

September 9, 2020

The Honorable Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

As organizations concerned with the well-being of children, youth, and families, we urge Congress to pass critically needed relief for all families in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The cash assistance that was included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was essential for meeting families' basic needs during this difficult time. However, millions of children live in families that were excluded from the CARES Act despite paying taxes in the United States. In addition, months have passed since the stimulus payments were disbursed, and families continue to need help paying for basic survival needs.

**We believe all children and families must get the help they need to stay safe, healthy, and make ends meet during this time of crisis, including mixed-status immigrant families.**

The tax-paying families of an estimated 3.5 million children were unfairly excluded from CARES Act economic support, and the vast majority of these children are U.S. citizens. They were excluded simply because at least one parent filed taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number rather than a Social Security number.

**Not only is it unfair to exclude any taxpayer from federal relief, but it is morally wrong to allow children to suffer poverty and hardship because of their parents' immigration status.**

Children of immigrants make up a quarter of the U.S. child population, and their well-being is tied to our collective future. The effects of poverty and toxic stress on children can harm their developing bodies and minds for the long term. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that we are all deeply connected, and the only way we are going to come out of the crisis a stronger nation is if we ensure every member of our community has access to the assistance they need.

At this time of crisis, immigrants are taking on unprecedented stress and risks, filling essential roles in health and personal care and the food supply chain, which benefit all of us. Immigrants are at great risk of contracting the virus because of their public-facing, caregiving, and mass-production roles. These workers need assistance to meet the basic needs of their children and families.

**We can do better for all of our children and the immigrants who are contributing to this country. We urge Congress to swiftly pass a COVID-19 relief bill that ensures children in mixed-status families are eligible for economic stimulus payments under the CARES Act and includes an additional stimulus payment to help families in need.**

Sincerely,

## **National Organizations**

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors  
Advocating Opportunity  
Alianza Americas  
All Our Kin  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Border Network for Human Rights  
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities  
Center for Disability Rights  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Child Care Aware of America  
Child Welfare League of America  
ChildFund International  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's HealthWatch  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S Provinces  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Educare Learning Network  
Families Belong Together  
Families USA  
First Focus on Children  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Network USA  
Futures Without Violence  
Hispanic Federation  
IDRA (Intercultural Development Research Association)  
Justice for Migrant Women  
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)  
KIPP  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
Mi Familia Vota  
MomsRising  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center for Children in Poverty  
National Council on Independent Living

National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild  
National Juvenile Justice Network  
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights  
National Parents Union  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National WIC Association  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Next100  
Partnership for America's Children  
Poligon Education Fund  
Project Lifeline  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
Save the Children Action Network  
Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
Sisters of St. Francis Justice, Peace and Integrity Committee Creation Committee  
South Texas Human Rights Center  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation  
The Education Trust  
UNICEF USA  
UnidosUS  
United Migrant Opportunity Services  
United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)  
United We Dream Action  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights  
ZERO TO THREE

### **State Organizations**

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Alabama Arise, AL  
Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, AZ  
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, AZ  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, AR  
Asian Resources, Inc., CA  
California Food Policy Advocates, CA  
California Immigrant Policy Center, CA  
California Primary Care Association, CA  
California WIC Association, CA  
Californians Together, CA  
Child Care Services Association, NC  
CHILDREN AT RISK, TX

Children Now, CA  
Children's Action Alliance, AZ  
Children's Advocacy Alliance, NV  
Children's Defense Fund - CA  
Children's Defense Fund - MN  
Children's Defense Fund - NY  
Children's Defense Fund - OH  
Children's Defense Fund - TX  
Children's Institute, OR  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, CA  
Colorado Center on Law and Policy, CO  
Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, CO  
Colorado Children's Campaign, CO  
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy, & Research Organization (CLLARO), CO  
Common Good Iowa, IA  
Comunidades Unidas, UT  
Early Edge California, CA  
Economic Progress Institute, RI  
Equality North Carolina, NC  
Every Texan, TX  
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc., FL  
Food Lifeline, WA  
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students, GA  
HAITIAN BRIDGE ALLIANCE, CA  
Hawai'i Children's Action Network, HI  
Holy Trinity Region Secular Franciscans, KY  
Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, ID  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, IL  
Illuminate Colorado, CO  
Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, IN  
Jolt Action, TX  
Kansas Action for Children, KS  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA, CA  
Latino Policy Forum, IL  
Let's Grow Kids, VT  
Little Library CT Corp, CT  
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, LA  
Maine Association for the Education of Young Children, ME  
Maine Business Immigration Coalition, ME  
Maine Center for Economic Policy, ME  
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc., IN  
Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children, MD  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy, MD  
Mexican American Legislative Caucus, TX  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, MI  
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative, MS

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter, TX  
NC Child, NC  
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, NM  
NM Center on Law and Poverty, NM  
North Carolina Justice Center, NC  
NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, NY  
Oklahoma Policy Institute, OK  
Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children, OR  
Our Children Oregon, OR  
Partners for Our Children, WA  
PASOs, SC  
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, PA  
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, RI  
Santa Fe Dreamers Project, NM/TX  
Santos en Virginia, VA  
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center, SC  
South Carolina Assoc. for the Education of Young Children, SC  
Southwest Human Development, AZ  
Tennessee Justice Center, TN  
Texas State Teachers Association, TX  
The Children's Partnership, CA  
Tri-State Franciscan Solidarity Table, OH/IN/KY  
Violence Free Colorado, CO  
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, VA  
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, VA  
Voices for Utah Children, UT  
Voices for Vermont's Children, VT  
Washington State Parent Ambassadors, WA  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center, NJ  
Zero to Five Montana, MT

### **Local Organizations**

Alianza NORCO, CO  
AltaMed Health Services, CA  
Casa San Jose, PA  
Central American Resource Center, DC  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, NY  
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, NY  
Community Action Marin, CA  
Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, CA  
Foundation for Tacoma Students, WA  
Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, NY  
GoAEYC- Golden corridor Association for the Education of Young Children, IL  
Hispanic Services Council, FL  
Hispanic Unity of Florida, FL

Identity, Inc., MD  
Kidango, CA  
KIPP SoCal Public Schools, CA  
La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), TX  
Latin American Community Center, DE  
LAUNCH Together SW Denver, CO  
Lawrence CommunityWorks, MA  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, CA  
Maternal and Child Health Access, CA  
Mexican American Unity Council, Inc., TX  
Neighborhood House, WA  
Operation Access, CA  
SOAR, WA  
Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, AZ  
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, WA  
Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH  
The HANA Center, IL  
West Central Initiative, MN  
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition, AZ  
Westchester Children's Association, NY