

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leader Pelosi;

As the end of the 112th Congress approaches, there is much work left to be done on behalf of the American people. One of the most critical tasks left for this Congress is to find a way past our partisan divisions and to come together to chart a pathway forward that moves our economy, our nation and our budgets forward on behalf of all Americans, not just the wealthiest few.

A key anti-poverty measure that must be prioritized is protecting and extending the vital improvements to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) made in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The CTC is a critical work support program and one of the largest income assistance programs directed toward families with children. If the CTC is not extended, millions of low-income working families with children will lose much or all of their child tax credit, and many will fall into — or deeper into — poverty.

A failure of this Congress to extend the improvements in the CTC will impact up to 8.9 million families, 5.7 million would see a cut in their credit and 3.2 million more would lose the credit altogether. Additionally, estimates from the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center show that if Congress fails to extend the 2009 child tax credit improvements, low-income working families with 7.6 million children will lose all of their child tax credit and an additional 10.5 million children will continue to receive a credit but have their credit cut, in many cases by large amounts. Furthermore, the families that stand to lose the most would be those with incomes between \$12,850 and \$16,333, including many families where a parent works full time at the minimum wage.

Extending the reach of the CTC has helped millions of low-income working families who previously did not benefit at all and boosted the credit for many more families who were

receiving only a fraction of the credit. Those improvements lifted millions of families with children out of poverty and supported our entire economy.

Lifting poor and low income Americans onto a pathway toward a secure place in the middle class is the key to deficit reduction and a stronger American economy in the long run. We can restore our economy and balance our budgets by working together to support poor and low income Americans. We look forward to working with you in finding this pathway forward for all.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



John Dingell
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



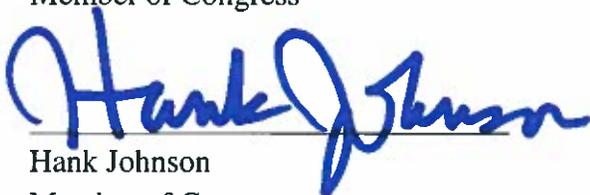
Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress



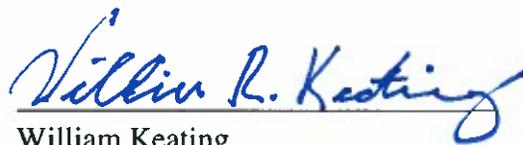
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



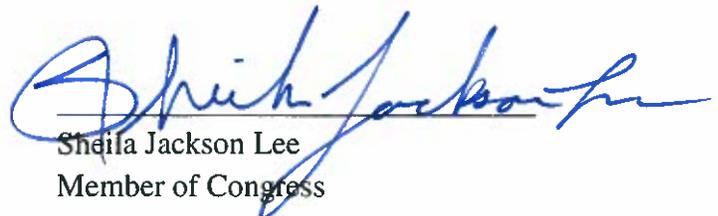
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



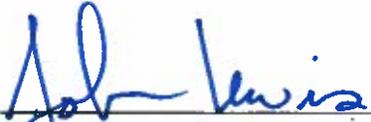
William Keating
Member of Congress



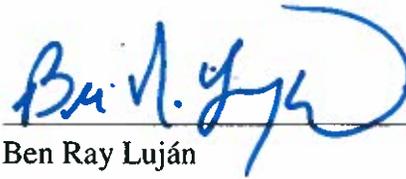
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



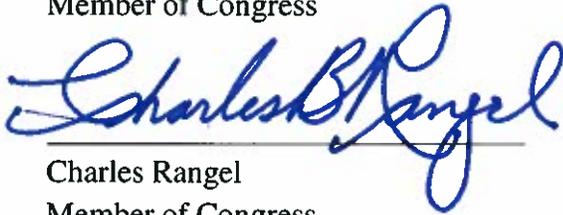
Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



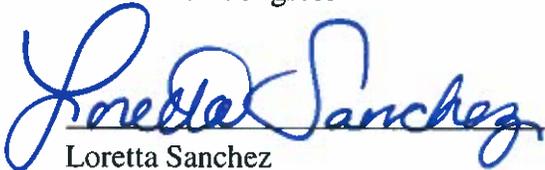
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



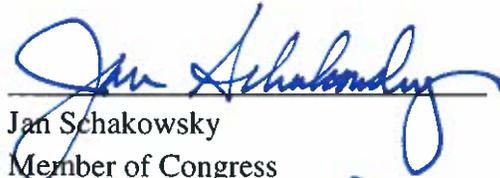
Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



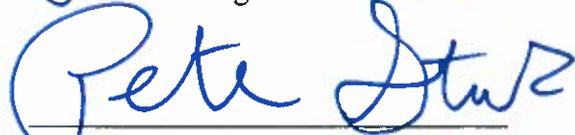
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Mel Watt
Member of Congress



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress