Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2022

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

At a time when the price of essential goods and services like food, child care, and housing are near record highs and many Americans are struggling to make ends meet, we write to urge you to oppose the inclusion of corporate tax breaks in any must-pass or tax extenders bill that is brought to the floor for a vote unless workers and families are provided with commensurate support and relief. These include extending the expanded monthly refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC) and expanded Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as soon as possible, and no later than the end of the year.

We should not extend corporate tax breaks unless and until we deliver additional relief for families. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) mandated that starting in 2022, businesses could no longer amortize domestic R&D expenses each year, instead requiring that they amortize expenses over five years. While TCJA was a Republican giveaway to corporations, preventing corporations from amortizing R&D expenses annually was one of the few provisions that helped level the playing field by increasing corporate taxes. Current proposals to reverse this provision would result in another massive tax break for corporations, and a $120 billion loss in revenue over 10 years for the U.S. government.[i] This tax break would come at a time when corporate profits are at record highs[ii], corporate profits have contributed disproportionately to rising inflation[iii], and companies like Ford[iv], Amazon[v] and Boeing[vi] are paying federal tax rates below 6 percent.

Further, before their expiration, the expanded credits made monumental improvements for working-class families throughout America. The monthly expanded CTC payments kept 3.7 million children from poverty and reduced child poverty by 30 percent.[vii] The expanded EITC helped an estimated 17 million workers, who received $700 more on average than under the previous credit.[viii] In addition, these credits:

- **Helped families afford food**, almost immediately reducing food insufficiency by 24 percent after the first monthly CTC payment was sent in July;[ix]

- **Helped families** cut their relian**ce on risky financial products** like credit cards, payday loans, pawn shops – and even selling blood plasma;[x] and

- **Helped families** keep up with regular expenses, with households with children experiencing an 8 percent drop in financial insecurity after the first checks went out, compared to a 5 percent *increase* for families without kids.[xi]

While this Congress has delivered on many priorities, we have unfortunately been unable to continue some of the essential programs like the CTC that families still desperately need. As the

Fed continues to raise interest rates, it is also pinching many families on housing costs including rising rental rates. That means we must be laser focused on ensuring we continue our work to show that Democrats can deliver for children and families before the end of the year by extending two of the Biden era's most effective programs for reducing poverty and helping families meet their basic needs.
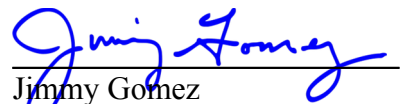
A proposed delay to the amortization of R&D expenses for four years until 2026 was in the House-passed Build Back Better Act, and it was included as part of a comprehensive framework that provided major economic and tax-related support for working families while pursuing historic advances in the longstanding Democratic priority to make the wealthy and large corporations finally pay their fair share in taxes. We urge you to continue that balanced approach. Should a particular provision to delay or terminate the R&D amortization requirement be included in any must-pass or tax extender bill, it must be paired with provisions that will provide crucial support to families, specifically an extension of the expanded CTC and an expansion of the EITC. These provisions would reduce rates of childhood poverty and benefit families struggling financially. Expanding the fully refundable CTC would make these historic childhood poverty reductions permanent. Increasing EITC benefits by 40 percent and extending eligibility to families without Social Security numbers would lift 2 million children out of poverty.[xii]

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure that workers and families are provided with much needed relief and are prioritized in our legislative process.

Sincerely,

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
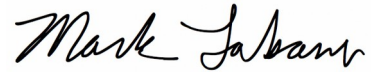Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

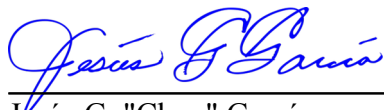Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress
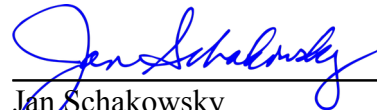
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

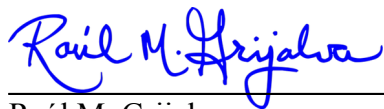Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress
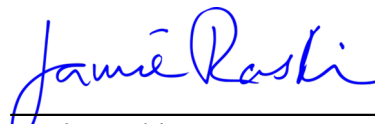
Carolyn B. Maloney
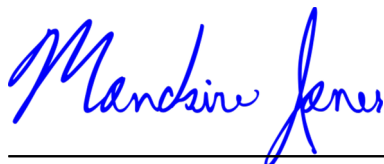Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
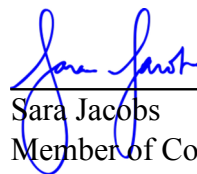Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
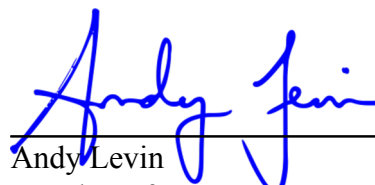Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
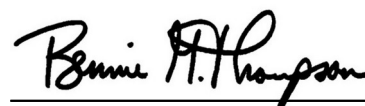Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Andy Levin
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Barbara Lee
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Bennie G. Thompson
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André Carson
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Veronica Escobar
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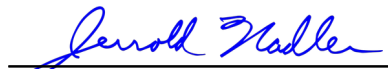Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
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Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

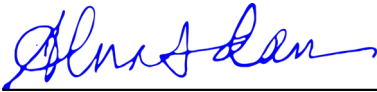Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

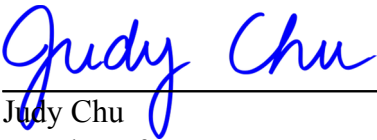Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress
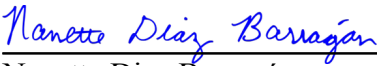
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
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Grace Meng
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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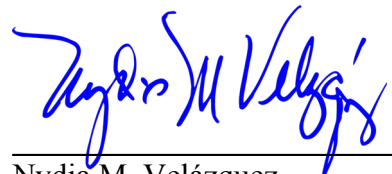Marie Newman
Member of Congress
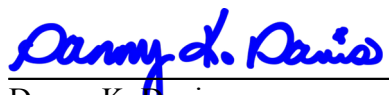
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
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James P. McGovern
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Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
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Ro Khanna
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John Garamendi
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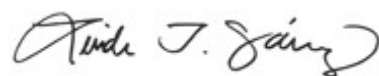
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress
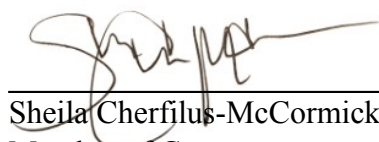
Troy Carter
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
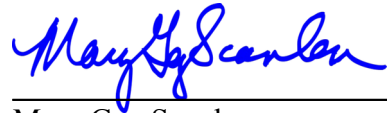Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

Cori Bush
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress

CC: Chair Richard E. Neal, House Committee on Ways and Means

[i] Joint Committee on Taxation "Estimated Budget Effects of the Conference Agreement for H.R. 1, The 'Tax Cuts and Jobs Act'", December 18, 2017. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.jct.gov/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?guid=2f1d880c-ca26-429d-9044-63ac084d07cd

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[ix] Daniel J. Perez-Lopez "Household Pulse Survey Collected Responses Just Before and Just After the Arrival of the First CTC Checks", August 11, 2021. *https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/economic-hardship-declined-in-households-with-children-as-child-tax-credit-payments-arrived.html*

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