



October 8, 2023

Rep. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Alex Padilla
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Laphonza Butler
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Safety Net, Child Care, Health in the FY2024 Budget

Dear Members of Congress,

I write today as a person of faith and your constituent to ask that you support a FY2024 budget that funds programs to reduce poverty here at home and abroad, that advance domestic and global health programs and preparations for future pandemics and that support programs to support and sustain families.

In particular, I ask your support for the following specific programs:

1. **I urge your support for additional funding for WiC.** This program, which has demonstrated success, needs more robust funding due to higher participation and additional costs. The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted research that shows participation in the program leads to fewer premature births, fewer infant deaths, and a greater chance of receiving prenatal care.
2. I urge full **support of humanitarian and development assistance programs** for those who are facing conflict, natural disasters, and hunger around the world.
3. **We need a restoration of the Child Tax Credit (CTC)** that helped low-income families with children meet their needs. The CTC reduced child poverty by 50%. Progress that was immediately lost when the Child Tax Credit expired at the end of last year.
4. The pandemic laid bare and exacerbated a quiet child care crisis that was already unfolding in communities across the country, with families facing unaffordable prices and insufficient supply. Child care is the backbone of our economy, without it parents cannot work. The American Rescue Plan Act saved the child care sector from collapse during the pandemic, but it has just expired. **I strongly urge you to support the Child Care Stabilization Act which invests \$16 billion per year in child care** and ensures that there will be no reductions to child care and early learning during FY2024.
5. **I urge you to support the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act.** This legislation will help the United States maintain readiness in the face of future threats.

I believe that how our government spends its resources reflects our values, and smart investments that address domestic and global poverty are an indication of how our country lives up to the values it holds, including that of caring for neighbors in need.

Thank you for your consideration,
(Print Name & Address) _____