



Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

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April 15, 2013

The Honorable Diane Black
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Black and Congressman Davis:

As you prepare your recommendations on family benefits programs in the tax code, I wish to renew our strong opposition to unfair proposals that would alter the Child Tax Credit to exclude children of hard-working, immigrant families.

The bishops' conference has long supported the Child Tax Credit because it is pro-work, pro-family, and one of the most effective antipoverty programs in our nation. In 2009, 2.3 million people, including 1.3 million children, were kept out of poverty by the Child Tax Credit. Proposals to deny the credit to children of working poor immigrant families--the large majority of whom are American citizens--would hurt vulnerable kids, increase poverty, and would not advance the common good. To exclude these children who are American citizens from the Child Tax Credit is unjust and wrong. We urge you to actively and publically oppose such measures.

The *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* clearly states the importance of ensuring that workers make a family wage, "a wage sufficient to maintain a family and allow it to live decently. . . . There can be several different ways to make a family wage a concrete reality. Various forms of important social provisions help to bring it about, for example, family subsidies and other contributions for dependent family members. . ." (no. 250).

The Child Tax Credit is a clear example of this. We must protect those programs that help low-income workers escape poverty and raise their children in dignity.

If you must find savings, I urge you to consider cuts that will not harm poor and vulnerable families and to refrain from cutting essential programs such as the Child Tax Credit.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Stephen E. Blaire

Chairman

Committee on Domestic Justice and Human
Development