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More Than 450 Organizations Demand Congress Pass the Build Back Better Act Ahead of Child Tax Credit Deadline

Hundreds of advocacy groups across the US send letter to Congress urging them to pass the Build Back Better Act before leaving for recess

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, more than 450 advocacy groups from across the issues spectrum—including child advocates, faith organizations, racial justice groups, labor unions, climate and environmental advocates, immigrants’ rights organizations, and care economy groups—sent a letter to Senators urging them to pass the Build Back Better Act and extend the Child Tax Credit before leaving for the holidays, or risk throwing nearly 10 million American children below the poverty line or even deeper into poverty. The letter comes as tens of millions of families wait for the next, and potentially final, Child Tax Credit payment on December 15. Without urgent Congressional action, 65 million children could lose out on the benefit.


The letter highlights the transformative nature of the Build Back Better Act, which in addition to the CTC and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), includes paid leave, home and community-based services and child care, affordable housing, climate action, environmental justice, universal pre-kindergarten and college assistance, relief for immigrants, and lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

READ THE FULL LETTER HERE.

“Labor, environmental, religious, and racial justice organizations have waited on Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act for months. Now, ten million children are at risk of sliding below the poverty line or even deeper into poverty, and our message to Congress is clear: this is an emergency,” said Natalie Foster, Co-Chair of Economic Security Project Action “We demand that Congress pass the legislation immediately so that parents know they can keep counting on monthly Child Tax Credit payments.”

The expanded Child Tax Credit is one of the most effective tools to combat child poverty in a generation and currently supports about 36 million households. According to the Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey, low-income families overwhelmingly spend their monthly checks to help pay for basic needs like groceries, utilities, and rent or mortgage payments, while others have used it to help afford childcare and start college savings funds.

In addition to helping families, the expanded Child Tax Credit helps businesses and communities thrive. An analysis from the Niskanen Center recently found that nationally, Child Tax Credit payments will generate $27.6 billion in new household spending, $1.9 billion in state & local sales tax revenue, support over half a million new jobs, and boost the economies of rural America in particular.

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