

The logo for 'results' is located in the top right corner. It consists of the word 'results' in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, colored red. The text is contained within a white speech bubble shape with rounded corners and a small tail pointing towards the bottom left.

**results**

# **RESULTS Print Media: U.S. Poverty**

March 11, 2021 – July 20, 2021

Date	State	Article	Outlet	Media Type
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Alaska media</a></u></b>				
4/16/21	AK	<a href="#">Make voting easy</a>	Anchorage Daily News	Letter to the editor
5/18/21	AK	<a href="#">Ending child poverty</a>	Fairbanks Daily News-Miner	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Arizona media</a></u></b>				
4/3/21	AZ	<a href="#">Outsider can relate to housing topics and issues in Flagstaff</a>	Arizona Daily Sun	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Arkansas media</a></u></b>				
6/3/21	AR	<a href="#">Take decisive action</a>	Arkansas Democrat Gazette	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to California media</a></u></b>				
4/4/21	CA	Reduce child poverty, housing instability	San Diego Union Tribune	Letter to the editor
4/18/21	CA	<a href="#">Crucial time to honor Chinese American hero</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
4/18/21	CA	<a href="#">Crucial time to honor Chinese American hero</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
5/2/21	CA	<a href="#">Congress must go bold on economic recovery</a>	Los Angeles Daily News	Letter to the editor
6/25/21	CA	<a href="#">Cutting child poverty in half</a>	Enterprise Record	Letter to the editor

6/26/21	CA	<a href="#">Make earned-income, child credits permanent</a>	Marin Independent Journal	Letter to the editor
7/15/21	CA	<a href="#">Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor
7/15/21	CA	<a href="#">Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
7/18/21	CA	Larger housing voucher benefits whole nation	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
7/20/21	CA	<a href="#">New Child Tax Credit should be permanent</a>	East Bay Times	Letter to the editor
7/20/21	CA	<a href="#">New Child Tax Credit should be permanent</a>	Mercury News	Letter to the editor

**[Go to Colorado media](#)**

5/20/21	CO	<a href="#">We can cut child poverty in half – permanently</a>	Longmont Times-Call	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	CO	<a href="#">Speak up for American families</a>	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor
7/15/21	CO	<a href="#">Speak up for families</a>	Boulder Weekly	Letter to the editor

**[Go to Connecticut media](#)**

7/1/21	CT	<a href="#">Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment</a>	Stamford Advocate	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	<a href="#">Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment</a>	Greenwich Time	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	<a href="#">Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment</a>	Connecticut Post	Letter to the editor

7/1/21	CT	<a href="#">Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment</a>	Torrington Register Citizen	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	<a href="#">Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment</a>	New Haven Register	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	<a href="#">Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment</a>	Danbury News Times	Letter to the editor
7/1/21	CT	<a href="#">Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment</a>	Norwalk Hour	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Florida media</u></b>				
3/30/21	FL	Reducing poverty	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
4/21/21	FL	Tax credits	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	FL	<a href="#">Child tax credit should be permanent</a>	Port Charlotte Sun	Letter to the editor
5/21/21	FL	<a href="#">Reducing child poverty</a>	Northwest Florida Daily News	Letter to the editor
5/22/21	FL	<a href="#">Child tax credit should be permanent</a>	Venice Gondolier	Letter to the editor
5/29/21	FL	<a href="#">Child tax credit should be permanent</a>	Venice Gondolier	Letter to the editor
6/9/21	FL	Affordable housing residents must live in safety	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
6/30/21	FL	<a href="#">Fight poverty</a>	Miami Herald	Letter to the editor
7/4/21	FL	<a href="#">Extend rental assistance</a>	Fort Meyers News Press	Letter to the editor

7/4/21	FL	<a href="#">Extend rental assistance</a>	Naples Daily News	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Idaho media</a></u></b>				
5/20/21	ID	<a href="#">Cut child poverty</a>	Idaho Statesman	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Illinois media</a></u></b>				
5/13/21	IL	<a href="#">Congress should expand rental assistance</a>	Rockford Register Star	Letter to the editor
5/25/21	IL	<a href="#">Additional assistance</a>	Chicago Sun Times	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Indiana media</a></u></b>				
4/5/21	IN	<a href="#">One-year relief needs to be extended</a>	Herald Times	Letter to the editor
4/30/21	IN	<a href="#">Health assistance through housing</a>	Terre Haute Tribune Star	Letter to the editor
5/6/21	IN	<a href="#">Rescue act helps breaks cycles of injustice, poverty</a>	Johnson County Daily Journal	Letter to the editor
5/10/21	IN	<a href="#">COVID vaccines aren't the only way to keep Hoosiers healthy</a>	Herald Times	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to Iowa media</a></u></b>				
5/7/21	IA	<a href="#">Congress must go bold on economic recovery</a>	Cedar Rapids Gazette	Letter to the editor
7/5/21	IA	<a href="#">The revamped child tax credit is a game-changer, so let's work to keep it</a>	Des Moines Register	Op-ed

**Go to Maryland/Washington, DC media**

3/12/21	MD	<a href="#">COVID relief helps bridge gap between nation's haves and have-nots</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
3/12/21	DC	<a href="#">If children are our future, let's help their parents now</a>	Washington Post	Letter to the editor
5/21/21	MD	<a href="#">Cutting child poverty in half is within our grasp</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor
6/4/21	MD	<a href="#">Helping jobless puts them on the path to employment</a>	Baltimore Sun	Letter to the editor

**Go to Massachusetts media**

3/24/21	MA	<a href="#">Make benefits for children permanent</a>	Boston Globe	Letter to the editor
4/5/21	MA	<a href="#">Affordable housing action is good, but more is needed</a>	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor
7/14/21	MA	<a href="#">New anti-poverty measures are momentous — we should continue them</a>	Berkshire Eagle	Letter to the editor

**Go to Minnesota media**

4/10/21	MN	<a href="#">Like Duluth did, Congress can spur equity</a>	Duluth News Tribune	Letter to the editor
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**Go to Mississippi media**

5/26/21	MS	<a href="#">Support American Workers And Kids: Expand Child Tax Credit Permanently</a>	Mississippi Free Press	Op-ed
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**Go to Missouri media**

5/8/21	MO	<a href="#">Biden's plan will help overlooked Americans</a>	Joplin Globe	Letter to the editor
5/22/21	MO	<a href="#">We can cut child poverty in half – permanently</a>	St. Louis American	Letter to the editor
5/27/21	MO	<a href="#">Story highlights struggles for low-income renters</a>	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/27/21	MO	<a href="#">Story highlights struggles for low-income renters</a>	Missouri Consumer News	Letter to the editor
5/30/21	MO	<a href="#">Housing is security</a>	Kansas City Star	Letter to the editor

### **Go to Montana Media**

3/19/21	MT	<a href="#">More needs to be done</a>	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
4/20/21	MT	<a href="#">Child tax credits another bipartisan solution</a>	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
5/24/21	MT	<a href="#">Child tax credits</a>	Daily Inter Lake	Letter to the editor
5/24/21	MT	<a href="#">Seek full funding for housing choice voucher program</a>	Missoulian	Letter to the editor
7/7/21	MT	<a href="#">Opportunity to question candidates</a>	Missoulian	Letter to the editor

### **Go to Nebraska media**

5/29/21	NE	<a href="#">Expand rental assistance program</a>	Lincoln Journal Star	Letter to the editor
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### **Go to Nevada media**

5/3/21	NV	<a href="#">Bidens's plans can be a big help</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
5/7/21	NV	<a href="#">Recovery plan can do even more</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
6/8/21	NV	<a href="#">Show children how we can lead</a>	Las Vegas Sun	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to New Mexico media</a></u></b>				
5/19/21	NM	<a href="#">American Rescue Plan is good for nation's children</a>	Santa Fe New Mexican	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to New York media</a></u></b>				
3/11/21	NY	<a href="#">Accolades for Biden's Relief Plan</a>	New York Times	Letter to the editor
6/14/21	NY	<a href="#">Permanently expand credits in the effort to fight poverty</a>	Buffalo News	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to North Carolina media</a></u></b>				
4/1/21	NC	Cawthorn Needs to Address Poverty	Asheville Citizen-Times	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	NC	<a href="#">Tax credits</a>	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
6/7/21	NC	<a href="#">Rent relief</a>	Raleigh News & Observer	Letter to the editor
<b><u><a href="#">Go to North Dakota media</a></u></b>				
4/24/21	ND	<a href="#">North Dakota's federal delegates should work to reduce child poverty, housing instability</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor



5/26/21	ND	<a href="#">North Dakota's federal delegates should vote to protect vulnerable children</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
7/17/21	ND	<a href="#">CTC, EITC changes must be made permanent</a>	Grand Forks Herald	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Ohio media</u></b>				
3/14/21	OH	<a href="#">COVID-19 relief provisions can greatly reduce child poverty in US</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
3/17/21	OH	More must be done to fight poverty in America	Elyria Chronicle-Telegram	Letter to the editor
3/23/21	OH	<a href="#">New Child Tax Credit needs to be permanent to help those in need</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/24/21	OH	<a href="#">Cut child poverty by making all Child Tax Credit changes permanent</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/24/21	OH	<a href="#">Assistance should be extended to all eligible renters in economic recovery</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/6/21	OH	<a href="#">Congress needs to act so people in poverty can have housing stability</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/19/21	OH	<a href="#">Proper funding needed to keep renters from becoming homeless</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/23/21	OH	<a href="#">Tax breaks need to be permanent</a>	Columbus Dispatch	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Oklahoma media</u></b>				
5/23/21	OK	<a href="#">Make sure rental assistance, affordable housing priority during population growth</a>	Tulsa World	Letter to the editor

**Go to Oregon media**

4/4/21	OR	<a href="#">Keeping us informed and reminding us our voices matter</a>	Argus Observer	Letter to the editor
4/15/21	OR	<a href="#">Yes, It's Time To Really Help The Homeless</a>	Eugene Weekly	Letter to the editor
5/19/21	OR	<a href="#">Child care support</a>	Columbia Gorge News	Letter to the editor

**Go to Pennsylvania media**

4/2/21	PA	<a href="#">Bold action can reduce poverty</a>	The Reporter	Letter to the editor
5/23/21	PA	<a href="#">We can cut child poverty in half</a>	Courier Times	Letter to the editor

**Go to Tennessee media**

5/7/21	TN	Congress should expand rental assistance	Knoxville News Sentinel	Letter to the editor
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**Go to Texas media**

5/24/21	TX	<a href="#">Our representatives should expand rental assistance</a>	Austin American-Statesman	Letter to the editor
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**Go to Utah media**

3/30/21	UT	<a href="#">Urge your representatives to push for equity like Biden's rescue plan</a>	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
5/27/21	UT	<a href="#">Working should not lead to poverty</a>	Deseret News	Letter to the editor

6/5/21	UT	<a href="#">Together, we can make a difference for children</a>	Deseret News	Letter to the editor
7/18/21	UT	<a href="#">American families are finally catching a break with Child Tax Credit payments</a>	Salt Lake City Tribune	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Virginia media</u></b>				
5/19/21	VA	<a href="#">Keep support to end child poverty forever</a>	Richmond Times-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	VA	<a href="#">Cut child poverty, make tax credits permanent</a>	Richmond Times-Dispatch	Letter to the editor
6/19/21	VA	<a href="#">Extended federal aid can cut child poverty</a>	Daily Progress	Letter to the editor
<b><u>Go to Washington media</u></b>				
3/11/21	WA	<a href="#">Stay the course and hope for a better future</a>	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor
3/15/21	WA	<a href="#">A good start to solving poverty in America</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
3/18/21	WA	<a href="#">We pay our share, maybe ultra wealthy should as well</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
3/19/21	WA	<a href="#">Make assistance permanent</a>	Columbian	Letter to the editor
3/24/21	WA	<a href="#">Road to equity</a>	Daily News	Letter to the editor
3/26/21	WA	<a href="#">Permanent tax credits needed to help working families</a>	Olympian	Letter to the editor
3/26/21	WA	<a href="#">Legislation is a chance to help children, families</a>	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor

4/1/21	WA	<a href="#">Important to strengthen the Affordable Care Act</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
4/3/21	WA	<a href="#">Hope and equity</a>	Spokesman-Review	Letter to the editor
4/7/21	WA	<a href="#">COVID relief bill has the potential to reduce child poverty</a>	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
4/21/21	WA	<a href="#">Care packages</a>	Snohomish Tribune	Letter to the editor
4/22/21	WA	<a href="#">Speak up to change tax policy</a>	Columbian	Letter to the editor
4/29/21	WA	<a href="#">Congress has chance to fix homelessness</a>	Daily News	Letter to the editor
5/7/21	WA	<a href="#">Evictions: 'Expand rental assistance'</a>	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
5/12/21	WA	<a href="#">Rotary Club, Congress doing good work to support the hungry in our community</a>	Mukilteo Beacon	Letter to the editor
5/15/21	WA	<a href="#">Renters should be part of economic recovery plans</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
5/20/21	WA	<a href="#">Extend rental assistance to help families</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
5/21/21	WA	<a href="#">If Congress acts, we can cut child poverty dramatically</a>	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor
5/27/21	WA	<a href="#">Congress must expand access to rental assistance</a>	Daily Herald	Letter to the editor
6/6/21	WA	<a href="#">Strickland's actions address poverty</a>	Olympian	Letter to the editor
6/10/21	WA	<a href="#">Reducing poverty should be an American goal</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor

6/14/21	WA	<a href="#">Insufficient funding for housing vouchers</a>	Seattle Times	Letter to the editor
6/23/21	WA	<a href="#">Child tax credit payment should become permanent</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
7/12/21	WA	<a href="#">Paths to make housing more affordable do exist</a>	Kitsap Sun	Letter to the editor
7/16/21	WA	<a href="#">Yes, vote wisely – that's how things get done</a>	Yakima Herald	Letter to the editor

**Go to West Virginia media**

6/8/21	WV	<a href="#">Make Tax Credits Permanent</a>	Register-Herald	Letter to the editor
7/4/21	WV	<a href="#">Housing crisis needs a federal solution</a>	Dominion Post	Op-ed

**Go to Wisconsin media**

6/8/21	WI	<a href="#">Congress needs to expand rental assistance</a>	Cap Times	Letter to the editor
6/24/21	WI	<a href="#">Expanded tax credits must be made permanent</a>	Cap Times	Letter to the editor

## Make voting easy

April 16, 2021

The idea of limiting access to voting and restricting the time allowed to vote is anti-democratic. Any argument against access to and time limits to voting needs to come to an end. In fact, the significant population increase in the U.S. requires that technological advances in communication be embraced to enhance participation including language translations and unlimited access for those who have disabilities.

The original process was to simply meet at an official polling place and drop in an unlabeled marker into a container that represented one or the other party or desired representative. It required that one had to be present to vote on one specific day and location. This was a very limiting process and was restricted to property-owning men. Our voting rights now include women and minorities. What remains is to allow reasonable time and modern access methods to submit one's ballot.

Be sure to request that your representatives support a more open and democratic election process. And then, please vote.

— **John M. Kennish**

*Anchorage*

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/letters/2021/04/16/letter-make-voting-easy/>



## Ending child poverty

May 18, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half - permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Susan Vogt**

*Anchorage*

[https://www.newsminer.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/ending-child-poverty/article\\_f60bf27c-b84d-11eb-b39e-5ff7ff237f58.html](https://www.newsminer.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/ending-child-poverty/article_f60bf27c-b84d-11eb-b39e-5ff7ff237f58.html)



## **Outsider can relate to housing topics and issues in Flagstaff**

April 4, 2021

Great experience with the friendly people in Flagstaff, after hitting a plastic garbage can on Interstate 40. While waiting for the car to be repaired, we met helpful folks at the repair shop, the hotel, the bus and in the downtown shops. I also found a copy of the Daily Sun at our hotel and was glad to see important issues like affordable housing being discussed. ('We need some hard conversations on affordable housing' by Rick Lopez and Tad Moore, Arizona Daily Sun, March 26, 2021).

Affordable housing is a national issue that definitely needs local input. There are currently bills in Congress to increase affordable housing, increase funding for the Section 8 housing voucher program, which currently only serves 25% of those who qualify, and a refundable renters' tax credit that would put an end to low-income renters paying 50% and more of their income for housing. The recent pandemic relief bill did have funds for renters and landlords, along with an eviction moratorium. This is a good start, but the housing crisis in America demands more than temporary fixes. So ask your members of Congress and local leaders to take action. Together we can solve America's housing challenge for all.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-outsider-can-relate-to-housing-topics-and-issues-in-flagstaff/article\\_801a4a02-9523-5f91-a3aa-48d50bfc35eb.html](https://azdailysun.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-outsider-can-relate-to-housing-topics-and-issues-in-flagstaff/article_801a4a02-9523-5f91-a3aa-48d50bfc35eb.html)



## Take decisive action

June 3, 2021

We have a historic opportunity in American history to permanently reduce child poverty by half.

The covid-19 pandemic was the last straw that broke the backs of thousands of Arkansans who lived paycheck to paycheck with financial insecurity and vulnerability to economic downturns. Last summer, the city of Little Rock, in collaboration with various agencies, launched a program that provided hundreds of thousands of meals to vulnerable communities across central Arkansas. However, this initiative is an ominous sign for future recessions, which will likely cause Arkansans to hope for unreliable regional aid.

The recent proposal by the Biden administration, discussed in the article by Frank E. Lockwood, resolves this issue by making permanent the Earned Income Tax Credit, and extending the increase in the Child Tax Credit to 2025, which could benefit 661,000 Arkansan children of low-income families and 183,000 Arkansan workers who were previously taxed into poverty.

I call on Sen. John Boozman, Sen. Tom Cotton and Rep. French Hill to address the needs of Arkansans, present and future, by supporting the Biden administration proposal. We cannot wait for another crisis to take decisive action in securing the health and well-being of our citizens.

— **Chandrasimha Penthala**

*Little Rock*

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2021/jun/03/letters/>

# The San Diego Union-Tribune

## Reduce child poverty, housing instability

April 4, 2021

I am relieved that Congress passed and President Biden signed a new COVID-19 relief bill that will provide assistance to renters, increase the earned income tax credit (EITC) for low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45 percent by expanding the child tax credit.

It's now time to build on these successes by fixing inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty. First, protect families by making the new EITC and child allowance provisions permanent. Next, making housing choice vouchers universal to all who qualify; currently, only one in four eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Columbia University researchers estimate these two changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

In San Diego County, 40 percent of children under 12 live in poverty. Our children deserve better, and this needs to change. I urge our members of Congress to take action to permanently reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation.

— **Courtney Cohen**

*San Diego*

No online link

# EAST BAY TIMES

## Crucial time to honor Chinese American hero

April 18, 2021

Thanks for the good news of Chinese American Harry Lew finally receiving a medal for his World War II service ("[Chinese-American veteran honored for WWII service](#)," Page B1, April 11).

This good news helps dispel negative notions about Asian Americans at a time when violent acts against them are rising. The Bay Area News Group's responsible journalism makes a difference by publishing this. The pandemic's disproportionate negative effects were all too often experienced by America's people of color.

Congress and the president are proposing housing, tax credit and other initiatives that can help eliminate these difficult problems exacerbated by the pandemic. We can take action by asking our representatives to pass these and other initiatives of equity.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/04/16/letters-349/>

# The Mercury News

## Crucial time to honor Chinese American hero

April 18, 2021

Thanks for the good news of Chinese American Harry Lew finally receiving a medal for his World War II service ("[Chinese-American veteran honored for WWII service](#)," Page B1, April 11).

This good news helps dispel negative notions about Asian Americans at a time when violent acts against them are rising. The Bay Area News Group's responsible journalism makes a difference by publishing this. The pandemic's disproportionate negative effects were all too often experienced by America's people of color.

Congress and the president are proposing housing, tax credit and other initiatives that can help eliminate these difficult problems exacerbated by the pandemic. We can take action by asking our representatives to pass these and other initiatives of equity.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/04/16/letters-349/>

# Los Angeles Daily News

## **Congress must go bold on economic recovery**

May 2, 2021

In response to President Biden's new economic recovery proposal, I'm pleased he's included resources to increase the supply of affordable housing.

However, without expanded rental assistance, low-income renters won't be able to afford such housing.

Currently, only one in four eligible renters gets federal rental assistance due to inadequate funding. Congress should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. This will keep them stably housed, prevent evictions, and prevent homelessness. We must also make permanent recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These changes, which expire next year will benefit millions of low-wage workers and cut child poverty.

We can create an economy where workers are protected, families are stably housed and children are allowed to thrive. In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge our members of Congress to expand rental assistance to all who qualify and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

— **Gulshan Oomerjee**

*Simi Valley*

<https://www.dailynews.com/2021/05/02/torrance-unified-is-failing-its-basic-job-of-having-in-classroom-instruction-letters/>

# ENTERPRISE-RECORD

## Cutting child poverty in half

June 25, 2021

American families are finally catching a break.

Starting July 15, most families can receive the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent, and bills, to middle-class families that need help with childcare and college savings. Go to [www.childtaxcredit.gov](http://www.childtaxcredit.gov) to make sure you're getting it. And spread the word.

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year – and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Cara Warren**

*Magalia*

<https://www.chicoer.com/2021/06/25/letter-cutting-child-poverty-in-half/>

# Marin Independent Journal

## Make earned-income, child credits permanent

June 26, 2021

American families are finally catching a break. Starting July 15, most families can receive the new child tax credit as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-300 each month will help families succeed; from working families struggling to pay for food, rent and bills, to middle-class families in need of help with childcare and college savings. Go to [childtaxcredit.gov](https://childtaxcredit.gov) to make sure you're getting it. And spread the word.

This new tax credit is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the improvements to the credit, along with much-needed changes to the earned income tax credit for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our representatives in Congress to make the 2021 child tax credit and earned-income credit changes permanent in recovery legislation this year. We should pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Warren M. Gold**

*Mill Valley*

<https://www.marinij.com/2021/06/25/marin-ij-readers-forum-for-june-26-2021/>

# The Mercury News

## Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy

July 15, 2021

Ezra Klein's piece on the worries about our democracy ("Rest of the world is worried about American democracy," Page A6, July 2) makes sad sense.

Fortunately, there are some bipartisan initiatives in Congress right now that would make a difference: like expanding the Housing Voucher Program to reach all who qualify for this program, instead of the 25% it currently covers. No wonder we have a housing crisis.

Globally, the COVID pandemic put 1.6 billion students out of school. A bipartisan letter calling on President Biden to make a pledge of \$1 billion over the next five years to the Global Partnership for Education would make a major difference, putting 175 million children in school for the first time.

Since democracy depends on "we the people," let's call our representatives and ask them to support these and other initiatives that make a difference in our country and the world.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, WA*

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/07/14/letters-461/>



# EAST BAY TIMES

## **Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy**

July 15, 2021

Ezra Klein's piece on the worries about our democracy ("Rest of the world is worried about American democracy," Page A6, July 2) makes sad sense.

Fortunately, there are some bipartisan initiatives in Congress right now that would make a difference: like expanding the Housing Voucher Program to reach all who qualify for this program, instead of the 25% it currently covers. No wonder we have a housing crisis.

Globally, the COVID pandemic put 1.6 billion students out of school. A bipartisan letter calling on President Biden to make a pledge of \$1 billion over the next five years to the Global Partnership for Education would make a major difference, putting 175 million children in school for the first time.

Since democracy depends on "we the people," let's call our representatives and ask them to support these and other initiatives that make a difference in our country and the world.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, WA*

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/07/14/letters-461/>

# EAST BAY TIMES

## **Larger housing voucher benefits whole nation**

July 18, 2021

Willie Dickerson's letter "Bipartisan initiatives could steady democracy" (Letters to the editor, Page A6, July 15) mentions a bipartisan congressional initiative to expand the Housing Voucher Program so it can help the remaining 75% of renters eligible for the woefully underfunded voucher program. Whether you're a liberal caring for workers whose wages aren't enough to pay outrageously high rents or a conservative who reveres local businesses, helping people get off the streets, into stable housing and able to pay for other life's necessities is a no-brainer.

It's a national disgrace that in America you can be working one and even two full-time jobs and still not earn enough to pay for housing. That means workers have less money to support local businesses by paying for adequate groceries, health and dental care, transportation, child care, etc. I hope people follow Dickerson's advice and call their local representatives to ask them to support increased housing vouchers. I have.

**— Jim Driggers**

*Concord*

No online link

# EAST BAY TIMES

## **New Child Tax Credit should be permanent**

July 20, 2021

The new Child Tax Credit (CTC) monthly payments started on July 15th. Most families will now get an extra \$250-\$300 from the IRS each month to help with rent, food, childcare and medical costs. If you did not receive a payment, go to [www.childtaxcredit.gov](http://www.childtaxcredit.gov) to see if you qualify.

This new CTC is a game-changer, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year according to estimates by the White House. President Joe Biden said, "This can be life-changing for so many families."

But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after a year. We cannot lift millions of American workers and children out of poverty only to force them back into poverty a year later. Congress must make these provisions permanent.

**— Patricia Payne**

*Castro Valley*

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2021/07/19/letters-466/>

# The Mercury News

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## **We can cut child poverty in half – permanently**

May 20, 2021

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

**— Carla Behrens**

*Longmont*

<https://www.timescall.com/2021/05/20/letter-child-poverty-israel-palestinians/>



## Speak up for American families

May 20, 2021

Great news to hear a majority of Americans support the President's American Families Plan (RE: "Democrats become the progressive family values party," The Anderson Files, May 13.) Yet, why do questions remain about the possibility of its passage? If members of Congress hear from their constituents about the importance of this legislation, the roadblocks to passage would be removed. Political will is created when our calls and letters keep pouring in and our follow-up continues asking the question "What is holding up passage of the American Families Plan?" Democracy works when we use our voices to call on our representatives (202-224-3121) to take action! If they don't, the ballot box is our next option.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters/letters-5-20-21/>



## Speak up for families

July 15, 2021

Exciting news for families working hard to give their kids the basics and better futures. (Re: "The Child Tax Credit: income for your family," July 8.) Thank you, Senator Bennet for your tenacious work on making this Child Tax Credit happen, benefiting 96 out of every 100 Colorado families and families across America. Of course this is temporary, but Senator Bennet and others are working to make it permanent. We can help by thanking Senator Bennet and telling him stories of how this changes things for the better in your family, and asking Senator Gardner to join in this effort, along with your representative. Any member of Congress can be reached at 202-224-3121. Speaking up now can help millions of families continue to have better lives.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington (Internet)*

<https://www.boulderweekly.com/opinion/letters/letters-7-15-21/>



## **Himes a good choice for new disparity appointment**

July 1, 2021

Hearst Connecticut Media recently reported that Congressman Jim Himes, our representative in the Fourth District, was selected to chair the new Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth. A good decision by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and well deserved.

Congressman Himes has considerable experience in housing issues, which those of us in RESULTS — a worldwide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending poverty — have come to respect.

Affordable housing is of critical importance now that the pandemic is easing. And yet, for decades only one family out of every four that qualified for Housing Vouchers could get them. How could that happen? We don't give SNAP benefits to one out of four hungry families. We don't offer Medicare to one out of four seniors. Housing shouldn't be a lottery. Stable housing means children have better health, education, and long-term outcomes.

As Congress looks to pass recovery legislation, they must expand rental assistance for low-income renters as part of that package. By including guaranteed, multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers in recovery legislation, Congress can shrink the racial wealth divide and help relieve the inequity and injustice of the housing crisis in the United States.

Please call or e-mail Congressman Himes and Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy urging them to sign the Merkly-Torres "Dear Colleague" housing letter (if they haven't already) asking for guaranteed, multi-year funding for Housing Choice Vouchers in recovery legislation this year, and then to vote for it.

**— William Baker**

*Stamford*



*William Baker of Stamford is a volunteer advocate for RESULTS, a worldwide organization dedicated to ending poverty.*

<https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/opinion/article/Letter-Himes-a-good-choice-for-new-disparity-16288261.php>



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# THE REGISTER CITIZEN

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# THE HOUR

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## **Reducing poverty**

March 30, 2021

The latest COVID relief bill will help renters, increase the earned income tax credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45 percent by expanding the child tax credit. Congress must build on these successes by fixing inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty.

Make housing-choice vouchers universal to all who qualify. Only one in four eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Protect workers and families by making the new EITC and child allowance provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate that these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

I urge Congress to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in legislation this year.

**— Betsy Suero Skipp**

*Miami*

No online link available



# Miami Herald

## Tax credits

April 21, 2021

Studies have shown that students from low-income families have a harder time concentrating at school, which leads to poor grades and difficulty getting into college. This creates a devastating domino effect.

Because political decisions impact our future, the Biden Administration has the power to chance the course of life for many children living in poverty, as outlined in the Herald's April 13 online article "Lifting kids out of poverty could be Biden's legacy, but cost raises doubts." Making the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit permanent not only will affect children immediately, it will also have a huge influence on their future.

I urge Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart and his colleagues to take this legislation as an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and invest on what gives the best return, the future of our children.

— **Innah Lahica**

*Hialeah*

No online link available



## Child tax credit should be permanent

May 20, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half - permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— Colonel Meyer

*North Port*

[https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-child-tax-credit-should-be-permanent/article\\_4ebcc97e-b744-11eb-9141-bbbb0d72767.html](https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-child-tax-credit-should-be-permanent/article_4ebcc97e-b744-11eb-9141-bbbb0d72767.html)



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May 21, 2021

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— **Linda Gazzola**

*Navarre*

<https://www.nwfdailynews.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/21/congress-must-follow-through-bidens-proposal-reduce-child-poverty/5184511001/>



## **Child tax credit should be permanent**

May 22, 2021

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**— Colonel Meyer**

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[https://www.yoursun.com/venice/letters-to-the-editor/article\\_67b22e46-b754-11eb-a8c3-1fdf87330dc8.html](https://www.yoursun.com/venice/letters-to-the-editor/article_67b22e46-b754-11eb-a8c3-1fdf87330dc8.html)



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May 29, 2021

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## **Affordable housing residents must live in safety**

June 9, 2021

As we slowly begin emerging from one pandemic, we now find ourselves in another one: gun violence. From Hialeah to Homestead, Opa-locka to Kendall, it appears that mass shootings know no boundaries. According to the Herald's June 8 article, "Gun violence again strikes: 3 killed, 3 wounded near Homestead base," at least 11 people have been killed and 44 others injured by gunfire in the past 11 days in Miami-Dade County.

With summer break approaching for kids (and some adults), and more people stepping outdoors as the COVID-19 subsides, some of our local housing complexes are on lock down.

Kids should not fear playing outside. They should be free from gun violence at home and in their neighborhoods. Safe housing is a human right.

Affordable housing is not limited to expanding vouchers or halting evictions. At a minimum, housing must be free of health hazards like water leaks, poor ventilation, mold, pest infestation and gun violence.

Shootings, like the June 7 domestic murder-suicide at a Miami-Dade Homeless Trust townhouse, are tragic and preventable. Beyond basic security, as stated by the chair of the Trust, educational support, outreach, and mental health counseling are also needed. I urge our representatives in Congress to act and hold landlords accountable. Landlords must be able to ensure their tenants are safe, be it from domestic or gang violence, especially those who receive federal dollars. We must make sure that these residences are free from violence.

**— Karyne Bury**

*Miami*

No online link available

# Miami Herald

## Fight poverty

June 30, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an eye-opener, although inequalities such as housing and healthcare have been embedded in our society for years.

We now have opportunities to address those issues and create a better future, while making America more competitive. Investing in good, safe and affordable housing (universal rental assistance, vouchers, and multi-year funding) providing access to good-quality education and reducing childhood poverty by making the child tax credit and the earned-income tax credit permanent are just a few steps in the right direction.

Congress should step up to these challenges and work toward a more just and equitable society.

— **Yanick Perodin**

*Miami*

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UfhOgT3zutl1Y\\_zlVPUPbhX\\_wfvMYlTy/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UfhOgT3zutl1Y_zlVPUPbhX_wfvMYlTy/view)

# News-Press.

## Extend rental assistance

July 4, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Yet federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Alexis Maestre-Saborit**

*Fort Myers*

<https://www.news-press.com/story/opinion/2021/07/04/letters-editor-sunday-july-4-2021/7814154002/>



# Naples Daily News

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— **Alexis Maestre-Saborit**

*Fort Myers*

<https://www.naplesnews.com/story/opinion/2021/07/04/letters-editor-sunday-july-4-2021/7814154002/>

# Idaho Statesman

## Cut child poverty

May 20, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

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These steps are important, but Congress must make all the child tax credit changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new child tax credit will cut child poverty by 45%! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new child tax credit and earned income tax credit provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Janet McClenahan**

*Boise*

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article251556798.html>

# Rockford Register Star

## Congress should expand rental assistance

May 13, 2021

In response to President Biden's new economic recovery proposal, I'm pleased he's included resources to increase the supply of affordable housing.

However, without expanded rental assistance, low-income renters won't be able to afford such housing.

Currently, only one in four eligible renters gets federal rental assistance due to inadequate funding.

Congress should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. This will keep them stably housed, prevent evictions and prevent homelessness.

We must also make permanent recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These changes, which expire next year, will benefit 17 million low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45%.

We can create an economy where workers are protected, families are stably housed and children are allowed to thrive.

In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge our members of Congress to expand rental assistance to all who qualify and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

— **Kevin Donnelly**

*Rockford*

<https://www.rrstar.com/story/opinion/2021/05/13/letter-congress-should-expand-rental-assistance/4891641001/>

# CHICAGO SUN★TIMES

## **Additional assistance**

May 25, 2021

As Chicagoans face the possibility of evictions in August, I'm relieved to hear of the additional rental assistance announced by Mayor Lori Lightfoot ["City to offer \$80 million in assistance to renters," May 24]. This relief from the city and President Joe Biden's proposal to build affordable housing in the United States are both a help for renters in danger of losing homes. Yet even these actions won't meet the need that was already an American housing crisis before COVID-19 started.

Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allows low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Yet inadequate funding for federal rental assistance means help only gets to only one in four eligible renters.

The pandemic has made clear that there are far too many Americans just one crisis away from eviction. I urge Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth as well as Illinois Representatives Bobby Rush, Robin Kelly, Mike Quigley, Rodney Davis and Jan Schakowsky to expand assistance to all eligible renters.

*Cynthia Changyit Levin, St Louis, Missouri*

**— Cynthia Changyit Levin**

*St. Louis, Missouri*

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2021/5/25/22453191/clean-energy-jobs-illinois-legislature-nuclear-energy-letters>

# The Herald-Times

## One-year relief needs to be extended

April 5, 2021

To the editor:

For many years, our country has had a much higher rate of child poverty than other high-income countries. This puts our very future at risk.

Many parents work at wages that cannot support a family, and our safety net is not as generous or comprehensive as those of other countries. Moreover, if parents start earning slightly more, the assistance we do provide in terms of housing, nutrition and health care dwindles or disappears, often leaving their families even worse off.

This is why it's so heartening that one provision of the American Rescue Plan Act expanded and improved tax breaks for poor families. These changes in the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit will immediately cut child poverty in half, and they will not go away as people start earning more. If these changes are maintained, millions of children will not have to grow up in poverty.

Unfortunately, these improvements were part of a pandemic relief bill and were mandated for only one year. Letting them expire at the end of that time would double child poverty overnight, throwing these millions of kids back into poverty. Congress needs to act to make these changes permanent.

— **Stephen Arnold**

*Bloomington*

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/04/05/letter-one-year-relief-needs-to-be-extended/116213324/>

## Health assistance through housing

April 30, 2021

In Indiana, we've fully vaccinated more 1.65 million people to protect them from COVID-19. However, we fail to truly commit to ensuring that low-income individuals and families have safe and affordable homes to return to after receiving their vaccine.

Housing is the most basic form of protection against COVID-19. Unfortunately, we face a shortage of 126,952 affordable rental housing units for extremely low-income households in Indiana. I field calls from friends, family members and colleagues asking where people can go to find affordable housing. Every time, I'm struck by the fact that these types of phone calls are so common.

Building more affordable housing is one part of addressing this crisis. We also need to make sure housing is affordable for families. Expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to all eligible renters (only one in four can currently get a voucher) will be monumental for many extremely low-income renters. With housing choice vouchers, low-income Hoosiers will no longer have to spend half their income on rent. Children will live without fear that an eviction will force them to transfer to a school across town. People won't have to decide between paying for rent or paying for medications. Affordable housing will change the way people navigate their lives.

I'm calling on Indiana's U.S. Sens. Young and Braun to ensure that economic recovery legislation expands federal housing assistance to all low-income renters.

— **Kazmyn Ramos**

*Bloomington*

[https://www.tribstar.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/readers-forum-april-30-2021-health-assistance-through-housing/article\\_d15337be-a926-11eb-985f-b7afb4561a0d.html](https://www.tribstar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/readers-forum-april-30-2021-health-assistance-through-housing/article_d15337be-a926-11eb-985f-b7afb4561a0d.html)

## Rescue act helps breaks cycles of injustice, poverty

May 6, 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act is aimed at breaking the cycle of injustice and poverty.

This package is primed not only to rescue the country from the devastating effects of COVID 19, but rebuild the economy more equitably. The forces of racism and oppression drive poverty and injustice.

The expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) are two examples of how good legislation can result in a generational leap in our fight against poverty.

It is estimated that these expansions (included in the ARPA) can lift almost 50% of children out of poverty. That is an astounding accomplishment and a "revolution in child aid" (as stated in the New York Times).

Growing up impoverished not only causes constant mental stress, but in the long run causes physical illness, and a greater chance of living in poverty as an adult. The tax credits, along with stability in housing (expanding Housing Choice Vouchers), can help break the cycle of poverty, which leads to economic opportunity, better employment, better education and better health. It is economically sound policy to have individuals fully participate as productive members of society.

It is our duty as a country, as a society, to do everything we can to not waste this human potential; to not let children's' future be stunted because of lack of opportunity caused by poverty. I urge our Senators Young and Braun, and my Representative Hollingsworth to make these tax credits permanent in any recovery legislation. We need lasting change.

— **Diane Lindley**

*Needham*

[http://www.dailyjournal.net/2021/05/06/letter\\_rescue\\_act\\_helps\\_breaks\\_cycles\\_of\\_injustice\\_poverty/](http://www.dailyjournal.net/2021/05/06/letter_rescue_act_helps_breaks_cycles_of_injustice_poverty/)

# The Herald-Times

## COVID vaccines aren't the only way to keep Hoosiers healthy

May 10, 2021

To the editor:

In Indiana, we've fully vaccinated 1.65 million people to protect them from COVID-19. However, we fail to truly commit to ensuring that low-income individuals and families have safe and affordable homes to return to after receiving their vaccine.

Housing is the most basic form of protection against COVID-19. Unfortunately, we face a shortage of 126,952 affordable rental housing units for extremely low-income households in Indiana. I field calls from friends, family members and colleagues asking where people can go to find affordable housing. Every time, I'm struck by the fact that these types of phone calls are so common.

Building more affordable housing is one part of addressing this crisis. We also need to make sure housing is affordable for families. Expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to all eligible renters (only 1 in 4 can currently get a voucher) will be monumental for many extremely low-income renters. With housing choice vouchers, low-income Hoosiers will no longer have to spend half their income on rent.

I'm calling on Sen. Todd Young and Sen. Mike Braun to ensure that economic recovery legislation expands federal housing assistance to all low-income renters.

— **Kazmyn Ramos**

*Indianapolis*

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/10/letter-covid-vaccines-arent-the-only-way-to-keep-hoosiers-healthy/116217168/>



# The Gazette

## **Congress must go bold on economic recovery**

May. 7, 2021

In response to President Joe Biden's new economic recovery proposal, I'm pleased he's included resources to increase the supply of affordable housing. However, without expanded rental assistance, low-income renters won't be able to afford such housing. Currently, only one in four eligible renters gets federal rental assistance due to inadequate funding. Congress should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. This will keep them stably housed, prevent evictions, and prevent homelessness.

We must also make permanent recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These changes, which expire next year, will benefit 17 million low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45 percent.

We can create an economy where workers are protected, families are stably housed, and children are allowed to thrive. In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge our members of Congress to expand rental assistance to all who qualify and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

**— Marcelina Cenicerros**

Iowa City

<https://www.thegazette.com/opinion/congress-must-go-bold-on-economic-recovery/>

# Des Moines Register

## The revamped child tax credit is a game-changer, so let's work to keep it

July 5, 2021

*Lifting children out of poverty means better grades, healthier lives, and higher income as adults, which makes this a true game-changer.*

Iowa families are getting a huge break.

Starting July 15, the IRS will send monthly payments to nearly all families in Iowa and across the country. What's the source of this summer surprise? The new Child Tax Credit.

The American Rescue Plan passed in March included expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), two of our most potent weapons in the fight against poverty. In 2019, combined they lifted 7.5 million people — more than half of them children — above the federal poverty line.

Despite this success, there were significant gaps in who got these credits. For example, the lowest-income families were excluded from the CTC altogether, and low-income families who did qualify receive only \$1,400 of the \$2,000 credit, while wealthy families got the full amount. For the EITC, 5.8 million low-wage workers not raising children were taxed into poverty each year because Congress set their EITC too low, and workers just into coming into the workforce (those under 25) got nothing.

The American Rescue Plan fixed all this. It tripled the EITC for workers without children and expanded eligibility to workers 19 and older. As a result, 17 million low-wage retail workers, janitors, truck drivers, childcare workers, and others will benefit, including 181,000 workers in Iowa.

The news on the CTC is even better. The Rescue Plan eliminated the coverage gaps by making the CTC fully refundable to all low-income families, even if you have no

income. Furthermore, it increased the credit amount to \$3,000 for each child 6 to 17 years old and \$3,600 for each child under 6.

The new CTC will benefit 65.6 million children, including 669,000 children in Iowa. And Columbia University researchers estimate that, if all eligible households claim the CTC, child poverty will drop by an astounding 45% over the next year. Iowa alone would see a 39.9% drop. Considering what the research shows about the positive effects of lifting children out of poverty — better grades, healthier lives, and higher income as adults — this is a true game-changer.

The CTC also now has a monthly payment option. Starting July 15, most families will get an extra \$250 to 300 per child each month through December. So, if you need help with things like health care, rent, food, or child care, instead of waiting until tax time next year, you'll have it when you need it. Most households will get the payments automatically, but many will need to sign up. To see if you qualify, go to [www.childtaxcredit.gov](http://www.childtaxcredit.gov) today. You can also opt out of the monthly payments.

But there is a catch. These changes only last one year. After that, the holes in the EITC and CTC that the Rescue Plan filled will reopen and millions of workers, families, and children will fall through, back into poverty.

But Congress can easily prevent this by making the new EITC and CTC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year. And pay for it by making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share. It's a no-brainer — we're cutting child poverty in half! Why every member of Congress is not rushing to get this done right now is mystifying. Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst took pride in the tax cuts they passed in 2017, which primarily benefitted the rich and powerful. They should now support tax changes that will benefit Iowa's workers and children.

**— Jos G. Linn, Guest columnist**

*Jos G. Linn is the manager of grassroots impact at RESULTS, a grassroots advocacy organization working to end poverty. From 2005 to 2016, he lived in West Des Moines and advocated with Iowa congressional offices to enact policies that reduce poverty in the United States. He now lives in Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: [jlinn@results.org](mailto:jlinn@results.org).*

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## COVID relief helps bridge gap between nation's haves and have-nots

March 12, 2021

Back in December, a box of food shelf donations I dropped off for a struggling neighbor was stolen. Now, I am relieved that Congress has passed a new COVID relief bill that will provide relief to renters, increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45% by expanding the child tax credit. Maybe folks will no longer be so desperate and can concentrate on raising healthy families and engaging in productive activities (["Stimulus check updates: Biden to sign COVID-19 relief bill Thursday ahead of primetime speech,"](#) March 11).

Thank you, Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen. Thank you, Rep. Kweisi Mfume. It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by fixing vast inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty.

First, make housing choice vouchers universal to all who qualify. Currently, only one in four eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Next, protect workers and families by making the new EITC and child tax credit provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge Senators Van Hollen and Cardin, and Congressman Mfume to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation this year.

— Jan Kleinman

*Baltimore*

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-equity-congress-covid-letter-20210312-ae4yhbdexfabtjvxxkjyfyfj4q-story.html>

# The Washington Post

## If children are our future, let's help their parents now

March 12, 2021

Regarding the March 8 Politics & the Nation article "[\\$1.9 trillion relief bill reflects shifts in political landscape](#)":

Republicans' claim that the proposed fully refundable child tax credit of \$250 or \$300 per month to low-income families will disincentivize parents from seeking work shows they are completely out of touch with what expenses parents face when they bring up a child. The day-care expense alone will exceed this amount. In addition to necessities such as clothing, food, access to health care, etc., parents must contend with the new expense of digital access to e-learning. So, they have no other choice than to take on additional work to cover these expenses.

According to a Pew Research Center [report](#), some 22 percent of the U.S. population is children, but those younger than 18 represent 31 percent of all Americans living in poverty. Black and Hispanic children are particularly overrepresented. If we believe that the children are our future, we have a moral obligation to ensure that they are properly nourished at home to have a strong start in life. It is important that the expanded child tax credit is made permanent so that after a year these children do not fall back into poverty.

— Yamuna Dasarathy

*Washington*

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/letters-to-the-editor/if-children-are-our-future-lets-help-their-parents-now/2021/03/12/dd00eaf6-827b-11eb-be22-32d331d87530\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/letters-to-the-editor/if-children-are-our-future-lets-help-their-parents-now/2021/03/12/dd00eaf6-827b-11eb-be22-32d331d87530_story.html)

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## Cutting child poverty in half is within our grasp

May 21, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half, permanently. The Biden administration just proposed extending support for workers and families, enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families (["Child tax credit: Most US parents will get monthly checks of \\$250 or \\$300 per child, starting in July,"](#) May 17).

President Joe Biden also proposes extending the increased child tax credit amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025. These steps are important, but Congress must make all the changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new child tax credit will cut child poverty by 45%. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Maureen Wheeler**

*Silver Spring*

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-child-poverty-letter-20210521-x773jl56lrdkdax4ibumkbralu-story.html>

# THE BALTIMORE SUN

## Helping jobless puts them on the path to employment

June 4, 2021

Gov. Larry Hogan has announced an end to the weekly extra \$300 for unemployed Marylanders and three other changes affecting self-employed workers, gig workers and unemployed folks ("Gov. Hogan says Maryland will end extra \$300 weekly payments, other federal unemployment programs," June 1). Workers affected by these changes will feel the pinch. But let us think: While these struggling workers are hustling for their next jobs, do we want their children to suffer? Do we want their families to lose their homes?

The governor's announcement amplifies the need for federal support. In its American Rescue Plan, Congress recently expanded the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit for a limited time. Those expansions will help workers and their families considerably, for now. U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes and U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, please make those changes permanent!

President Joe Biden's budget for the coming fiscal year asks for an increase in the number of Housing Choice Vouchers. That increase will help a few low-income families get access to affordable housing, but the request is not enough. Right now, only one of every four eligible families can get a voucher under that program. The president's request needs to be much larger to address our nation's housing need.

Messrs. Sarbanes, Cardin and Van Hollen, please persuade your colleagues that our community needs more Housing Choice Vouchers! Then, families with food and a stable roof over their heads can concentrate on finding work again.

— Jan Kleinman

*Baltimore*

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-unemployment-assistance-letter-20210604-tprx2u6yyveprgm67utcnozohm-story.html>

# The Boston Globe

## Make benefits for children permanent

March 24, 2021

Thank you to Yvonne Abraham for her column [“Virus, food lines endure”](#) (Metro, March 21).

Our neighbors do indeed “need the America we ought to be,” and that is why the [American Rescue Plan](#) is so very important. The changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit will decrease child poverty by almost half. Let me repeat that: reduce child poverty by half! How can we even contemplate doing this for one year only? There is simply no good reason for not making these changes permanent. We can and must invest in our children’s futures. We need Congress to take up the pending actions to make these changes permanent and to do so now.

— **Leslye Heilig**

*Great Barrington*

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/03/24/opinion/make-benefits-children-permanent/>



# The Berkshire Eagle

## Affordable housing action is good, but more is needed

April 5, 2021

To the editor: I was pleased to read in Heather Bellow's recent article that the Baker administration "designated [Great Barrington] a Housing Choices community for supporting the creation of new abodes of all types." ("[Shovels in the ground': Baker gives Great Barrington housing recognition; money to follow](#)," Eagle, April 3.)

This will certainly help with the expansion of affordable housing, which is greatly needed. But there are more things that must be done.

Today, only one of four eligible renters can get federal housing assistance. If we make the Housing Choice Voucher program universal, or enact a refundable renters' credit, we can ensure all low-income renters will get housing assistance. We must increase the supply of affordable housing as well as promote homeownership, especially for communities of color.

I ask Rep. Richard Neal and Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey to voice support for prioritizing long-term solutions to our housing crisis by making housing assistance universal for eligible low-income renters coupled with measures that increase the supply of housing via the National Housing Trust Fund.

— **Leslye Heilig**

*Great Barrington*

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-affordable-housing-action-is-good-but-more-is-needed/article\\_3e0c0cae-964a-11eb-b508-53e6c0afec94.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-affordable-housing-action-is-good-but-more-is-needed/article_3e0c0cae-964a-11eb-b508-53e6c0afec94.html)

# The Berkshire Eagle

## **New anti-poverty measures are momentous — we should continue them**

July 14, 2021

To the editor: What a momentous week this is.

The very first monthly checks for the Child Tax Credit go out on July 15. This action alone should cut child poverty in half. Let me repeat that: in half. And the expansion of the so-called “childless adult” EITC is expected to boost the incomes of 17 million low-wage working adults. The American Rescue Plan has laid a strong foundation by making these improvements to our tax code on a one-year basis, providing a critical income boost to workers and families.

But what happens at the end of the year? Are we really going to push millions of folks back into poverty by failing to make these changes permanent?

Three-quarters of those eligible to receive housing choice vouchers cannot access them as funding is capped. By expanding rental assistance to all who qualify, universal housing vouchers will reduce poverty even further for millions.

I call on all of our legislators to support both initiatives and decrease poverty now.

**— Leslye Heilig**

*Great Barrington*

[https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-new-anti-poverty-measures-are-momentous-we-should-continue-them/article\\_35f565b2-e4c2-11eb-ab8d-ebea4c6879dc.html](https://www.berkshireeagle.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-new-anti-poverty-measures-are-momentous-we-should-continue-them/article_35f565b2-e4c2-11eb-ab8d-ebea4c6879dc.html)



## **Like Duluth did, Congress can spur equity**

*Increases to the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits have the potential to cut child poverty in half*

April 10, 2021

Exciting news to have a bicultural preschool program return in Duluth, once again giving kids a great start and bridging cultures to create understanding. When it comes to changing the underlying norm of systemic racism in our country to one of equity, this is a great example of a way to begin ("Duluth preschool hopes to break down cultural barriers," April 4).

The last COVID-19 relief bill also provided a step forward with temporary increases to the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits. These have the potential to cut child poverty in half!

As a former preschool teacher, I have seen the problems caused by hunger and the lack of housing that come with poverty. Sadly, poverty also disproportionately affects people of color, pinning them in a desperate mode of survival.

Like with this program, we can encourage equity by asking our members of Congress to make these tax credits permanent and to pass new housing equity measures like fully funding the Housing Choice Voucher program. It currently only reaches 25% of those who qualify.

So make a call or write a letter and use your voice to guide Congress to stay on the road to equity.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*



## **Support American Workers And Kids: Expand Child Tax Credit Permanently**

May 26, 2021

In 2010, I was a young worker who had just graduated with a bachelor's degree. I knew my degree in broadcast journalism was not the career path destined for me. I worked full-time at an hourly wage job as a cashier at Cracker Barrel and applied for graduate school to fulfill my dreams. I had no children, but I was working and living paycheck to paycheck.

When it was time to file my taxes, I was hit with a wrecking ball—a tax bill large enough that I had to arrange a payment plan. I thought I had done everything right, so why was I having to pay *more* money? Money I did not have.

More than 5 million low-wage workers who are not raising children at home—including young adults left out of the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, altogether—are taxed into or deeper into poverty each year. Graduate school not only became a way to propel me further into my career, but it also saved me money in taxes thanks to the education credit. But no one should have to enroll in school to receive a tax break.

More than a decade later, we still have the same issue. Young workers like me are working as hard as anyone; yet, we can't seem to get ahead.

Thankfully, President Biden and Congress have finally paid attention. As part of the [American Rescue Plan passed in March](#), they increased the EITC for these workers. As a result, 17 million low-wage workers will benefit, including 176,000 here in Mississippi. Child-care workers, cashiers, store clerks, delivery drivers and many others across our state can now better make ends meet.

## **A Way to End Child Poverty**

But that's not the only thing the Rescue Plan does. The [Center on Poverty and Social Policy](#) reports that about 27 million children in low-income families did not receive the full Child Tax Credit because their parents' earnings are too low. These are children who came from households of hard-working parents who may suffer from food insecurity. As of March 2021, almost 18% of all people living in the United States experienced food insecurity in the last seven days.

In response, Congress also expanded the Child Tax Credit. They finally opened the full credit to all-low-income families and also increased the amount of the credit to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for children under six). Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45% over the next year! In Mississippi, 96% of children in our state will benefit.

Now, take these same 27 million children, place them in a classroom and think of the results you will see academically. As an educator, I know what can happen. Ending child poverty will affect every aspect of a child's life and have an impact on our world. But it may not last.

### **'Make These Provisions Permanent'**

We are going to see millions of lives improved over the next year because of these changes, only to be erased when these provisions expire in 2022. We cannot let that happen. We must make these provisions permanent.

The Biden administration has proposed making permanent the EITC increase for younger workers and others not raising children and the expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. As for the CTC increase, he proposes only extending it until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the changes permanent, including the CTC increase. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could permanently cut child poverty in half, why wouldn't you? If we can put more money back into the pockets of hard workers, we should. We are a country that boasts American companies, but refuses to do more in support of American

workers and their children. We can cut child poverty in half—permanently. As an educator for the past decade, I know how valuable our children are.

I urge not only my representative, Michael Guest, and Sens. Cindy Hyde-Smith and Roger Wicker, but all of Congress to make the new CTC and EITC provisions permanent at 2021 levels in recovery legislation this year.

**— Dr. Tamora McConnell**

*Dr. Tamora McConnell was born and raised in Jackson, Miss. She has been an educator for the last decade across the state. Dr. McConnell has taken her mission of identifying and dismantling racism from the classroom to Congress. She is a voluntary Results advocate who urges politicians to create policies and to support legislation that will be the most beneficial to all Americans, not just the chosen few. Dr. McConnell lives in her hometown of Jackson.*

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/12529/support-american-workers-and-kids-expand-child-tax-credit-permanently/>



## **Biden's plan will help overlooked Americans**

May 8, 2021

President Joe Biden is traveling the country to sell his American Rescue Plan. Even before it was released, naysayers were dismissing it as too expensive (the same detractors who enthusiastically signed off on \$2 trillion in tax cuts for the wealthy in 2017). But the right question is not "How much does it cost?" but "What are we getting for our money?"

The president wants to rebuild bridges and roads. Any penny-pinching Missourian navigating the minefield of potholes on our streets would agree that upgrading roads is a good idea. The president also wants to cut child poverty in half by expanding the child tax credit. Lifting children out of poverty is not only morally right and smart economics, it's far cheaper than tax cuts for the rich.

Critics aren't worried that President Biden's plan will cost too much; they're worried it will work.

The president has a plan. It's not perfect, but it will help millions of overlooked Americans and make us stronger as a country. That's well worth the money.

**— Jos Linn**

*Kansas City*

[https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/your-view-bidens-plan-will-help-overlooked-americans/article\\_16b11b66-af3d-11eb-be7d-bbc16a4f71ad.html](https://www.joplinglobe.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/your-view-bidens-plan-will-help-overlooked-americans/article_16b11b66-af3d-11eb-be7d-bbc16a4f71ad.html)



## **We can cut child poverty in half - permanently**

May 22, 2021

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives Cori Bush to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation. We will not stop advocating until all America has a chance for success.

— **Ben Leigh**

[http://www.stlamerican.com/reader\\_interaction/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editor/we-can-cut-child-poverty-in-half---permanently/article\\_0127a3ce-bb7b-11eb-b2df-377d96aeda3e.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/reader_interaction/letters_to_the_editor/we-can-cut-child-poverty-in-half---permanently/article_0127a3ce-bb7b-11eb-b2df-377d96aeda3e.html)



## Story highlights struggles for low-income renters

May 27, 2021

I hope our members of Congress read the front-page piece ("[With a little help from some friends](#)," May 23) highlighting the housing struggles of Julie Pogue and her family. Pogue isn't alone in her difficulties finding a suitable rental home. Photos of her children in the hallway of the hotel reminded me of my friend whose children had to handle virtual school and hotel life while she searched for affordable rental housing.

President Joe Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., which would help the problems pointed out in the article. But Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their heads. Housing Choice Vouchers do indeed allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Yet inadequate funding for federal rental assistance means it can only cover 1 in 4 eligible renters.

Missouri Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley as well as Reps. Cori Bush, Ann Wagner and Blaine Luetkemeyer should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters.

— **Cynthia Levin**

*Town and Country, Missouri*

[https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-story-highlights-struggles-for-low-income-renters/article\\_51cf8f54-852f-5233-a61a-918b892ab740.html](https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-story-highlights-struggles-for-low-income-renters/article_51cf8f54-852f-5233-a61a-918b892ab740.html)



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*Town and Country, Missouri*

<https://missouriconsumernews.com/letter-story-highlights-struggles-for-low-income-renters-letters-to-the-editor/>

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## Housing is security

May 30, 2021

Thank you to The Star for hosting the May 26 “Seeking Solutions” online discussion about housing and crime in Kansas City. (May 23, 1A, “Housing problems fuel gun violence”)

For far too long, lawmakers have ignored America’s affordable housing crisis. Instead of investing resources to help families afford decent housing, they’ve blamed the victims and focused on punitive measures like more police.

They don’t get it. Housing is more than a physical structure. It’s a mindset. When you have stable housing, you have hope. Study after study shows that people in stable housing are healthier and more productive. Their kids do better in school and are less likely to get into trouble.

President Joe Biden wants to invest \$318 billion to create more safe, affordable housing across the country. This is an excellent start, but it won’t work if people can’t afford it. Any new effort to increase the housing supply must be paired with more assistance to help people pay the rent.

I urge Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, and Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

If we want to make our community safer, we need more housing. We need more hope.

— **Jos Linn**

*Kansas City*

<https://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article250668634.html>



## More needs to be done

March 19, 2021

Missoula's housing problems reflects our national crisis. (['Missoula's housing emergency just got worse' by Robbie Liben, Missoulian, March 5, 2021](#)). The COVID relief bill just passed offers temporary relief to renters and landlords. More needs to be done. There is a bill before Congress to increase the building of affordable housing. This bill, along with an increase for Section 8 housing vouchers, currently only reaching 25% of those who qualify, will help ease the crisis. A refundable renters tax credit has also been proposed to lighten the burden on renters who all too often pay more than 50% of their income for housing. Each of us can help by thanking our members of Congress for starting the work in the COVID relief bill and encouraging them to take all necessary steps to end this housing tragedy.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/more-needs-to-be-done/article\\_a2d2def0-f3a0-5336-b979-758cdfa9b14b.html#tncms-source=login](https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/more-needs-to-be-done/article_a2d2def0-f3a0-5336-b979-758cdfa9b14b.html#tncms-source=login)



## Child tax credits another bipartisan solution

April 20, 2021

Great point for our two major parties to work together, in this case to protect our nation's Capitol. ("[Democrats, Republicans must unite to protect the Capitol](#)," by the Times Editorial Board, Missoulian, April 19)

Bipartisan efforts to improve our country are needed in many areas. One recent effort is to make permanent the increases to the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits. This would cut child poverty in our nation in half! Who could not want America's future to be bright by caring for our children?

The crisis in hunger, homelessness and health care are not impossible to solve, if our representatives work together for the benefit of all. We can encourage them with our calls, letters and visits, asking them to start with making the tax credit increases permanent and moving on from there. Our voices matter; it is time to use them.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-child-tax-credits-another-bipartisan-solution/article\\_470ac2f6-92cc-531a-b339-6eb8041494a7.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-child-tax-credits-another-bipartisan-solution/article_470ac2f6-92cc-531a-b339-6eb8041494a7.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# DAILY INTER LAKE

## Child tax credits

May 23, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45%. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it?

Please urge our Representative Matt Rosendale and Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation,

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Coram*

<https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2021/may/23/letters-editor-may-23/>



## Seek full funding for housing choice voucher program

May 24, 2021

Great to see the rental assistance program finally reaching Montanans. ("The Montana Rental Assistance Program can help pay your rent," in the Missoulian, May 21). With the crisis in affordable housing, pandemic-caused increases to unemployment, and the fact that the Housing Voucher Program only reaches 25% of those who qualify, there is much to be done. No wonder homelessness is on the rise.

The American Relief Plan was a good beginning; thank your members of Congress for that, and ask for full funding for the voucher program so all that qualify can receive it. This and other initiatives can battle America's inequities highlighted by the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. Our voices play a part when we use them to ask our members of Congress (202-224-3121) to take action to improve our country.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-seek-full-funding-for-housing-voucher-program/article\\_afba2ce5-513d-5b58-8123-18281494f9a1.html#tncms-source=login](https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-seek-full-funding-for-housing-voucher-program/article_afba2ce5-513d-5b58-8123-18281494f9a1.html#tncms-source=login)



## Opportunity to question candidates

July 7, 2021

Great to see our democracy at work with the recent census giving Montana a second representative in the House. ("Democrat Monica Tranel running for state's new U.S. House seat," by Holly Michaels, Missoulian, July 7.)

For the people, it is an opportunity to ask questions of the candidate: Do you support America's role in global health by helping to fund the Global Partnership for Education? What would you do to end homelessness? Do you support increasing the funding for the Housing Voucher Program so more than current one-fourth of Americans who qualify will receive housing vouchers?

In this way it is easier to make informed choices and hold the victor to their promises after the election.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-opportunity-to-question-candidates/article\\_726738b7-e2a2-5db1-bac5-4856f6f40546.html#tncms-source=login](https://missoulian.com/opinion/letters/online-only-letter-to-the-editor-opportunity-to-question-candidates/article_726738b7-e2a2-5db1-bac5-4856f6f40546.html#tncms-source=login)





## **Expand rental assistance program**

May 29, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis.

Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. The U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey estimates that 48.5% of renters in Nebraska have no confidence to only moderate confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent.

For households with children, the outlook is even more bleak. According to the survey estimates, approximately 75% of renter households with children had no to moderate confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent. Despite the desperate and real need, federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head.

Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our federal representatives, Sens. Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse, and Reps. Jeff Fortenberry, Don Bacon and Adrian Smith, to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Jamy Rentschler**

*Lincoln*

[https://journalstar.com/opinion/letters/letter-expand-rental-assistance-program/article\\_b1986a67-8dfe-5179-951d-91b919418c19.html](https://journalstar.com/opinion/letters/letter-expand-rental-assistance-program/article_b1986a67-8dfe-5179-951d-91b919418c19.html)



## **Biden's plans can be a big help**

May 3, 2021

Thanks for the two pieces on President Joe Biden, one to fulfill a promise and one highlighting his plan to help American families — “World needs Biden’s help to end pandemic” and “Biden to pitch sweeping ‘family plan’ in speech to Congress,” on April 28.

Both of these articles explain how the president can make a difference for families in America and around the world. A COVID-19 vaccine available to all would help end this pandemic sooner, protecting us locally from the new variants that would continue to reach our shores.

Biden’s plan to help families would provide ladders out of poverty, like child care funding so parents can afford to work. Universal preschool helps ensure that all children are ready for the education that prepares them for our modern world.

We can encourage either of these actions by writing, calling or visiting our members of Congress and asking them to support and pass these important initiatives. This is the power to help put America on the path to equity: communicating to those who represent us and following up to make sure they take action.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://m.lasvegassun.com/news/2021/may/03/bidens-plans-can-be-a-big-help/>



## **Recovery plan can do even more**

May 7, 2021

I'm pleased that President Joe Biden's new economic recovery proposal includes resources to increase the supply of affordable housing. However, without expanded rental assistance, low-income renters won't be able to afford such housing.

Currently, only 1 in 4 eligible renters gets federal rental assistance due to inadequate funding. Congress should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. This would keep them stably housed, and prevent evictions especially, during the pandemic.

We must also make permanent recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. These changes, which expire next year, benefit 17 million low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45%.

We can create an economy in which workers are protected, families are stably housed and children are allowed to thrive. In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge the members of the Nevada delegation to expand rental assistance to all who qualify, and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

**— Kathleen Close**

*Las Vegas*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/may/07/recovery-plan-can-do-even-more/>



## **Show children how we can lead**

June 8, 2021

The June 4 editorial “For the sake of our children, it’s time for American adults to grow up,” calling for the adults in our country to set a positive example for the kids, was excellent.

This starts with Congress working together to battle the hunger and homelessness far too many children face. The Child Tax Credit was increased temporarily, with the power to cut child poverty in half if it is made permanent. This would be a great place for Congress to start, then move on to the housing crisis that is driving more families into homelessness. It’s no wonder, since our housing voucher program is only funded for 25% of those who qualify.

At the same time, America can show how important it is to help others by making a \$1 billion pledge over the next five years to the Global Partnership for Education, putting 175 million more kids in school.

We can help by contacting our members of Congress and asking them to step up to pass these and other initiatives that will not only set the example for our kids, but showcase America’s working democracy.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/jun/08/show-children-how-we-can-lead/>



## **American Rescue Plan is good for nation's children**

May 19, 2021

The American Rescue Plan was passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden in March. This act includes significant improvements in the tax code — expanding the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. These changes can cut child poverty in the U.S. in half. Some 4.1 million children will directly benefit from this change, and 5.75 million more will move closer up the poverty line. In New Mexico, this change will positively affect the lives of 454,000 children. Additionally, changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit include its expansion to 17 million low-income workers.

However, these changes are only temporary. They will expire in December unless our members of Congress ensure these changes are made permanent. Please contact Sens. Ben Ray Luján and Martin Heinrich and U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández and urge them to take action to powerfully change the quality of life for low-income families.

**— Kathryn Sherlock**

*Co-Leader, RESULTS Santa Fe; Santa Fe*

[https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/american-rescue-plan-is-good-for-nation-s-children/article\\_22bc6a0a-b8e3-11eb-99a3-c3021578b8aa.html](https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/american-rescue-plan-is-good-for-nation-s-children/article_22bc6a0a-b8e3-11eb-99a3-c3021578b8aa.html)

# The New York Times

## Accolades for Biden's Relief Plan

March 11, 2021

To the Editor:

It is thrilling news that the stimulus bill has passed to battle the pandemic and poverty, with extended unemployment, food and rent relief, and tax credit expansions that could cut poverty in America by one-third.

Thank you, Mr. President and Congress, for protecting us from the pandemic and its economic fallout, while putting America on the road to equity!

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/11/opinion/letters/biden-stimulus.html>

# THE BUFFALO NEWS

## **Permanently expand credits in the effort to fight poverty**

June 14, 2021

There is great economic inequality within the United States, and this problem is not far from home. Over 30% of Buffalonians live below the federal poverty line – in contrast, the national average is 14%. Buffalo struggles to provide financial security to many of its citizens, however some are more likely than others to experience this issue. In the East and West Side of Buffalo, half of all single parent households are living in poverty. Considering both of these communities are predominantly Black, these statistics further highlight the racial inequity persistent throughout the Queen City. One way the federal government can alleviate poverty within Buffalo is by permanently expanding the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax credit.

In an effort to support Americans impacted from the coronavirus pandemic, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act. This legislation expanded the reach that both the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit have. By decreasing the age of eligibility for the EITC, 17 million more low-income workers benefited from the tax credit – 900,000 of those from New York. Furthermore, by continuing the CTC, childhood poverty has been projected to decreased by 45% nationally and 87% within New York State.

If resources like these refundable tax credits were provided indefinitely, some financial relief could be had for thousands of Buffalonians.

**— Sarah Bargnesi**

*Buffalo*

[https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-permanently-expand-credits-in-the-effort-to-fight-poverty/article\\_c4743108-cabc-11eb-a2c9-d3d24d45c430.html](https://buffalonews.com/opinion/letters/letter-permanently-expand-credits-in-the-effort-to-fight-poverty/article_c4743108-cabc-11eb-a2c9-d3d24d45c430.html)





## **Cawthorn Needs to Address Poverty**

April 1, 2021

Dear Congressman Cawthorn,

As one of your 772,600 constituents, I was happy to read on your congressional website your "America First" issues. In particular, your statement that "a government's primary duty is to its citizens" encouraged me to write to you on behalf of a sizable number of our fellow citizens.

Your constituency is predominantly white (90.4%), most of whom live in our rural areas. However, a whopping 102,000, 13.2% of all your citizens, live in poverty, higher than the official US poverty rate (10.5%).

Breaking the statistics down even further, there are 33,900 families making less than \$15,000, whereas the median income in our district is \$51,884. How do they survive?

My statistics come from the US Census Bureau, 2019. Obviously, you did not create this problem, but it is yours and ours to fix. Please vote yea on appropriations to reduce poverty, such as housing assistance for low-income renters by enacting a refundable renters' credit, increasing the housing supply, and the like. More than that, become a champion of your people by sponsoring poverty-reducing legislation. Since you are in government now, I would think this is your primary duty.

**— Gerard Stamm**

*Asheville*

No online link available

# The News & Observer

## Tax credits

May 20, 2021

Having just paid my taxes it makes me happy to think that starting this summer some of my money will go towards direct monthly payments to support families with children.

Columbia University estimates the new Child Tax Credit will cut child poverty by 45%.

I am willing to pay my share and hope that any forward-thinking corporation or person with wealth would be happy to do the same. I also hope I'm not alone in requesting that as part of pandemic recovery legislation my representatives in Congress — Rep. Deborah Ross and Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis — consider making permanent the 2021 CTC and Earned Income Tax Credit payments.

— **Patti Maxwell**

*Cary*

<https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article251468658.html>

# The News & Observer

## Rent Relief

June 7, 2021

It may feel like the pandemic is ending and everything is returning to normal, but we need to remember that far too many may soon lose their homes. President Biden's proposal for increasing the supply of affordable housing is a start, but we need Congress to expand federal rental assistance to all those in need.

Federal rental assistance doesn't cover everyone in need — only 1 in 4 eligible renters get assistance. Expanding assistance can help millions of families keep roofs over their heads.

Let's ensure our neighbors have stable housing. I urge Sens. Thom Tillis and Richard Burr and Reps. Deborah Ross and David Price to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters. We need this legislation now.

— **Maggie Cech**

*Durham*

<https://www.newsobserver.com/article251947323.html>



## **North Dakota's federal delegates should work to reduce child poverty, housing instability**

April 24, 2021

Congress passed COVID relief in March that will provide relief to renters, but we can't stop there. We must invest in a robust recovery and correct long-ignored inequities in our economy that were exacerbated by COVID-19.

That communities in North Dakota need a strong social safety net is well illustrated by the recent article in the Herald (April 17) about [evacuating the Ambassador Motel](#). The city has declared it unsafe to occupy, so residents must find somewhere else to go. According to the article, one of these residents is only 2 years old.

Thankfully, we have local support, such as the Northlands Rescue Mission, Homeless Helpers, Spectra Health and the Grand Forks Housing Authority, to assist those in need of secure housing.

Congress passed COVID relief in March that will provide relief to renters, but we can't stop there. We must invest in a robust recovery and correct long-ignored inequities in our economy that were exacerbated by COVID-19. First, make housing assistance universal to all who qualify. No one should live under the constant threat of homelessness.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has released a report that explains the benefits of expanding Housing Choice Vouchers to all eligible households and how such assistance is a necessary complement to supply-side investments. The HCV program helps people with the lowest incomes to afford housing in the private market, by paying landlords the difference between what a household can afford to pay and the rent itself, up to a certain payment standard. Vouchers currently help more than 2 million low-income households afford decent, stable housing. Due to inadequate funding, however, only one in four households that are eligible for a voucher receive any form of federal rental assistance.

Next, invest in workers and families by making the new Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate these housing and tax changes could reduce child poverty by almost two-thirds.

We can create an economy where workers are protected, families are housed, and children can reach their full potential. I urge our members of Congress, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to take these bold actions to reduce child poverty and housing instability in economic recovery legislation.

**— Kathleen Ness**

*Grand Forks*

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/6997035-Letter-North-Dakota's-federal-delegates-should-work-to-reduce-child-poverty-housing-instability>



## **North Dakota's federal delegates should vote to protect vulnerable children**

May 26, 2021

After 102 years of service to North Dakota communities, Lutheran Social Services has had to file for bankruptcy. As reported in the Herald (May 19, 2021), overwhelming debt related to providing affordable housing in rural areas is the underlying cause. Evidently their over-extension was in response to the Oil Patch housing shortage during the Bakken boom.

This sad outcome points to the fact that it is unreasonable to expect charitable organizations to compensate for gross inequities in housing caused by market forces. It is time for us as a nation to face up to the actual costs visited upon communities and individuals.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, 24% of North Dakota's rental households are considered low-income, that is, earning no more than \$26,670 for a family of four. Based on HUD's Fair Market Rent, it takes \$33,647 in North Dakota to afford a two-bedroom rental home. At the same time, we have a shortage of 16,303 affordable rental homes for them. Fifty-eight percent of extremely low income renter households are severely cost-burdened: they do not have enough money to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves, even the 48% who usually work more than 30 hours per week.

There are public actions which can help, such as permanently expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC). According to a study conducted by Columbia University, North Dakota's share of children left out of the full Child Tax Credit is 21%; that is, their family's income is deemed too low for them to qualify for the tax credit, yet they are the most needy of all. Impoverished children need this support so they can be well nourished and have a roof over their head. The Earned Income Tax Credit also provides necessary funds for families.

Congress willd decide whether to make the expansion of the CTC and EITC permanent, not just a stopgap to address the effects of the coronavirus. I ask our members of Congress, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to favor this expansion, for the sake of our most vulnerable children.

— **Kathleen Ness**

*Grand Forks*

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/7042556-Letter-North-Dakota's-federal-delegates-should-vote-to-protect-vulnerable-children>



## **CTC, EITC changes must be made permanent**

*This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year.*

July 17, 2021

Starting July 15, most families can receive the new Child Tax Credit as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent, and bills, to middle-class families that need help with childcare and college savings. One important consequence is that four thousand children in our state of North Dakota will be lifted above the poverty line, according to research from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. According to the CBPP, in North Dakota that will affect the 40,000 children under 17 left out of the full \$2,000 Child Tax Credit in the prior law. But the CTC improvements, along with much needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our members of Congress, Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Rep. Kelly Armstrong, to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year. The need is urgent. I ask that they cast their votes to lift families out of poverty and help all of our children to thrive.

**— Kathleen Ness**

*Grand Forks*

<https://www.grandforksherald.com/opinion/letters/7113976-Letter-CTC-EITC-changes-must-be-made-permanent>



# The Columbus Dispatch

## COVID-19 relief provisions can greatly reduce child poverty in US

March 14, 2021

I am relieved that Congress has passed a new COVID-19 relief bill that will provide assistance to renters, increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45% by expanding the Child Tax Credit. It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by fixing vast inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty.

First, make Housing Choice Vouchers universal to all who qualify; currently, only one in four eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Columbus City Council has just taken steps toward more equity by prohibiting "source of income" discrimination for renters, but we must do more.

Workers and families must be protected by making the new earned income and child tax credits permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate that these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge our members of Congress from both sides to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation this year.

— **Virginia Vogts**

*Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/03/14/letters-abortion-minimum-wage-child-poverty/6939860002/>

## **More must be done to fight poverty in America**

March 18, 2021

Catherine Rempell's column, headlined "Helping kids out of poverty," published Sunday, highlighted the impact on poverty, especially child poverty, that the COVID-19 relief bill provides. Astoundingly, child poverty will be cut by 45 percent by expanding the child tax credit. But The Chronicle-Telegram's reprint of The Washington Post editorial, headlined "Our tax code needs an overhaul," makes clear, this is a temporary fix unless we make permanent changes.

It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by lifting more children out of poverty. Protect workers and families by making the new earned income tax credit and child tax credit provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimated these combines changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds. In Ohio, an appealing 19.5 percent of children under the age of 18 live in poverty, including over 150,000 children under the age of 4, according to the June 2020 Ohio Poverty Report.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge our members of Congress, including Reps. Jim Jordan, R-Urbana, Bob Gibbs, R-Lakeville, Anthony Gonzalez, R-Rocky River, Marcy Kaptur, D-Toledo, and David Joyce, R-Chagrin Falls, and U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-Cleveland, and Rob Portman, R-Cincinnati, to take bold action to permanently and dramatically, reduce child poverty through recovery legislation this year.

**— Allison Gallaher**

*Grafton*

No online link available

# The Columbus Dispatch

## New Child Tax Credit needs to be permanent to help those in need

March 23, 2021

The Friday article by [Ceili Doyle "Help is on the horizon for rural Ohio children"](#) was an excellent follow-up on the federal Rescue Act provisions. Often, the safety net for low-wage workers is glossed over, when it is the real basis of an economic policy.

The only shortcoming of the Rescue Act was that the Child Tax Credit was only temporary. Making it a monthly refundable provision was a positive step to speeding up the recovery, but to sustain the anti-poverty impact for families living on the "cliff" created by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the new Child Tax Credit rules must be made permanent.

Please urge your members of Congress and both Senators to permanently reduce childhood poverty and change history for generations to come.

— **Kit Logsdon**

*Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/03/23/letters-judges-and-bail-earmarking-acton/4798095001/>

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Cut child poverty by making all Child Tax Credit changes permanent

May 24, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half – permanently.

The Biden administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45%! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Connie Hammond**

*Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/24/letters-making-tax-credits-permanent-can-greatly-reduce-child-poverty/5199750001/>

# The Columbus Dispatch

## **Assistance should be extended to all eligible renters in economic recovery**

May 24, 2021

Thanks for reporting on the success of the Move to Prosper project headed by Amy Klaben (Friday column 'Program helps vulnerable families thrive').

It's heartening to see 10 vulnerable families remain stable, especially during a pandemic, and expanding the project to 100 families is exciting. Yet, in central Ohio there are many thousands of equally worthy families who will not get the benefit of a Move to Prosper. All they are likely to get is evicted.

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Yet federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Joe Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allows low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge Sen. Rob Portman and Reps. Troy Balderson and Joyce Beatty to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

**— Virginia Vogts**

*Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/24/letters-making-tax-credits-permanent-can-greatly-reduce-child-poverty/5199750001/>

# The Columbus Dispatch

## **Congress needs to act so people in poverty can have housing stability**

June 6, 2021

Thank you for featuring the May 29 Beth Fetzer-Rice opinion piece “Housing stability can lead to better health for pregnant women and their babies.”

The data presented supports two key priorities the Biden administration has highlighted in the proposed economic recovery package that will ensure a “safe and steady roof overhead,” the expansion of rental assistance to all eligible renters, also noted as universal housing (only one in four eligible receives this assistance now) and the permanent inclusion of two of our most effective tools at reducing poverty, the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, which at this time are only proposed for one year.

For far too long, the numbers of all those living in poverty have risen to new heights, long before the pandemic exacerbated them even further. However, the statistics for children living in poverty is even more staggering. In nine Ohio cities, more than half the children live in poverty. In another 39 cities, the poverty rate for children is at least 30%. In addition, on any given day, an estimated 10,655 individuals are experiencing homelessness in Ohio.

Fetzer-Rice’s work has demonstrated that state and federal programming can dramatically change lives — especially for our children. Through the expansion of rental assistance to all eligible renters, along with the permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, these policies will create a generational leap for millions of low-income Americans. A leap that will ensure a roof over their heads and the additional resources to thrive. Congress, we are counting on you to do the right thing.

**— Mary Casey**

*Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/06/letters/7504156002/>

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Proper funding needed to keep renters from becoming homeless

June 19, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Yet federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Joe Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Rebecca Mosher**

*Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/19/letters-householder-modern-day-hero-rental-assistance-hb-248/7715413002/>

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Tax breaks need to be permanent

June 23, 2021

American families are finally catching a break.

Starting July 15, most families can receive the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) as a monthly payment. An extra \$250-\$300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent and bills to middle-class families that need help with child care and college savings. Go to [www.childtaxcredit.gov](http://www.childtaxcredit.gov) to make sure you're getting it. And spread the word.

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year — and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Rebecca Mosher**

*Columbus*

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/06/23/letters-scholar-athletes-inspire-tornado-safety-tax-breaks/7776458002/>





## **Make sure rental assistance, affordable housing priority during population growth**

May 23, 2021

A recent article pointed out that Tulsa Metro surpassed the 1 million population milestone, putting us in a position to compete for the attention of companies ("[Tulsa area population tops 1 million for first time, Census Bureau data says](#)," May 5).

But at what cost?

From a developer's perspective, this is an opportunity to purchase land at a lower cost. But this land is also desperately needed to fulfill Tulsa's already unmet housing needs as Tulsa's population outpaces the availability of affordable housing.

Our city can grow sustainably in a way that supports economic growth through new development without sacrificing opportunities to ensure available affordable housing to residents.

We must make sure rental assistance is available to people who cannot keep up with the rising cost of rent while also promoting mixed-use zoning which will allow residents and commercial properties to be in one building.

This will ensure that people are not displaced for the sake of economic development and allows developers to reduce their payments on properties as they are shared between owners at lower rates.

I hope U.S. Rep. Kevin Hern will support these solutions to fuel the long-term growth of Tulsa's population and economy for both residents and developers.

**— Jacoby Gonzales**

*Tulsa*

[https://tulsaworld.com/opinion/letters/letter-make-sure-rental-assistance-affordable-housing-priority-during-population-growth/article\\_a74c3766-b84b-11eb-ac14-33e923b42797.html](https://tulsaworld.com/opinion/letters/letter-make-sure-rental-assistance-affordable-housing-priority-during-population-growth/article_a74c3766-b84b-11eb-ac14-33e923b42797.html)



## **Keeping us informed and reminding us our voices matter**

April 4, 2021

Dear Editor:

Stopping over in Ontario, I was grateful to read a copy of the Sunday Argus Observer. Affordable housing is a national crisis, good to see local action being taken.

(‘Affordable housing project to have 70 units’ by Leslie Thompson, The Argus Observer, March 28, 2021)

There is movement right now in Congress to have solutions to the housing crisis be a part of the Build Back Better infrastructure package. The Argus also gives us the way to help make this happen, listing the contacts for Oregon and Idaho Lawmakers on page A4. By calling and writing our members of Congress, asking them to include solutions to the housing problem, we can be a part guiding our government to deal with equitable legislation that helps all Americans.

So thanks to the Argus, for keeping us informed and for reminding us our voices matter.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

[https://www.argusobserver.com/opinion/keeping-us-informed-and-reminding-us-our-voices-matter/article\\_d92ae55c-9190-11eb-802b-f3d36cd99390.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.argusobserver.com/opinion/keeping-us-informed-and-reminding-us-our-voices-matter/article_d92ae55c-9190-11eb-802b-f3d36cd99390.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Yes, It's Time To Really Help The Homeless**

April 15, 2021

Shannon Wilson's recent plea about local action on the housing crisis ("Building a Luxury Hotel While People Sleep in the Streets," Letters 4/8) comes at the right time and sets a good example. This is a time where America is clearly faced with a fork in the road: equity, or the status quo that leaves the majority of Americans behind. With 10 million Americans paying over 50 percent of their income for housing, the increasing number of hungry, homeless and the unemployed, it is time for this critical choice.

The recent COVID relief bill began the road to equity, but most of the bill is temporary. The increase in the child and earned income tax credits alone could cut child poverty in half, if made permanent. So use your voices, a privilege in our democracy, to write, call and virtually visit your members of Congress, calling on them to make these tax credit increases permanent and pass new housing legislation and other bills to help our country travel the road to equity. Then follow up, follow up, follow up.

If we stay silent, the choice will be made without us, most likely continuing the status quo.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

<https://eugeneweekly.com/2021/04/15/yes-its-time-to-really-help-the-homeless/>

## Child care support

May 19, 2021

Exciting to see child care finally getting support, with locally 70 percent still in need ("COVID grant supports child care" in the Columbia Gorge News, May 11).

Lack of child care and affordable housing are two of the reasons there is little mobility in our country for low income earners, people of color being hit extra hard.

Now is the time for our government to take bold steps to turn around this crisis in basic needs. Step one was the American Relief Plan, which included increases in the Child and Earned Income Tax Credit. The next step can make these increases permanent and increase funding for affordable housing, especially the Housing Voucher Program that currently serves only 25 percent of those who qualify.

Calling, writing, and visiting those who represent us — thank them for step one and ask them to pass these and other critical initiatives.

This is how we build the political will to put America on the road to equity.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Wash.*

[https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-may-19-2021/article\\_aae887d8-b7f8-11eb-a31f-43823a7c86bd.html](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/opinion/your-voice-may-19-2021/article_aae887d8-b7f8-11eb-a31f-43823a7c86bd.html)

# THE REPORTER

## **Bold action can reduce poverty**

April 2, 2021

I am relieved that Congress has passed a new COVID relief bill that will provide relief to renters, increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45 percent by expanding the Child Tax Credit - with a monthly child allowance helping families each month starting in July.

It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by fixing vast inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty. First, make Housing Choice Vouchers universal to all who qualify; currently, only 1 in 4 eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Next, protect workers and families by making the new EITC and child allowance provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge our members of Congress to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation this year.

— **Dr. David Ehrenkrantz**

*Wyncote*

[https://www.thereporteronline.com/opinion/letter-to-editor-bold-action-can-reduce-poverty/article\\_067ab9f4-93ff-11eb-b8a1-230f3dfc2097.html](https://www.thereporteronline.com/opinion/letter-to-editor-bold-action-can-reduce-poverty/article_067ab9f4-93ff-11eb-b8a1-230f3dfc2097.html)

# Courier Times

## **We can cut child poverty in half**

May 23, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

The Biden Administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000+ per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45%. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in-recovery legislation.

**— David Dunkleberger**

*Doylestown Township*

<https://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/story/opinion/2021/05/23/lte-we-can-cut-child-poverty-in-half/5206386001/>



## **Congress should expand rental assistance**

May 7, 2021

President Joe Biden's economic recovery proposal thankfully includes resources to increase the supply of affordable housing. However, without expanding rental assistance, millions won't be able to afford it. Due to inadequate funding, only one in four eligible low-income renters gets federal rental assistance. The proposed budget includes 200,000 new housing vouchers for next year. If split equally, that would be 460 vouchers per congressional district. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett's district has over 16,000 severely cost-burdened renter households – those whose income is less than 30% of the area median income paying over 50% of their income towards housing. U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann's district has almost 15,000.

Due to historic inequitable policies, people of color are more likely to be renters, severely cost burdened, evicted, or homeless. The most marginalized groups before the COVID-19 pandemic, they are most financially affected by it.

Any economic recovery plan should consider these burdens and disparities to determine what assistance will have the greatest impact on those most in need. Let's call on Congress to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters.

**— Anne Child**

*Oak Ridge*

No online link available

# Austin American-Statesman

## Our representatives should expand rental assistance

May 24, 2021

While Austin struggles to house the homeless, the pandemic continues to exacerbate the underlying crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay rent. Yet [federal rental assistance only covers 25% of eligible renters](#) due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed [building affordable housing](#) in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. [Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program](#), allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. [Studies show](#) that families [with stable housing](#) earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

Our representatives, and Sens. Cornyn and Cruz, should expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year and help struggling Texans afford a safe home.

— **Ginger Hansel**

*Austin*

<https://www.statesman.com/story/opinion/letters/2021/05/24/austin-american-statesman-letters-editor-may-25-2021/5201791001/>





## Urge your representatives to push for equity like Biden's rescue plan

March 30, 2021

President Joe Biden speaks during an event on COVID-19 vaccinations and response, in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus on Monday, March 29, 2021, in Washington. *Evan Vucci, Associated Press*

A new normal of equity is exactly what America deserves after the COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on what needs improvement ("[What should a 'new normal' look like?](#)" March 24). The American Rescue Plan was a good start, especially the increases in the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit that have the power to cut child poverty by 45%.

Now is the time to thank our members of Congress and ask them to continue to pass equity legislation to bring America to a new normal with equity for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/3/30/22358619/letter-urge-your-representatives-to-push-for-equity-like-bidens-rescue-plan>



## **Working should not lead to poverty**

May 27, 2021

I appreciate Rep. Blake Moore's solutions-oriented, pro-growth and inclusive approach to supporting families, workers and businesses, while doing away with divisive rhetoric and litmus tests.

But I have one quibble. He worries that unemployment insurance bonuses may keep potential employees from taking work, pointing out that nearly half of recipients are currently earning more than they did from their old jobs.

We tend to incentivize work for the rich by giving them more money: "If taxes are too high executives won't work," while incentivizing the poor to work by taking money away. And perhaps without fully understanding their circumstances. Does a single mom have access to affordable child care, for instance? And should we force workers back into poverty wages?

People who work for a living should not be living in poverty. The bipartisan earned income tax credit could bridge the gap between poverty wages and a living income. I advocate supporting the EITC in any future recovery package Congress approves.

**— Georgia Platts**

*South Jordan*

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/5/27/22451641/letter-working-should-not-lead-to-poverty>



## **Together, we can make a difference for children**

June 5, 2021

Working full time and still paying over 50% of income on rent, too often resulting in having to choose between food and bills. Making the recent increases to the child and earned income tax credits permanent can make a big difference.

The housing choice vouchers program is also a powerful and proven solution, but currently reaches only 25% of those who qualify. Congress can act to make the tax credit increases permanent and expand the vouchers program to reach all who qualify. Contact your representatives and ask them to do just that. Together we can encourage these changes and make a difference for millions.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish, Washington*

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2021/6/5/22463890/letter-together-we-can-make-a-difference-for-children>

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## American families are finally catching a break with Child Tax Credit payments

July 18, 2021, 7:00 a.m.

The new Child Tax Credit monthly payments have started. Most families will now get an extra \$250-300 from the IRS each month to help with rent, food, childcare and medical costs. If you did not receive a payment, go to [www.childtaxcredit.gov](http://www.childtaxcredit.gov) to see if you qualify.

This new CTC is a game-changer, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after a year. We cannot lift millions of American workers and children out of poverty only to force them back into poverty a year later. Congress must make these provisions permanent.

We cannot let workers and families down. I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year -- and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Greg Hogan**

*Salt Lake City*

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/letters/2021/07/18/letter-american-families/>

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

## Keep support to end child poverty forever

May 19, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

President Joe Biden's administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for younger workers, and others not raising children, and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) to all low-income families. He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but the U.S. Congress must make all of the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45%. We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share of taxes.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

Lauren Bennett.

Midlothian.

— **Lauren Bennett**

*Midlothian*

[https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-may-19-2021-keep-support-to-end-child-poverty-forever/article\\_21450b50-7867-5cec-8d3a-41ca6fd759fe.html](https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-may-19-2021-keep-support-to-end-child-poverty-forever/article_21450b50-7867-5cec-8d3a-41ca6fd759fe.html)

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

## **Cut child poverty, make tax credits permanent**

May 19, 2021

I am writing in response to the May 14 op-ed by Amanda Little, "A baby boom would be bad."

Little brings up some interesting points in response to those who want to raise fertility rates to shore up economic growth, and ensure that we do not become a graying nation. This reminded me of an April 27 story in The New York Times, "A Population Bust." It outlined the ups and downs of a population fall, as well as the factors contributing to the slowdown. One of these factors is the American society's failure to support families.

As Little noted, before clamoring for more mouths to feed, we need to recognize the realities of world hunger, as well as the pressures of global warming, both worldwide and in the U.S.

We also must support and value American mothers, children and families. One way we can do this is by lessening the burden of costs for families with children, and reduce their chances of eviction and homelessness by expanding rental assistance to all who are eligible. We also must make recent improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) permanent. These changes, which expire next year, will benefit 17 million low-wage workers and cut child poverty by 45%.

By addressing these issues for American families, we can start to imagine a young, thriving, well-housed and well-fed nation.

In upcoming economic recovery legislation, I urge our Virginia members of the U.S. Congress to expand rental assistance to all who qualify, and make the EITC and CTC changes permanent.

— **Michaela Mishoe**

*Richmond*

[https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-may-20-2021-cut-child-poverty-make-tax-credits-permanent/article\\_fa30331d-3513-5c49-9820-37bfe81749c0.html](https://richmond.com/opinion/letters/letter-to-the-editor-may-20-2021-cut-child-poverty-make-tax-credits-permanent/article_fa30331d-3513-5c49-9820-37bfe81749c0.html)

# The Daily Progress

## **Extended federal aid can cut child poverty**

June 19, 2021

We can cut child poverty in half.

Some 13% of children under 18 in Virginia live in poverty, a rate that rises to 16.4% in our 5th District. For families with a single female householder or parent, the number skyrockets to an estimated 35.8% of children under the age of 18.

In March, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan, legislation that expands two of our most effective tools at reducing poverty — the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Refundable tax credits, including these two programs, lifted 7.5 million people out of poverty in 2019. This year's CTC expansion is projected to cut child poverty by 45% over the next year.

These changes are a generational leap for millions of low-income Americans. However, the CTC changes will expire next year, erasing much of the progress we make. Congress can prevent that from happening. In March, more than 120 national and state organizations called for a permanent expansion of the CTC to ensure reductions in child poverty continue beyond this year.

Of equal importance in the fight against poverty is housing. For example, federal assistance programs can help only 23% of households that are eligible for housing vouchers.

We must value and support Virginia's mothers, children and families. We can lessen the burden of costs for low-income families with children, and reduce eviction and homelessness with assistance for all eligible renters.



I urge Congressman Bob Good to work to extend the CTC changes or to make them permanent, and to support the expansion of rental assistance to all who qualify.

— **Susan M. Shultz**

*Albemarle County*

[https://dailyprogress.com/opinion/letters/opinion-letter-extended-federal-aid-can-cut-child-poverty/article\\_ed1ffa24-d05c-11eb-b3df-57e463df08eb.html](https://dailyprogress.com/opinion/letters/opinion-letter-extended-federal-aid-can-cut-child-poverty/article_ed1ffa24-d05c-11eb-b3df-57e463df08eb.html)



## **Stay the course and hope for a better future**

March 11, 2021

To the editor — Thanks for the excellent editorial about our current COVID-19 situation -- hope with caution: "Enjoy Phase 2, praise the pause— but don't relax," by the Herald-Republic editorial board (March 5).

Good news with having three vaccines and the recent pandemic relief bill passing the House and now the Senate, with only a few final changes to be agreed to. So time to thank our members of Congress for this work, thank each other for keeping our masks on, and the Yakima Herald for keeping us informed during these difficult times.

Stay the course, we are almost there, encouraging words, and hope for an even better future with the increase in the child tax credit in this latest relief bill. So take a few minutes for thanks and reminding all to keep up the positive work!

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters to editor/letter-stay-the-course-and-hope-for-a-better-future/article 355bca85-cabd-5839-ab7a-447dc50ad9d1.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters%20to%20editor/letter-stay-the-course-and-hope-for-a-better-future/article%20355bca85-cabd-5839-ab7a-447dc50ad9d1.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **A good start to solving poverty in America**

March 15, 2021

I am relieved that Congress has passed a new COVID relief bill that will provide relief to renters, increase the EITC for low-wage workers, and, astoundingly, cut child poverty by 45 percent by expanding the Child Tax Credit.

It's now time for Congress to build on these successes by fixing vast inequities in housing and lifting more children out of poverty. First, make Housing Choice Vouchers universal to all who qualify; currently, only 1 in 4 eligible renters get federal housing assistance. Next, protect workers and families by making the new EITC and CTC provisions permanent. Columbia University researchers estimate these combined changes could reduce child poverty in America by almost two-thirds.

We have the chance to make a generational leap in reducing poverty in America. I urge our members of Congress to take bold action to permanently and dramatically reduce child poverty and housing instability in recovery legislation this year.

**— Diana Tyree-Eddy**

*Hansville*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/03/15/good-start-solving-poverty-america/4705362001/?fbclid=IwAR3DeXq0WVb0BZKbh48sit3ETaBH2eO8qSg9rJRpmqhkG9jwT9b9Vku9q1Q>



## **We pay our share, maybe ultra wealthy should as well**

March 18, 2021

Regarding the Sun's March 14 editorial cartoon, showing a caricature of President Biden slyly lifting a woman's purse while she beams and comments, "Who's going to pay for this wonderful Covid \$1400 check?" — Yes, most of us will pay for it! The same way we continue to pay for welfare to the very rich. But there's a difference.

With the expansion of the Child Tax Credit in President Biden's American Rescue Plan, 27 million kids will be helped and child poverty in the U.S. will be cut in half. This will benefit our entire society.

Moody's Analytics estimates that for every \$1 spent on state and local government safety net services, the local economy grows by \$1.39. That's an immediate return on the dollar. For instance, for every dollar spent on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the local economy grows by \$1.64. For every dollar spent on Earned Income Tax Credit, the local economy is enhanced by \$1.23. That's because people in need spend the money.

The richest one-tenth of 1% in our rich country owns about as much wealth as the bottom 90%, in large part because of tax loopholes. America's bottom half pays an annual tax on over half of its wealth. But the top 1% pay no annual tax on almost 90% of its wealth. We need a fair wealth tax.

**— Donna Munro**

*Bremerton*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/03/18/we-pay-our-share-maybe-ultra-wealthl-should-well/4756048001/>



## **Make assistance permanent**

March 19, 2021

Always nice to read the Sunday Columbian when I visit my friends in Washougal. This time I was inspired by the story by Anthony Macuk about local scouts and Lions having food drives ("New name, but same goal," The Columbian, March 14). Hunger has increased because of COVID-19, with one in four children now food insecure, according to Rep. April Berg, who introduced a bill in the state House (passed) to deal with this problem. We can ask our state senators to pass Rep. Berg's bill.

Fortunately, the latest federal relief package also deals with the hunger crisis: increasing the SNAP program, unemployment and stimulus checks, and expanding the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. These tax credits will cut child poverty in half and poverty in our country by one-third. No wonder most of Washington's congressional delegation is pushing to have the tax credits made permanent. They bring not only immediate relief from hunger, but also a ladder out of poverty.

We can help by thanking our members of Congress for the relief package and asking them, including Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, to work to make these credits permanent. It is time to end our country's hunger crisis by providing these ladders out of poverty.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/mar/19/letter-make-assistance-permanent/>



## Road to equity

Thanks to The Daily News for the latest virus update. (AstraZeneca may have used outdated info in trial; Fauci warns of US case surge; plus more virus news in The Daily News, March 23, 2021.)

The graphs and visuals make it easier to understand, though the sad news is 40% of Americans still are financially stressed due the pandemic. Luckily, Congress passed more pandemic relief that will reach these Americans: hunger and rent relief, and expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit that will cut poverty nearly in half.

No wonder there is a movement in Congress to make these expanded tax credits permanent, providing ladders out of poverty. We can help by thanking our members of Congress and encouraging them to continue with legislation like this that put America on the road to equity for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letters-road-to-equity/article\\_82022f49-b591-5d4b-b951-19f6a7dbb9f6.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letters-road-to-equity/article_82022f49-b591-5d4b-b951-19f6a7dbb9f6.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)



## **Permanent tax credits needed to help working families**

March 26, 2021

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act 2021, passed by Congress and signed by President Biden, some of you have seen your checking account “miraculously grow” or have received your stimulus check directly in the mail. Others have had unemployment extended. State, local and tribal governments as well as schools and child care programs have received grants. There is more federal aid for the pandemic response both in our country and globally! Because we know this pandemic is not over until it is over for all!

This act will improve the lives of so many people. But perhaps the most significant step in helping to lift working families and their children from poverty is the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). These two key changes to the tax code will help cut child poverty in half in the U.S. But as stated in the bill, they are temporary. I agree with Rob Richards’ letter in The Olympian, March 24, which spelled out how financially helpful these programs are. To truly affect the lives of our working low-income citizens, we must make these extensions to the EITC and CTC permanent.

I thank Sen. Murray, Sen. Cantwell and Rep. Strickland for voting to pass this act, but their job is not done. They must make these changes a permanent part of our tax law so working families do not slip back into poverty. Please let them know.

**— Helen Henry**

*Olympia*

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article250183815.html>



## Legislation is a chance to help children, families

March 26, 2021

Thanks to Rep. April Berg for introducing and helping pass a bill to address the 1 in 4 children experiencing food insecurity in our state ("No child in our schools should go hungry," The Herald, March 14).

They don't succeed in school if they are hungry! As a retired teacher I have witnessed that for more than 35 years. Remember our future depends on the children. Thanks to the state House for passing this bill, and by calling or writing our state senators we can ensure its passing in the state Senate.

Covid-19 is giving us a chance to create a new normal, one without widespread hunger and poverty. This bill helps us stay on track to do just that. It follows the latest national pandemic relief bill that protects families, funds frontline programs and governments, and increases the Child and Earned Income tax credits, cutting poverty by more than 30 percent. Another hero, Rep. Suzan DelBene helped write a bill that inspired these tax credit increases. So thank your state and national representatives and request they keep passing legislation like this that makes our new normal one of equity for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/legislation-is-a-chance-to-help-children-families/>





## Important to strengthen the Affordable Care Act

April 1, 2021

The Affordable Care Act was strengthened immediately by the American Rescue Plan. ("Biden's relief bill is clear on health care priorities" by Zack Buck, Kitsap Sun opinion, March 26)

Like the increases to the Child Tax and Earned Income Tax Credits that need to be made permanent, the ACA can still be made even better. Our Washington Congressional delegation worked hard for both of these improvements. So take a moment to thank Rep. Derek Kilmer and Sens. Murray and Cantwell for this work, and request they continue on this work that brings equity to America.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/04/01/important-strengthen-affordable-care-act/4839970001/>

# THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane, Washington Est. May 19, 1883

## Hope and equity

April 3, 2021

Thanks for the exciting news that all folks 16 and older will be available to get their shots in two weeks. This is the kind of news that brings hope, like the passing of the recent relief bill. That bill also included increases to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, with the power to cut poverty among children nearly in half!

More good news: Senator Murray was key in making sure the tax credit increase was a part of the bigger bill. So take a few moments to thank Senator Murray for her work, and encourage her to keep working to make these increases permanent, along with other poverty ending measures. We are at a crossroads in America, let's raise our voices to take the fork that leads to hope and equity for all.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/apr/03/hope-and-equity/>



## **COVID relief bill has the potential to reduce child poverty**

April 7, 2021

Thanks for reporting on Mukilteo's strong stand for unity and against hate.  
(Mukilteo officials rally for unity by David Pan, Mukilteo Beacon, March 31, 2021 –  
( <https://bit.ly/3upBsTK> )

This is a clear example of Dr. King's call to speak up "until justice is served." The recent COVID relief bill increased the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits, with the potential to cut child poverty in half. With poverty disproportionately affecting people of color, this helps give the children, America's future, a better start.

Hard to focus on learning when you are hungry or wondering where you will sleep. To make these temporary tax cuts permanent will cut poverty permanently. Time to thank Snohomish County Reps. Rick Larsen and Suzan DelBene, along with Senators Murray and Cantwell for passing this important relief and ask them to make these tax cuts permanent.

We are at the crossroads of equity or hate, let's choose equity and encourage our government to continue to pass legislation that reflects that choice.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2021/04/07/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-covid-relief-bill-has-the-potential-to-reduce-child-poverty/21241.html>

## **CARE PACKAGES**

### **Local legislators taking steps toward equity**

April 21, 2021

To the Editor:

Today's spring sunshine offers hope in these troubled times of a pandemic which has emphasized the inequities in our system. The Black Lives Matter movement also brought forward the criticalness of these issues.

Fortunately, the newly passed relief bill addresses individual, business, and state and local government needs for recovery. At the same time, its passage started us on the road to equity by increasing the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax credit, two of the most effective and proven ways to provide ladders out our poverty.

Our own state Representative Suzan DelBene is offering legislation to make the temporary increase in the Child Tax Credit permanent. The American Family Act she introduced will cut child poverty by 50 percent and more in the hardest hit groups of people of color, rural families, and single moms. This is America's opportunity to turn around the inequity that has plagued us since the beginning. Rep. DelBene also joins Senator Cantwell in pushing affordable housing legislation that will significantly increase the amount of affordable housing available. Senator Cantwell has been a champion of affordable housing for 20 years and this bill will be a crowning achievement. We can ensure these changes all come to pass by encouraging our members of Congress in this needed work with our emails, calls, and stories of why this work is so critical. Let's use our voices to assist in creating America's spring of equity.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<http://www.snoho.com/html/letters.html>



## Speak up to change tax policy

April 22, 2021, 6:00am

Thanks to Greg Jayne for the straightforward primer on taxes in America ("[U.S. tax policy is sleight of hand](#)," The Columbia, April 18). Tax policy is the No. 1 way to create more equity among Americans, giving all a chance to finally meet basic needs.

One step to doing this was increasing the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits in the latest COVID relief bill. This increase has the power to cut child poverty in America in half. To do this these increases need to be made permanent. A refundable renters' tax credit has been proposed that could finally end 10 million Americans from paying 50 percent and more of their income for rent each month.

Of course, the best way to insure tax fairness is by writing, calling, and visiting our representatives and senators and asking for it, then following up. Our voices and votes can be the power that finally brings about a fair tax policy that supports equity for all, instead of favoring the wealthiest companies and individuals.

— **Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.columbia.com/news/2021/apr/22/letter-speak-up-to-change-tax-policy/>



## **Congress has chance to fix homelessness**

April 29, 2021

Thanks for highlighting the homeless problem and an inspirational local solution: hosted camps. (TDN April 25, Our View: "Officials must take action on homeless camp")

Unfortunately, the affordable housing crisis in America is making things worse and being exacerbated by the pandemic, but there are solutions. Proposals in Congress would increase the inventory of affordable homes; increase funding for the Housing Voucher program, so it can serve all who qualify; and a refundable renters' tax credit, so millions of Americans would no longer have to pay 50% and more of their income for rent. These three solutions can work together to provide ladders out of poverty, dealing with the homelessness problem at its source.

We can help by encouraging Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler to support them. Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell have long been supporters and sponsors of these kinds of solutions. So, take a moment to contact those who represent you, thank them for their work and request the passing of these and other answers to end the homelessness crisis in the world's richest country.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-has-chance-to-fix-homelessness/article\\_77ac3105-4461-5a94-b2b0-0dd481a153bf.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://tdn.com/opinion/letters/letter-congress-has-chance-to-fix-homelessness/article_77ac3105-4461-5a94-b2b0-0dd481a153bf.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# The Seattle Times

## Evictions: 'Expand rental assistance'

May 7, 2021

Re: "Judge strikes down CDC's national moratorium on evictions" [May 5, Business].

This decision is unfortunate and will lead to greater housing instability. Many years ago, I used to wake up in the middle of the night and worry about not being able to pay my rent. Although local moratoriums last through June and the economy is improving, I know many people are experiencing this same fear right now.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, housing choice vouchers reduce crowded housing, frequent moves and homelessness. Unfortunately, federal rental assistance only goes to 1 in 4 eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

Congress should expand rental assistance.

— Erica Schweizer

*Seattle*

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/evictions-expand-rental-assistance/>



## **Rotary Club, Congress doing good work to support the hungry in our community**

May 12, 2021

Fabulous work distributing desperately needed food by the Rotary Club of South Everett-Mukilteo. ('Lending a helping hand' by Beacon Staff, Mukilteo Beacon, May 7, 2021 <https://bit.ly/3nYHBnQ>). It definitely begs the question, why are millions of people in the world's richest country in need of food?

This hunger crisis hits people of color, children, and the elderly disproportionately, like it does in the ongoing housing and homelessness crisis. The recently passed relief bill in Congress is beginning to address these problems of poverty. Each of us can be inspired to lend a helping hand by thanking our members of Congress for this work and ask them to act boldly to end these crises in basic needs with ladders out of poverty. Making the increases in the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits permanent would be a start. So use your voice, follow up, and let's put America on the road to equity.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.mukilteobeacon.com/story/2021/05/12/opinion/letter-to-editor-rotary-club-congress-doing-good-work-to-support-the-hungry-in-our-community/21369.html>





## Renters should be part of economic recovery plans

May 15, 2021

Washingtonians were facing an affordable housing crisis even before the pandemic, with high rates of homelessness visible in nearly part of the state. Rocketing housing prices are now making affordable housing, especially rentals even more scarce. Tenants owe billions in back rent. Landlords cannot meet their financial obligations when no rent is coming in. These problems face all Americans across the nation. Thousands are getting evicted and are at risk of homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Eviction moratoriums have been overturned in court. Presently, here and nationwide, federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes. It is cheaper and more aesthetic than having them plague our parks, sidewalks and backwoods with tents and debris.

Please join me in urge our Senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and Representative Derek Kilmer to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Alan Newberg**

*Bremerton*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/05/15/renters-should-part-economic-recovery-plans/5108703001/>



## **Extend rental assistance to help families**

May 20, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent., Yet federal rental assistance only goes to one in four eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

**— Diana Tyree-Eddy**

*Hansville*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/05/20/extend-rental-assistance-help-families/5183780001/>



## **If Congress acts, we can cut child poverty dramatically**

May 21, 2021

To the editor — We can cut child poverty in half — permanently.

The Biden administration just proposed extending support for workers and families enacted earlier this year, by making permanent both an increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit for younger workers and others not raising children and an expansion of the full Child Tax Credit to all low-income families.

He also proposes extending the increased CTC amount (\$3,000-plus per child) until 2025.

These steps are important, but Congress must make all the CTC changes permanent, including the credit increase. Columbia University estimates this new CTC will cut child poverty by 45 percent! We can pay for this by asking the wealthy and corporations to finally pay their fair share.

If you could cut child poverty in half, why would you not do it? I urge our representatives and senators to make the new CTC and EITC provisions at 2021 levels permanent in recovery legislation.

— **Amanda Dickinson**

*Yakima*

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-if-congress-acts-we-can-cut-child-poverty-dramatically/article\\_862b0c4c-58bc-56f9-8258-517beed8b646.html](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-if-congress-acts-we-can-cut-child-poverty-dramatically/article_862b0c4c-58bc-56f9-8258-517beed8b646.html)



## **Congress must expand access to rental assistance**

May 27, 2021

As Americans cautiously return to normal life activities, stable and affordable housing for millions of renters remains out of reach. The pandemic has exacerbated our underlying housing crisis. Thousands of households are getting evicted, and many are at risk of experiencing homelessness because they can't pay the rent. Yet federal rental assistance only goes to 1 in 4 eligible renters due to inadequate funding.

President Biden has proposed building affordable housing in the U.S., but Congress must do more by expanding rental assistance to all eligible renters so millions of families can keep a roof over their head. Housing Choice Vouchers, America's largest rental assistance program, allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I urge our senators and representatives to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

**— Diana Tyree-Eddy**

*Hansville*

<https://www.heraldnet.com/opinion/congress-must-expand-access-to-rental-assistance/>



## Strickland's actions address poverty

June 6, 2021

The other Washington doesn't often get a great rap for changing people's lives, but it's worth taking a second look. Recent changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit passed by Congress are going to cut in half the rate of U.S. child poverty this year.

How did such a monumental success come about? As a 30+-year volunteer lobbyist working for the end of poverty, I've learned that some of the most powerful lobbyists in D.C. are members of Congress themselves.

Washington's 10th District Rep. Marilyn Strickland has taken this practice to heart. She's sensitive to the challenges people experiencing poverty are facing. Our [local RESULTS group](#) has been working with her office to address underlying issues of poverty that continue to rob families and communities of a bright future.

This spring, Rep. Strickland signed onto three lobbying letters ("Dear Colleague" letters) in support of global nutrition, education, and the elimination of tuberculosis. These letters help determine where our foreign aid money goes, and where the U.S. commits funds, other Global North countries typically follow.

These seemingly small actions will have results around the world that we will never see: children and parents receiving food, walking into schools where there are teachers and books, and receiving primary health care such as vaccines.

This year has been devastating for people living in poverty — here and globally. The actions our leaders take have enormous consequences. Thank you, Rep. Strickland, for all the ways you are using your power for good.

— Carolyn Prouty

*Elma*

<https://www.theolympian.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article251905073.html>



## Reducing poverty should be an American goal

June 10, 2021

It's easy to be cynical about politics in our nation. Yet, despite political division, Congress, came together to implement important interventions that provide a safety net to those who were most impacted and resources for our economy to recover and thrive.

Still, many Americans continue to suffer economic devastation. We need Congress to continue the programs it funded to reduce child and family poverty, specifically the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, so families can also thrive.

Fortunately our Congressman, Rep. Derek Kilmer, is supporting both those initiatives.

In developing countries, however, the situation is far different. While in the U.S. almost half of the population has received vaccinations that allow us to resume our lives, only about 3% of the population in developing countries have received vaccinations. Their economies are struggling and their children are far from returning to school.

Rep. Kilmer is leading a Congressional effort to make sure that all children, despite the pandemic, have the opportunity to attend school. He knows how important education is to each child and to their families, communities, nations and the entire world. As a volunteer with RESULTS, which advocates for our nation to take needed steps to reduce poverty in the U.S. and around the world, I thank Rep. Kilmer for his leadership to promote education worldwide. I call upon Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to do the same.

— **Beth Wilson**

*Olalla*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/06/10/reducing-poverty-should-american-goal/7642247002/>

# The Seattle Times

## Insufficient funding for housing vouchers

June 14, 2021

Compassion Seattle's charter amendment claims to be working toward ending the homelessness crisis while it really just wants to end the visual reminder of it. A charter amendment that codifies inhumane sweeps and lacks a long-term funding source will not help us start solving housing for all of our neighbors. What will though? We certainly need more affordable housing, but until we build it we can make housing more affordable. Research shows that housing choice vouchers are one of the most effective ways to reduce homelessness.

Unfortunately, only one in four eligible renters can actually get housing assistance because the program is not fully funded. That means, in Seattle, people struggling to afford housing have to apply to Seattle Housing Authority to be put in a lottery, just to get a spot on the waitlist. How many people are living unsheltered because there's insufficient funding for a lifeline they are eligible for?

We need to make the housing choice voucher program universal through guaranteed multi-year funding. This shouldn't need to be a bold, progressive push, because this is just the bare minimum. U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, will you lead the charge to provide housing for all low-income renters and families?

— Jazmine Smith

*Seattle*

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/homelessness-insufficient-funding-for-housing-vouchers/>



## Child tax credit payment should become permanent

June 23, 2021

American families are finally catching a break.

Starting July 15, most families can receive the new Child Tax Credit (CTC) as a monthly payment. An extra \$250 or \$300 each month will help families succeed, from working families struggling to pay for food, rent, and bills, to middle-class families that need help with childcare and college savings. Go to [www.childtaxcredit.gov](http://www.childtaxcredit.gov) to make sure you're getting it. And spread the word.

This new CTC is a breakthrough, potentially cutting child poverty by almost half over the next year. But the CTC improvements, along with much-needed changes to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-wage workers, will expire after 2021, forcing millions of younger workers and families with children back into poverty. Congress must not let that happen.

I urge our members of Congress to make the 2021 CTC and EITC changes permanent in recovery legislation this year — and pay for it by making the rich and corporations pay their fair share.

— **Diana Tyree-Eddy**

*Hansville*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/06/23/child-tax-credit-payment-should-become-permanent/5323506001/>





## **Paths to make housing more affordable do exist**

July 12, 2021

Nearly two years ago, the Sun's editorial board said it was time for housing action, and that was before COVID threatened more families with loss of housing, income, and hunger. ("Our View: Enough task force talk, it's time for housing action," Kitsap Sun opinion, Sept. 22, 2019)

Local and national action is needed to avoid the coming landslide to homelessness now more than ever. One national proposal is to increase the funding the Housing Voucher Program, so it reaches everyone instead of only the current one-fourth who qualify. Sen. Maria Cantwell has legislation pending to increase the inventory of affordable housing.

We can take action by calling and thanking our representatives for this work so far, and asking them to support these two initiatives and more, like the Homestead Act for the 21st Century that would help low income people purchase a home. Using our voices builds the political will for Congress to take action to solve this and other problems that matter to millions of American families.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/07/12/paths-make-housing-more-affordable-do-exist/7939476002/>



## **Yes, vote wisely – that's how things get done**

July 16, 2021

To the editor — Thanks for the reminder of why “it’s critical to vote, and vote wisely.” (‘Here’s your chance to help change the world’ in the Yakima Herald, July 11, 2021.)

Voting is our way to ensure America travels the road to equity. Using our voices, we can guide our representatives to work on what matters.

Constituent voices are responsible for the initiative in Congress to increase the Housing Voucher Program so it reaches all who qualify, rather than the current one in four. This change could help stop the increase in homelessness.

A second bipartisan effort calls on the president to pledge \$1 billion over five years to the Global Partnership for Education, which will encourage other donors and result in 175 million children in school for the first time.

So vote wisely and use your voice to encourage Congress to do the work that helps all Americans and makes a difference in our world.

**— Willie Dickerson**

*Snohomish*

[https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/letter-yes-vote-wisely---thats-how-things-get-done/article\\_84cc228e-1169-5027-a6ac-9ff88f77117a.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-yes-vote-wisely---thats-how-things-get-done/article_84cc228e-1169-5027-a6ac-9ff88f77117a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

# THE REGISTER~HERALD.

Beckley, West Virginia

## Make tax credits permanent

June 8, 2021

Amy Jo Hutchison's May 22nd guest editorial, "Tax credits would be 'life-altering' for some," was a strong and sensible message for effective action to fight poverty in our state.

Hundreds of thousands of West Virginians, many of them children, will benefit in the most meaningful ways from the temporary expansions to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). These direct benefit payments stand to be the difference between managing a day-to-day scramble for basic needs to having the freedom to thrive and work toward long term goals.

As Ms. Hutchison notes, this is life-altering for many in our state, including the 28 percent of adults in West Virginia who, according to the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey for April-May 2021, are having difficulty paying for usual expenses, like food, housing, car payments and student loans.

And while the Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy projects that CTC and EITC payments will cut poverty rates by 45 percent, these payments will stop at year's end without further intervention from Congress. There is no reason that these should only exist as temporary lifelines when we know they're game changers in the fight to eliminate poverty.

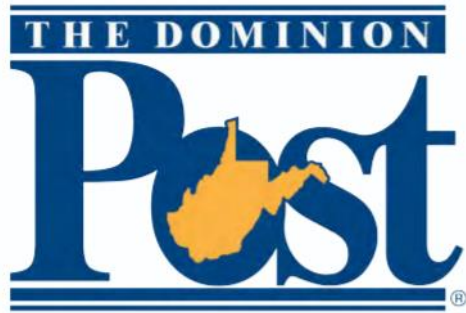
CTC and EITC expansions effectively address poverty because they directly address poverty. I join Ms. Hutchison in urging Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin to prioritize permanent funding for CTC and EITC at 2021 levels in further recovery legislation.

— **Joanna DiStefano**

*Morgantown*

*Editor's note: DiStefano is the leader of RESULTS WV, a network of non-partisan volunteer advocates seeking to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty.*

[https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/make-tax-credits-permanent/article\\_b6402502-c7ff-11eb-9b3d-2b9e2669938b.html](https://www.register-herald.com/opinion/make-tax-credits-permanent/article_b6402502-c7ff-11eb-9b3d-2b9e2669938b.html)



SERVING NORTH-CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA SINCE 1864

## **Housing crisis needs a federal solution**

July 4, 2021

HOUSING IS EXPENSIVE IN MORGANTOWN. Whether you're renting or paying a mortgage or currently unhoused, unaffordability is a fact of life for most people who live here. Today, as we celebrate Independence Day, it is undeniable that the housing reality here in our community is a reflection of an ongoing national housing crisis, a crisis experienced keenly among renters.

Simply put, wages have not kept pace with rising rents, and a short supply of available rental units nationwide has only made the situation worse. The National Low Income Housing Coalition reports currently there is no state or county in the United States where a renter working full-time at minimum wage can afford a two-bedroom apartment.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 24 million people in 11 million low-income American households pay more than half their income for rent, often forgoing necessities, like food or medicine, to stay in their homes.

However, less than half, 10.4 million people in 5.2 million households, are actually using some form of federal rental assistance to afford modest housing. Sixty-eight percent of those renters are seniors, children, or people with disabilities. And because of the legacy of discriminatory housing policies, this is a burden that falls more often on people of color: The NHLIC estimates that although 6% of white households are extremely low-income renters, 20% of Black households, 18% of American Indian or Alaska Native households and 14% of Latino households are extremely low-income renters.

The primary federal program meant to address these inequalities, the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, which makes up the difference between what people earn and the reasonable cost of a safe and decent home, is not funded adequately to meet the need.

Currently, more than 5 million people in 2.3 million low-income families use these vouchers to help pay for housing in the private market, according to CBPP. However, only 1 in 4 eligible renters is able to access this federal housing assistance. That means roughly 75% of households that qualify for HCVs aren't able to get them when they need them. They can languish on waiting lists for months or years, all the while remaining vulnerable to many of the other ills of extreme poverty, like food insecurity, declining physical and mental health and homelessness.

Though provisions for affordable housing were not included in the recent bipartisan Senate infrastructure deal reached this week, Congress should still consider several proposals over the summer for substantial long term affordable housing investment. Any effort to address affordability for renters must also include a boost to the HCV program, for what good is any investment in development if people still lack the resources to rent?

Sen. Joe Manchin sets an admirable standard working with colleagues in the Senate to move economic recovery legislation forward. As the work of Congress continues throughout the summer, affordable housing needs to be among his top priorities.

Expanding the supply of affordable housing while ensuring rental assistance to all eligible renters with guaranteed multi-year funding to the HCV program is a solid step in the right direction to address the housing crisis in the U.S. Beyond being a just, equitable and sensible solution to stably house millions of families and start to undo the legacy of racial discrimination in housing, this provides a bridge to economic stability and generational prosperity to millions of Americans struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

**— Joanna DiStefano**

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*advocates working to influence political decisions that will bring an end to both domestic and global poverty.*

<https://www.dominionpost.com/wp-content/uploads/paperpages/DP-2021-07-04.pdf>

# THE CAP TIMES

## Congress needs to expand rental assistance

June 8, 2021

Dear Editor: The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the U.S. housing crisis. The extension of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's eviction moratorium is set to expire on June 30. Yet based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently found that more than 10 million Americans are not currently caught up on rent.

While I commend the Biden Administration's efforts to build affordable housing, more needs to be done to ensure millions of American families can keep a roof over their heads. With the expiration of the moratorium quickly approaching at the end of the month and millions still struggling to afford rent, Congress must take greater action to further expand rental assistance to all eligible renters through increased funding for Housing Choice Vouchers. As America's largest rental assistance program, Housing Choice Vouchers allow low-income renters to find safe housing they otherwise cannot afford. Furthermore, studies show that families with stable housing earn higher wages and have better health and education outcomes.

I call on Wisconsin Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson to expand rental assistance to all eligible renters in economic recovery legislation this year.

— **Emily Merkel**

*Madison*

[https://madison.com/opinion/mailbag/emily-merkel-congress-needs-to-expand-rental-assistance/article\\_f75b916b-3e74-511f-8b8d-cf0375e1ae92.html](https://madison.com/opinion/mailbag/emily-merkel-congress-needs-to-expand-rental-assistance/article_f75b916b-3e74-511f-8b8d-cf0375e1ae92.html)



# THE CAP TIMES

## Expanded tax credits must be made permanent

June 24, 2021

Dear Editor: With high unemployment rates due to COVID-19, Americans need and want additional money to help make ends meet. This will soon become reality for millions as Congress' major expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) goes into effect next month.

The CTC expansion not only increases the amount of money most families will get but also provides families the option to receive monthly payments from July to December. This additional \$250-\$300 each month can help pay for rent, food, childcare, and other bills. Furthermore, the EITC changes will benefit millions of low-wage workers across the nation and in our community. This tax credit will target foodservice, hospitality and transportation workers who have been essential throughout the pandemic.

I applaud Congress and the Biden administration for taking this initiative to help American families, children and workers. However, this expansion cannot be a one-year, temporary fix. In order to truly make an impact on American lives, these tax credit changes need to be made permanent.

Wisconsin Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson must ensure the 2021 CTC and EITC improvements become permanent in recovery legislation this year to continue lifting millions out of poverty.

— **Emily Merkel**

*Madison*

[https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/emily-merkel-expanded-tax-credits-must-be-made-permanent/article\\_83893306-9668-5f3c-99f1-01632b7f0433.html](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/mailbag/emily-merkel-expanded-tax-credits-must-be-made-permanent/article_83893306-9668-5f3c-99f1-01632b7f0433.html)