

February 22, 2024

Dear Senator:

On behalf of national organizations that serve and advocate for adult and child survivors of domestic violence, we urge you to quickly pass the bipartisan Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. We are particularly focused on advancing the child tax credit as the resources it provides could be lifesaving to a parent fleeing abuse or a child at risk from being removed from their home.

Safety and economic security for survivors of domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence (IPV)¹ are inextricably linked. The primary obstacle to safety for most survivors, a large percentage of whom are parents, is financial insecurity because the person who is abusive often maintains power and control over the family resources. They may take the victim's money and identification cards, monitor the family's bank accounts, or sabotage their education and employment opportunities. Without access to financial means, leaving and not returning to an abusive relationship becomes all but impossible.²

The child tax credit (CTC) provisions in the bipartisan Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024,³ which passed the House with overwhelming support, will financially help low-income survivors with children under 17 years of age who have earnings over \$2500 annually. This three-year tax credit⁴ will provide low-income survivors a financial boost that can help them stay out of an abusive relationship and address their emergent safety and basic needs, like finding a safe place to live, buying food, paying utilities, and caring for their children.

The benefits of the bipartisan CTC are not limited to low-income survivors and their kids. Its reach is widespread -- supporting 16 million children who live in low-income families and lifting 400,000 children out of poverty in the first year (tax year 2023) and lifting 500,000 children out of poverty in the final year (tax year 2025).⁵ Children from all races and ethnicities will gain -- assisting more than 1 in 3 Black and Latino children, 3 in 10 American Indian/Alaska Native children, and 1 in 7 white children and Asian children.⁶

¹ Intimate partner violence (IPV) is abuse or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship and can include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, financial abuse, and psychological aggression. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), (2022). *Fast Facts: Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>

² According to a study conducted by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and partners, 67 percent of survivors returned to an abusive relationship or stayed longer than they wanted to due to financial concerns. The National Domestic Violence Hotline, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and National Latin@Network, (2018). *"We Would Have Had to Stay" Survivors' Economic Security and Access to Benefits*, at 4. Retrieved from: https://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/files/2018-11/NRCDV_PublicBenefits-WeWouldHaveHadToStay-Nov2018.pdf

³ H.R. 7024, Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7024>

⁴ The child tax credit operates for three years – tax years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

⁵ Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, *About 16 Million Children In Low-Income Families Would Gain in First Year of Bipartisan Child Tax Credit Expansion*, published on January 16, 2024, updated on January 22, 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/topics/federal-tax>

⁶ Id.

While we continue to advocate for a credit that includes all low-income kids, we support the House-passed bipartisan bill and urge the Senate to quickly pass the House version and oppose any proposals to weaken or reduce the reach of the CTC.

We look forward to future opportunities strengthen and improve the CTC so that every child and family can flourish. For additional information, please reach out to Kiersten Stewart at Futures Without Violence, kstewart@futureswithoutviolenc.org,

Sincerely,

BWJP

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

Esperanza United

Futures Without Violence

National Council of Jewish Women

National Domestic Violence Hotline

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC)

National Network to End Domestic Violence

Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

YWCA USA