



FIRST FOCUS

CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vern Buchanan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Levin, Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Becerra, Chairman Buchanan, and Ranking Member Doggett:

I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal budget and policy decisions, to express our concerns about H.R. 4722 and H.R. 4724 and urge you to reject these bills.

H.R. 4722 would deny millions children access to the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Currently, immigrant parents who are ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN) pay their taxes using an Individual Identification Number (ITIN), and are able to claim the CTC and its refundable portion for qualifying children. By requiring a SSN, more than 5 million children living in low-income immigrant families, the vast majority of whom are U.S. Citizens, would be directly harmed. The CTC and the ACTC were designed to benefit children, and we are opposed to any change in eligibility that would undermine the best interest of children.

H.R. 4724 would result in a loss of critical services to millions of children and families. The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds state efforts to meet the needs of 11 million children. SSBG makes child care more affordable for the parents of over 3.7 million children, funds child abuse prevention and response efforts that protect 2 million children, and finances foster care for children victimized by abuse or neglect. These services are necessary to support families in achieving economic stability and protecting the physical safety and mental health of our nation's children and youth.

These two bills would have devastating effects for our nation's children and we strongly urge you to reject both H.R. 4722 and H.R. 4724. We look forward to working with you to improve the well-being of America's children and youth.

Sincerely,