



## COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

1825 K Street, NW · Suite 411 · Washington, DC 20006 · 202.223.2532 · Fax 202.223.2538 · [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org)

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The reconciliation bill that you have brought to the House Committee on Ways and Means makes ground-breaking investments in our nation's future. In the 40 years of the [Coalition on Human Needs'](#) existence, it is hard to recall any other piece of legislation that approaches the impact of this bill in reducing poverty, narrowing the chasm between the rich and everyone else, and investing in sustainable economic growth.

The bill before the House Ways and Means Committee invests in our children by sustaining and improving upon the expansions of the Child Tax Credit enacted for one year in the American Rescue Plan Act. It is extraordinarily important that the reconciliation bill permanently provides the full Child Tax Credit to families with little or no earnings. No child should be excluded from the CTC's benefits because his or her family is too poor. It is also of great importance that 17-year-olds are covered, and restrictions imposed under the Trump tax law in 2017 are eliminated, so that children with Individual Taxpayer ID numbers can once again qualify. The latter will help at least 675,000 children. The help the Child Tax Credit provides is demonstrably swift and far-reaching. After just one monthly allotment of between \$250 - \$300 per child, the number of adults living with children reporting that they did not have enough to eat in the past week dropped steeply, by [3.3 million or nearly one-third](#). The Coalition on Human Needs supports the continuation of monthly distribution of benefits. The [Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy](#) has estimated that the CTC's expansion will cut child poverty by about 40 percent. Providing children with better nutrition and greater stability by enabling families to pay bills more easily has been proven to improve their health, development, schooling, and future economic success. The Coalition on Human Needs has supported making the increased payments as well as the full refundability permanent. Extending the \$3,000 - \$3,600 benefits level through 2025 is an important step forward.

We also strongly support the permanent increase in benefits in the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers without dependent children, and that those benefits are extended to those age 19 and up (except for full-time students), with no upper age limit. The bill also makes permanent major improvements in the Child and Dependent Care Credit, also making it available to families with incomes too low to owe federal income taxes. The bill also includes a refundable tax credit for child care workers.

We strongly support provisions that extend the full value of the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit to Puerto Rico and the other territories and urge that they be made permanent.

The bill also includes reduced health insurance premium costs and greater investments in higher education.

Of tremendous importance, the House Ways and Means reconciliation bill includes nearly \$2.1 trillion in increased revenues from fairer taxation of wealthy individuals and corporations. That, along with more than \$450 billion in health care savings in other committee legislation being prepared, go a long way towards offsetting the cost of all the investments that will be combined in the Build Back Better reconciliation provisions. The bill before House Ways and Means now could go farther, by requiring financial institutions to report the flow of money into their accounts to more accurately track whether individuals and corporations are under-reporting income, estimated to raise another \$460 billion. House Ways and Means should also raise the minimum tax on certain corporate foreign profits to 21 percent, as proposed by President Biden, and should increase the corporate tax to 28 percent, beyond the 26.5 percent in the bill now. We also support closing the “stepped-up basis” loophole in the capital gains tax. These and more alternatives could provide hundreds of billions more in revenues from fair sources. The American public strongly supports requiring the rich and corporations to pay more of their fair share; in recent polls, the public supports economy-building investments even more strongly when they know the rich and corporations will pay their fair share.

Even with the revenues now included in the House Ways and Means reconciliation mark, plus health care savings, the net cost of the essential economy-building and family-strengthening investments would be less than \$100 billion per year over a decade. We applaud the efforts of Chairman Neal and his members to make these investments and to secure fair revenues – this will truly be a once-in-a-generation achievement.

Thank you for this great accomplishment,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Weinstein", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Deborah Weinstein  
Executive Director