families of color - an extraordinary feat during the economic downturn of the pandemic. But by failing to extend the monthly Child Tax Credit payments and pass the Build Back Better Act, the Senate risks reversing this progress and throwing 10 million kids back below the poverty line or even deeper into poverty.

“The clock has been ticking for months and the Senate must come back swiftly and pass the Build Back Better Act. Tens of millions of families are counting on these monthly checks and the wellbeing of the American people should always be Congress’ first priority. Abandoning families in their time of need is a dereliction of duty.”