April 2020

Dearest Friends,

Our life is love and peace and tenderness, as Isaac Penington reminds us. In this time, helping each other with a tender hand is important than ever. As we shift our manner of gathering and care for our communities, we are also holding in the Light low-income workers and families, who are especially disadvantaged by the disastrous economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has illuminated how our present economic system leaves out our most vulnerable communities. FCNL seeks a world where every person’s potential may be fulfilled, and we believe that economic security is the foundation of this work.

*The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC)* are effective anti-poverty tools that lifted 8.9 million people out of poverty in 2018 and helped millions more. If expanded and improved, these tax credits would help ensure the well-being of low-income workers and families.

The last COVID-19 stimulus package, the CARES Act, was an important step forward, but it didn’t go far enough. Restaurant owners, for instance, were provided substantial tax relief but restaurant workers were not. Expanding and improving the EITC and the CTC as part of the federal response to COVID-19 would help millions through this economic downturn.

*As Friends, we call on Congress to expand tax credits for low-income workers and families as the single most effective anti-poverty tool at our disposal.* Specifically, we urge Congress to:

- Fix the gaps in the EITC for adults not raising children and workers under age 25
- Expand the CTC to include the 26 million children whose parents don’t earn enough money to claim the full value of the credit.

Please act using the accompanying letter template, call script, and this email form. When you write your letter or email, please add a personal note of 2-4 sentences letting your member know why you are concerned. Then, call the U.S. Congress at 202-224-3121 to be connected to your representative’s and senators’ offices. Leave a message if they do not pick up or if you are calling after office hours.

Your letters, emails, and phone calls to Congress matter now more than ever. We hope you will join FCNL as we adapt to socially distanced advocacy. Until the pandemic disruptions are resolved, we will send Letter Writing prompts only by email. Although not gathered in person, we ask Friends to continue advocating using the materials we provide. Please consider sharing this resource and call to action with your community list-serv.

Ever faithfully onwards,

Bobby Trice
Program Assistant for Quaker Outreach
rtrice@fcnl.org
Call Script

Hello, I am calling for **Representative/Senator __________________**. I am a resident in [city, state] in district [number]. I urge you to improve and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit to benefit more low-income workers and families in the midst of this pandemic. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit lifted 8.9 million people out of poverty in 2018 and helped millions more. But many low-income workers and families are still left out. Congress can fix this by expanding the EITC and improving the Child Tax Credit so that they don’t leave out millions of low-income children.

(My story)

Please ensure that improvements to low-income tax credits, The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit are included as part of the federal response to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

(Name, Physical Address, Phone, Email)

Letter/Email Template

April 2020

Dear ___________________________

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to spread and the economy grows increasingly unstable, it is more important than ever that we act swiftly and compassionately to protect our vulnerable communities. I appreciate your work to swiftly pass the CARES Act, but many needed provisions were left out, including tax credit expansions for low-income workers and families.

I urge you to improve and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit. These tax credits lifted 8.9 million people out of poverty in 2018 and helped millions more. But many low-income workers and families are still left out. Congress can fix this by expanding the EITC and improving the CTC so it doesn’t leave out millions of low-income children.

(My story)

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act included very few provisions directed specifically to low-income working families. Moreover, the CARES Act provided substantial tax relief for restaurant owners but left out restaurant workers and other low-income workers and families. Please ensure that improvements to low-income tax credits—the EITC and the Child Tax Credit—are included as part of the federal response to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

(Name, Physical Address, Phone, Email)