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December 9, 2015

**Re: Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)**

Dear Senator/Representative,

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) help lift hard-working Californians out of poverty, enabling them to effectively meet their most basic needs such as putting food on the table. The improvements to the EITC and CTC that were enacted in 2009 but are scheduled to expire after 2017 are extremely important to households in California and across the country. California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) strongly urges Congress to, at a minimum, make the 2009 improvements permanent in any tax extenders bill before Congress adjourns. In addition, CFPA urges Congress to extend the EITC to childless workers, many of whom are non-custodial parents or future parents, and include indexing of the CTC for inflation.

CFPA is a statewide, nonprofit organization with over 20 years of experience dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. The EITC and CTC along with the federal nutrition programs are some of the strongest tools we have to help working families make ends meet, escape poverty, and become self-sufficient.

Roughly 3 million children in 1.4 million California families will lose some or all of their working-family tax credits if the EITC and CTC improvements expire. Households cannot afford to lose this critical help to support themselves through work. Congress should seize this opportunity to protect these highly effective provisions. While these bipartisan improvements do not immediately expire, renewing and making them permanent now sends a powerful message of support to our nation's lowest-income workers and their children.

We urge you to do everything you can to make these vital provisions permanent this year. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Colby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anna" and last name "Colby" clearly distinguishable.

Anna Colby, MS, MPP  
Nutrition Policy Advocate  
California Food Policy Advocates