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United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

US-Mexico Foundation



July 21, 2014

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Re: NHLA Opposition to the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014 (H.R.4935)

Dear Representative:

We write on behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of 37 leading national Latino nonpartisan civil rights and advocacy organizations to urge you to **vote against** H.R.4935, the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014, and similar legislation. This legislation would deny the Child Tax Credit (CTC), a critical and proven anti-poverty tool, to individuals filing with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). If enacted, this legislation would cause irreparable harm to Latino families and children.

NHLA's mission calls for unity among Hispanics nationwide to provide the Latino community with greater visibility and a stronger voice in our nation's affairs, including the pressing need to combat poverty within the Latino community. NHLA will soon issue a scorecard assigning members of Congress a letter grade on their immigration record to give Hispanic voters and other interested voters a clear picture of their elected officials' positions on immigration reform. **Our forthcoming scorecard will place significant weight on this vote.**

Despite our economy's modest progress, the economic outlook for many working families is bleak. Nearly one third of all working families—32 percent—may not have enough money to meet basic needs. Equally alarming, more than 16.1 million children in America are poor but live in working families, with a disproportionate number who are Latino. The CTC is a proven anti-poverty measure that Congress established to help working families, including many Latino families, financially care for their children. **The CTC is only available for taxpayers who are working, earning income, and raising children.** This tax credit is legally available for qualified taxpayers who use the ITIN. H.R.4935 and similar legislation would eliminate the CTC for hardworking, taxpaying parents who file tax returns using an ITIN. ITINs are commonly used by individuals who are not eligible to obtain a Social Security number. These taxpayers include lawfully present individuals, such as certain survivors of domestic violence, Cuban and Haitian entrants, spouses and children of individuals with employment visas, as well as undocumented immigrants.

H.R.4935 would disproportionately harm Latinos; over 80 percent of working families who would be affected by this proposal are Hispanic. In fact, 4.4 million Latino children in mixed-status families could lose access to the CTC. Congress originally passed the CTC to ensure that US citizen children, no matter the legal status of their parents, would never face the specter of poverty and hunger. H.R.4935 would undo that promise and condemn millions of Latino US citizen children to poverty. This unjustified disparate impact on Latino families is inconsistent with the federal government's 50-year old policy of non-discrimination in federally-assisted programs at the state and local level.

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H.R. 4935, therefore, would undercut the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and weaken our national commitment to its principles.

In light of the above grounds, NHLA strongly urges you to **vote against** H.R.4935, the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014.

Please contact NHLA through James A. Ferg-Cadima, at MALDEF, at jferg-cadima@maldef.org or 202-293-2828 ext. 11, or Bertha Guerrero, at the Hispanic Federation, at bguerrero@hispanicfederation.org or 202-641-7186. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Saenz
MALDEF, President and General Counsel
NHLA Immigration Committee Co-Chair



Jose Calderón
Hispanic Federation, President
NHLA Immigration Committee Co-Chair