



December 3, 2015

Officers
Chair
Judith L. Lichtman
National Partnership for
Women & Families
Vice Chairs
Jacqueline Pata
National Congress of American Indians
Thomas A. Saenz
Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational Fund
Hilary Shelton
NAACP
Secretary
Jo Ann Jenkins
AARP
Treasurer
Lee A. Saunders
American Federation of State,
County & Municipal Employees

Board of Directors
Helena Berger
American Association of
People with Disabilities
Cornell William Brooks
NAACP
Lily Eskelsen Garcia
National Education Association
Jon Greenbaum
Lawyers' Committee for
Civil Rights Under Law
Marcia D. Greenberger
National Women's Law Center
Chad Griffin
Human Rights Campaign
Linda D. Hallman
AAUW
Mary Kay Henry
Service Employees International Union
Sherrilyn Ifill
NAACP Legal Defense and
Educational Fund, Inc.
Michael B. Keegan
People for the American Way
Samer E. Khalaf
American-Arab
Anti-Discrimination Committee
Elisabeth MacNamara
League of Women Voters of the
United States
Marc Morial
National Urban League
Mee Moua
Asian Americans Advancing Justice |
AAJC
Janet Murguia
National Council of La Raza
Debra Ness
National Partnership for
Women & Families
Terry O'Neill
National Organization for Women
Priscilla Ouchida
Japanese American Citizens League
Rabbi Jonah Pesner
Religious Action Center
Of Reform Judaism
Anthony Romero
American Civil Liberties Union
Shanna Smith
National Fair Housing Alliance
Richard L. Trumka
AFL-CIO
Randi Weingarten
American Federation of Teachers
Dennis Williams
International Union, UAW

Policy and Enforcement
Committee Chair
Michael Lieberman
Anti-Defamation League
President & CEO
Wade J. Henderson
Executive Vice President & COO
Karen McGill Lawson

**Protect the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit:
Any Deal on Corporate Extenders Must Apply to Refundables**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, we urge you to oppose any deal that would restrict eligibility for the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). Instead of adding restrictions that penalize low-income working families, many of whom are immigrants and people of color, Congress should support these vitally important programs and make permanent the expansions to the CTC and EITC. Making permanent the improvements to the EITC and CTC is critically important to millions of families, but it should not happen at the expense of low-wage immigrant families.

The EITC and CTC are federal tax credits that supplement the incomes of low- and moderate-income families, including military families, each year. If the EITC and CTC were to expire or be restricted, it would affect up to 8 million children, many of whom are Latino, and many of whom have been spared from poverty by the EITC and CTC¹.

These tax credits are two of the most important tools that the nation has in its arsenal to fight poverty. Both tax credits are only eligible to people who are working. As such, any deal to restrict them would penalize tax payers, including immigrants, and remove important incentives to work and contribute to the economy. Such a deal would also amount to a tax increase on many of the lowest-income families among us, and it would be punitive and counterproductive to our national economic recovery.

Restricting the EITC and CTC is also economically unsound. These refundable tax credits provide an immediate and significant stimulus effect on our economy, second only to unemployment insurance, as the families receiving such credits are especially likely to quickly spend them. Again, we should be encouraging participation in these programs, not trying to restrict access.

¹ National Council of La Raza. "Earned Income Tax Credit & Child Tax Credit." NCLR.org.
<http://www.nclr.org/issues/economy/employment/save-tax-credits/facts-and-figures/>.



For these reasons, we urge you to reject any deal that restricts the CTC and EITC and instead make these tax credits permanent. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either of us, or Senior Counsel Emily Chatterjee, at (202) 466-3648.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wade Henderson', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Wade Henderson
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Zirkin', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Nancy Zirkin
Executive Vice President