



CWDA

Advancing Human Services
for the Welfare of *All* Californians

925 L Street, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
p: 916.443.1749 | f: 916.443.3202
cwda.org

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Ranking Minority, House Ways and Means Committee
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Levin:

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) strongly opposes the bills the Committee will consider to eliminate the Social Services Block Grant (HR 4724) and require a Social Security Number to receive a refundable child tax credit (HR 4722). Both measures target and harm the low-income families we serve, including the working poor.

We find particularly objectionable the depiction of the SSBG as a 'no-strings-attached slush fund' in materials sent out regarding the bills. Enacted during the Reagan Administration, SSBG was created as a block grant so states and counties could determine how best to target a capped amount of federal funds to meet human services needs in their communities.

California expects to receive nearly \$192 million in SSBG during federal fiscal year 2016. Our state has targeted most of these limited federal funds to serve persons with disabilities and provide child care for low-income working individuals. SSBG is used to supplement, not supplant, existing state and county efforts and is an essential resource in our array of services and funding to support vulnerable families.

Additionally, the legislation requiring that working individuals have a Social Security Number in order to receive a refundable child care tax credit undermines the core human services value that government programs should support work whenever possible. Families who have an Individual Tax Identification Number are paying into government programs such as Social Security and Medicare. Over 4 million citizen children will bear the brunt of the proposed policy. Given California's diversity, this bill will disproportionately affect our families.

Thank you for considering our views. Please contact Tom Joseph, Director of CWDA's Washington Office at 202.898.1446 or tj@wafed.com should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Mecca
Executive Director