



April 18, 2023

Chair Aisha Gomez  
Minnesota House Taxes Committee  
453 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the House Taxes Committee:

West Central Initiative is writing in support of a Minnesota Child Tax Credit and we appreciate seeing the inclusion of a Child Tax Credit in the House Omnibus bill.

West Central Initiative (WCI) is one of the 6 Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFs). We are based out of Fergus Falls and our service area is 9 counties in west central Minnesota and the southern 1/3 of White Earth Nation. Our vision is that a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable world starts here in west central Minnesota with a focus on Community, Climate, and Children.

Research shows that poverty and the hardships that poor children often face, including food insecurity and unstable housing shortchange children's futures, but research also shows that economic security programs such as the Child Tax Credit that reduce poverty improve children's long-term health and educational outcomes, boosting their opportunities and benefitting the entire state. When families receive additional income support for their children, those children have better health and stronger earnings as adults. By reducing future medical expenditures and other costs of poverty, these steps have broad benefits for Minnesota. Our state's long-term success depends on the success of all our children and their parents, regardless of race, ethnicity, or income.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Jost  
Director of Early Childhood

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