

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

As leaders of faith organizations, social welfare organizations, and others, we consider it to be an integral part of our missions to ensure hard-working families and communities have the resources they need to be fully flourishing and contributing members of society.

We stand in agreement that the married family is the necessary building block for healthy children, communities, and a free people. However, marriage rates are at an all-time low and fertility rates continue to decline. For too long, we have presumed the family would always be there to strengthen society, and we have focused too little effort on supporting its health. If we do not take concrete steps to strengthen the family, we will have no chance of addressing the social problems most on Americans' minds—educational failure, poverty, and crime.

That is why we stand in broad agreement that the Child Tax Credit (CTC) should be strengthened. Now, more than ever, hard-working families need relief from record-setting inflation. The most responsible and effective way to extend this relief is not through a handout, but by rewarding hard work. By ensuring that parents have more control over the money they earn, we will not only ease their burden of dealing with rising costs, but also strengthen the overall family unit in which our next generation of leaders is being raised.

Many of us have consistently supported strengthening the CTC, but never has this need been as pressing as it is today. It is our hope this Congress will prioritize an expanded and strengthened CTC in a year-end tax policy for today's hard-working families, and for future families.

The costs of parenthood are on the rise, and those costs are a key factor in declining fertility rates. Our goal must be to advance policies that make having children more affordable and achievable. While there are many reforms that would either remove barriers to family formation or help support struggling families, none is more important than a strengthened and expanded CTC for hard-working families.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and this request.

Sincerely,

Newt Gingrich
Former Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

Mike Huckabee
Former Governor of Arkansas

Rick Santorum
Former U.S. Senator

Timothy R. Head
Executive Director, Faith & Freedom Coalition

Tony Perkins
President, Family Research Council

Penny Nance
CEO & President, Concerned Women for America LAC

Gary L. Bauer
President, American Values

Jordan Sekulow
President & CEO, ACLJ Action

Jim Daly
President & CEO, Focus on the Family

Eric Metaxas
Host, The Eric Metaxas Show and Socrates in the City

J.C. Watts
Former Republican Conference Chair, U.S. House of Representatives

Robert P. George, JD, DPhil, DCL, DLitt
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton Universities

Mark Rodgers
Principal, The Clapham Group

Ramesh Ponnuru
American Enterprise Institute

Joel Grewe
Executive Director, HSLDA Action

Patrick T. Brown
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Carlos Campo, Ph.D.
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Chris Bullivant
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Michael Hernon
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Dave Donaldson
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R. R. Reno
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Kristan Hawkins
President, Students for Life Action

Walter Kim
President, National Association of Evangelicals

Bishop Dean Nelson
Chairman, Douglass Leadership Institute

Yuval Levin
American Enterprise Institute

Terry Schilling
President, American Principles Project

Kathryn Jean Lopez
National Review Institute

Brad Wilcox
Future of Freedom Fellow, Institute for Family Studies

Abby McCloskey
Founder, McCloskey Policy LLC

Carlos Duran
National Hispanic Pastors Alliance

Nadine Maenza
Senior Advisor, Patriot Voices

Kelly Shackelford
President & CEO, First Liberty Institute

Rod Dreher
Author and Journalist