

January 10, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

America's children and families deserve our support. Last year's historic *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* decision by the Supreme Court cleared the way for greater protections for millions of unborn children and their mothers. As pro-life organizations who have long advocated for such a decision, we understand that the work of upholding the sanctity and dignity of life is far from over. Many mothers face significant health and financial challenges throughout pregnancy and into the early years of raising a child. We can, and should, do more as a nation to provide for their needs.

Parents from all walks of life are keenly aware of the financial challenges associated with raising a child. In 2022, the estimated cost of raising a child through the age of 17 was over \$300,000.¹ According to one recent poll, around 50 percent of parenting-age adults wish they had more children than they do.² When the New York Times asked parents in 2018 why they are having less children than their ideal number, a majority said childcare was too expensive, with around 44 percent simply saying they can't afford more children.³ Inflation has only exacerbated these challenges, leaving many parents in a daunting position, even as they courageously prepare to bring a new child into the world.

¹ Isabel V. Sawhill, Morgan Welch, et al. "It's Getting More Expensive to Raise Children, and Government Isn't Doing Much to Help." *Brookings*, 30 Aug. 2022, www.brookings.edu/articles/its-getting-more-expensive-to-raise-children-and-government-isnt-doing-much-to-help/.

² American Compass. "2021 Homebuilding Survey." *American Compass*. February 2021. https://americancompass.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/American-Compass_2021-Home-Building-Survey_Final.pdf

³ Miller, Claire Cain. "Americans Are Having Fewer Babies. They Told Us Why." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 5 July 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/07/05/upshot/americans-are-having-fewer-babies-they-told-us-why.html.

Supporting life means advocating for these mothers and children to have the resources they need to steward it. Americans understand this. That is why for over five years, there has been broad, bipartisan agreement around expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to provide additional resources to children and families. We write to reiterate our support for its further expansion and request that Congress prioritize expansion of the CTC in the upcoming funding package.

In our polarized times, few policy priorities both enjoy bipartisan agreement and promise to make a significant difference in the lives of millions of American children and their families. The CTC expansion is such a policy. We ask for your attention and prioritization of this important matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristan Hawkins
President, Students for Life Action

Roland C. Warren
President and CEO, Care Net

Terry Schilling
President, American Principles Project

Jon Schweppe
Director of Policy, American Principles Project

Patrick D. Purtill, Jr.
Director of Legislative Affairs, Faith and Freedom Coalition

Patrick T. Brown
Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center

Carlos Duran
President, National Hispanic Pastors Alliance

Eric Scheidler
Executive Director, Pro-Life Action League

Steven H. Aden
Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel, Americans United for Life

Kathryn Jean Lopez
Senior Fellow, National Review Institute

Bradley Mattes
President, Life Issues Institute

Kristen Day
Executive Director, Democrats for Life

Serrin M. Foster
President, Feminists for Life of America

Leah Libresco Sargeant
Other Feminisms