July 2021

“Our advocacy flows from the belief in the inherent dignity and worth of each person. Our economy, as currently structured, does not reflect that belief.” –***Diane Randall***

Dear Friends,

As a Quaker, I consider it essential to extend love to everyone. Yet our economy, as it is currently structured, does not. Structural inequality can be traced to our nation’s roots, but the pandemic has brought the damage done to low-income and working-class families into the spotlight.

While the American Rescue Plan (P.L. 117-2), passed in March 2021, provided a critical pandemic relief, more is needed to put us on the path toward a just economic recovery. [***Act now: urge your representative and senators to make public statements calling for a just recovery!***](https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/32994/)

The economic stratification in our country is a result of sustained efforts to shape policies that benefit the white elite. Reversing this trend will require the same level of consistent commitment. For instance, by making the expansions to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit permanent, lawmakers havethe power to[**cut child poverty in half**](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2021/03/11/new-child-tax-credit-could-slash-poverty-now-and-boost-social-mobility-later/)**.**

We can secure the future of our nation by investing in our children. But it will be impossible to do that if our country’s corporations and ultra-wealthy people are not contributing their fair share. Equitable tax systems have bipartisan voter support, yet [**55 of the top Fortune 500 companies paid zero taxes in 2020**](https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-06/once-generation-opportunity-fix-our-broken-economic-system).

Congressional leaders are working now to advance a pandemic recovery bill through the budget reconciliation process. In a few weeks, they will decide its priorities, and how to pay for them. Putting the United States on a path towards equality is possible, and Friends can help guide Congress toward that transformation.

Please act using the accompanying letter template, call script, and this [***email template.***](https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/32994)Add two to four sentences letting your representative know why you are personally concerned. Then, call the U.S. Congress at 202‐224‐3121 to be connected to your representative’s or 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 ask Friends to continue contacting their elected officials using the materials we provide. Please share this call to action with your community email lists and organize virtual gatherings for collective advocacy. Learn more and get training from FCNL staff at [***fcnl.org/lobbyfromhome***](https://www.fcnl.org/updates/lobby-congress-from-home-2666).

Ever faithfully onwards,

Eli Zerof

Quaker Outreach Summer Intern, [ezerof@fcnl.org](mailto:ezerof@fcnl.org)

*P.S. Join us for FCNL’s July Quaker Changemaker Event, “*[*Quakers and Economic Justice”*](https://www.fcnl.org/events/quakers-and-economic-justice) *on July 21 at 6:30 p.m. EDT!*

***Call Script***

Hello, I am calling for **Representative (**or **Senator)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am a resident of **[city, state]** in district **[number].** As we recover from the pandemic, legislators have an unprecedented opportunity to impact the lives of low-income families for generations. Congress has the power to approve trillions of dollars in transformative investments that would reorient our economy, our society, and fund them through a more equitable tax system.

**(My story)**

Please press for a just recovery package by publicly advocating for permanent expansions to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. Thank you.

[***Letter/Email Template***](https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/32994)

July 2021

Dear\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please exercise your constitutional duty to publicly call for a just recovery emphasizing long-term investments in families and children.

**(My story)**

A just economic recovery doesn’t mean eliminating traditional paths to success, rather making them accessible to all, regardless of background. Setting an income cap on childcare and permanently expanding the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits can dramatically reduce childhood poverty. Funding these programs doesn’t need to be controversial—the majority of voters have expressed their support for increasing taxes for the ultra-wealthy. Today, I ask that you publicly express support for a just recovery that can benefit generations to come.

Sincerely,

(Name, Physical Address, Phone, Email)