



October 29, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned county officials from across the nation, thank you for your partnership with local governments in providing resources and services that help our most vulnerable residents thrive. The undersigned represent members of the National Association of Counties (NACo) who serve as leaders of the Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee. **As negotiations on future investments continue, we write today to urge you to maintain the expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) as included in H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act (BBBA).** The CTC is one of the most powerful federal policy tools available for breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

The nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs are committed to ending child poverty and its harmful impacts on child health, family stability, educational attainment and future employment within our local communities. With 11.6 million children – 16.1 percent – currently living under the federal poverty line, no county in America is immune from the problem of child poverty and its ripple effects in our communities. While specific county responsibilities vary from state to state, we deliver essential human services and economic development programs across the country and annually invest \$58 billion worth of federal, state and local funds in human services programs.

Even before its temporary expansion under the *American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA), the CTC worked with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to keep an estimated 2.7 million children out of poverty. However, limiting eligibility to those families above a certain income threshold has historically kept the most vulnerable children in our communities from accessing the full benefit of this resource. Early data suggests that by making the CTC fully refundable and increasing its size, ARPA has already lifted another 3 million children above the federal poverty line. Families report using these funds for critical expenses, such as food and child care. Estimates project that if all eligible families take up the expanded CTC, we can cut child poverty by more than 40 percent this year. This translates to a child poverty rate of under 10 percent in nearly all states.

While the enhancements to the CTC under ARPA are only temporary, the BBBA represents a key opportunity to extend these changes and meaningfully reduce child poverty for years to come. This transformative investment will not just positively impact our residents but promote long-term cost savings across county jurisdictions such as public health, housing, education, criminal justice and child welfare.

We ask you to preserve the BBBA's language increasing the size of the credit, providing advance monthly payments, and making it fully refundable so all families may benefit from it. Additionally, we encourage you to provide dedicated funding for local governments and community-based organizations to offer technical

assistance and perform outreach and education to ensure all eligible families are accessing this important support.

As intergovernmental partners, we thank you for your shared commitment to ending child poverty in our communities. We stand ready to work with you to ensure our nation's most vulnerable low-income children are not excluded from the poverty-ending potential of the Child Tax Credit.

Sincerely,

**Hon. Craig Rice**, *Council Member*, Montgomery County, Md.; *Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Deborah Lieberman**, *Commissioner*, Montgomery County, Ohio; *Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. George Hartwick**, *Commissioner*, Dauphin County, Penn.; *Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Nancy Sharpe**, *Commissioner*, Arapahoe County, Colo.; *Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. John Peters**, *Supervisor*, Mono County, Calif.; *Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Natalie Hall**, *Commissioner*, Fulton County, Ga.; *Social Services Subcommittee Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Mary Ann Borgeson**, *Commissioner*, Douglas County, Neb.; *Aging Subcommittee Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Tracey Johnson**, *Commissioner*, Washington County, N.C.; *Social Services Subcommittee Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Sonya Fischer**, *Commissioner*, Clackamas County, Ore.; *Education, Children and Families Subcommittee Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Michael Smith**, *Police Juror*, Calcasieu Parish, La.; *Social Services Subcommittee Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Michael Norton**, *Supervisor*, Winnebago County, Wisc.; *Aging Subcommittee Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Mary Perkins-Williams**, *Commissioner*, Pitt County, N.C.; *Social Services Subcommittee Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Anthony Bartie**, *Police Juror*, Calcasieu Parish, La.; *Education, Children and Families Subcommittee Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Hon. Kelly Long**, *Supervisor*, Ventura County, Calif.; *Education, Children and Families Subcommittee Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Ms. Joy Bivens**, *Deputy Administrator for Health and Human Services*, Franklin County, Ohio; *Education, Children and Families Subcommittee Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Ms. Claudia Tuck**, *Community Support Services Director*, Alachua County, Fla.; *Social Services Subcommittee Vice Chair*, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee

**Ms. Cathy Senderling-McDonald**, *Executive Director, County Welfare Directors Association of California; Aging Subcommittee Vice Chair, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee*

**Mr. Glenn Osborne**, *Social Services Director, Wilson County, N.C.; Social Services Subcommittee Vice Chair, NACo Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee*