



Doctors for Early Childhood

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Chair Aisha Gomez, MN House Taxes Committee

435 State Office Building, St Paul, MN 55155

Re: Child Tax Credits, Refundable Tax Credits, and Working Families Tax Credits

Dear Chair Gomez, and Taxes Committee Members,

We are Doctors for Early Childhood, an advocacy and education group. We are writing in support of the above legislation. We applaud the House Leadership in crafting legislation that is directed to Minnesotans who need these credits the most. Please vote favorably and work with your Senate colleagues and the Governor to maximize this benefit.

As you know, tax credits offer the opportunity for a significant percentage of Minnesota children to leave lives in poverty. We saw this during the height of the pandemic when ARPA funding removed nearly 50% of children from the poverty roles. When this funding expires it will be up to states to do what they can to continue this work. With Minnesota's large budget surplus, as large an amount as possible should be directed to CTCs.

As physicians and educators, we know that children in poverty have more illnesses, more time out of school, are subject to chronic conditions such as asthma, mental illness, substance abuse disorders and toxic stress. Children no longer in poverty are healthier and do better in school, which often carries on through life.

Thank you for your work in this area.

Warm regards,

Dale Dobrin, MD, FAAP, Ada Alden, EdD, Mary Meland, MD, FAAP, and Roger Sheldon, MD, FAAP

References: 1) Pediatrics Nov 1, 2020: A National Prescription for Health: Tax Credits. 2)
Pediatrics June 6, 2022: Short Term Effects of Tax Credits on Child Maltreatment in the US