



February 4, 2022

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Financial Security and Poverty Task Force writes to urge Congress to take action and permanently adopt the changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) that were made in the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Changes such as increasing the EITC for workers without dependent children in the household, making younger workers eligible, and increasing the CTC and making it fully refundable and available on a monthly basis are essential changes for people with disabilities and must be made permanent. CCD's mission is to engage in concerted advocacy for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance; that enhances the civil rights and quality of life of all people with disabilities and their families; and that reflects the values of the Americans with Disabilities Act and all civil rights law.

All of the temporary changes made to the CTC/EITC are critical to people with disabilities and their families. We are particularly concerned that monthly CTC payments will no longer be sent to eligible families as a result of the inaction late last year to extend the temporary measures of the program. The temporary expansion of the CTC under the ARP kept 3.7 million children from

820 FIRST STREET NE, SUITE 740 ♦ WASHINGTON, DC 20002-4243 TEL: 202.567.3516 ♦ FAX:
202.408.9520 WEBSITE: WWW.C-C-D.ORG ♦ E-MAIL: INFO@C-C-D.ORG

poverty in December and to date this expansion has reached over 36 million families.¹ The cessation of the monthly payments threatens to reverse the progress made toward eliminating child poverty while also providing financial relief for families caring for children with a disability or a complex medical need.

The temporary changes to the EITC made under the ARP must also be made permanent. Most notably, Congress must maintain the increased EITC for childless workers. Permanently increasing the EITC benefit amount for childless workers is needed to provide substantive benefits to people with disabilities and service providers. Additionally, we urge Congress to permanently lower the minimum age to receive EITC benefits from 25 to 19 and eliminate the upper age limit in order to increase the availability of the EITC to many people with disabilities and frontline disability service providers.

Again, we strongly urge you to build off the successful temporary changes made to the CTC and EITC that make this relief transformative for people across the country by making it permanent. These investments—together with home and community-based services—supports both families with disabilities and the economy overall. Please contact Cyrus Huncharek (cyrus.huncharek@ndrn.org) and Ashley Burnside (aburnside@clasp.org) with any questions or to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
The Jewish Federations of North America
Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low income clients)
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
TASH
The Arc of the United States

¹ Huq, S. (2022, January 21). *Center on Poverty and Social Policy*. CPSP. Retrieved January 21, 2022, from <https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/news-internal/monthly-poverty-december-2021>