

Support Tax Credits to Help Low-Income Families Feed Their Children

BACKGROUND

In the last few years, there's been an alarming rise in hunger in the United States. Now nearly one in four children lives in a family that struggles to get enough to eat. President Barack Obama and others have promised to end childhood hunger in the United States by 2015. But childhood hunger can only be eliminated by addressing the causes of hunger—by helping struggling families increase their incomes.

One way to do this, (the focus of this year's Bread for the World Offering of Letters) is to adopt changes to the U.S. tax policy that will benefit low-income families. Our letters will urge Congress to protect and strengthen two key tax credits.



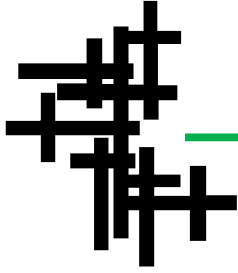
The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) was established in 1975 to help low-income families hold on to more of their earnings. The EITC is a refundable tax credit geared primarily toward families with one or two children. Another credit, the Child Tax Credit, is worth up to \$1,000 for each child under age 17 claimed on a worker's tax return.

ACTION

Good Shepherd Voices for Justice joins Bread for the World this month in their 2010 Offering of Letters to ask Congress to protect and strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit.

Write to your Senators and Representative urging them to strengthen tax credits that will help low-income families.

(See sample letter on the following page. Handwritten letters using your own words are most effective.)



**GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH VOICES FOR JUSTICE
ACTION ALERT – MAY/JUNE 2010
Help Feed Children in Low Income Families**

SAMPLE LETTER:

Date _____

Dear _____

(Senator or Representative's name here. They're listed below)

Our nation needs a comprehensive strategy to end childhood hunger in the United States. It's vital that low-income families are able to meet their basic needs—including food. I ask you to protect and strengthen key tax credits that can make a big difference for low-income workers and their families.

These programs work. In 2005, the Earned Income Tax Credit alone lifted more than 5 million people above the poverty line, including 2.6 million children. Nearly one in four children lives in a family that struggles to put food on the table. We need to protect and strengthen EITC and the Child Tax Credit and work toward a day when no parent has to send a child to bed hungry.

Sincerely,

Your name

Address

City, State, zip

ADDRESSES FOR YOUR LETTERS:

Rep. Sensenbrenner 2449 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515-4905	Senator Kohl 330 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4903	Senator Feingold 506 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4904
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