



FIRST FOCUS

CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

July 24, 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a national bipartisan children's advocacy organization working to make children the priority in policy and budget decisions, I write today to urge you today to vote no on H.R.4935, the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act. While this bill improves the Child Tax Credit (CTC) for middle-class and higher-income families and by indexing it to inflation, it would also take this essential tax credit away from millions of children, meaning many families will lose a credit used primarily for resources for their children, such as food, clothes, and school supplies.

With child poverty at its highest rate in 20 years, affecting more than 1 in 5 children nationwide, the CTC is an invaluable resource for families – keeping 1.5 million children out of poverty in 2011 alone. But this bill deliberately restricts immigrant families' access to the refundable portion of the CTC by requiring the use of a Social Security Number (SSN). Many immigrant parents pay their taxes using an IRS-issued Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) rather than a SSN. Restricting ITIN filers from claiming the ACTC will take up to \$1,000 out of the pockets of families who already live near the poverty line with average earnings of only \$21,000 annually. Ultimately, this change will raise taxes on the families of up to 5.5 million children, including 4.5 million U.S. citizen children, about 80 percent of whom are Latino.

We urge you to vote against this legislation that would take important resources away from immigrant families and harm children in the process. Rather than drive more children into poverty, Congress should be working towards solutions to completely eradicate child poverty.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lesley
President