



April 24, 2012

Dear Colleague:

We are contacting you today to ask you to join with others in the adoption community to try to save the adoption tax credit from extinction. As you know, the adoption tax credit is due to "sunset" at the end of this year unless Congress and the Administration act. In February the President proposed making the adoption tax credit permanent in the budget he submitted to Congress for fiscal year 2013. A bipartisan group of members of Congress also support making it permanent, but its fate is uncertain.

To ensure there is one strong, unified voice in support of the continuation and enhancement of the adoption tax credit, a group of adoption and foster care organizations have come together to form a national advocacy coalition, the Adoption Tax Credit Working Group. We are launching an effort called Save the Adoption Credit, and we want your organization to take part.

The mission and priorities of the Adoption Tax Credit Working Group are as follows:

Mission

The Adoption Tax Credit Working Group is a national collaboration of organizations and individuals uniting to support the cause of adoption by advocating for the adoption tax credit. We believe the adoption tax credit is an important resource to help children find forever families and make adoption affordable for all.

Priorities

The Adoption Tax Credit Working Group's specific priorities are an adoption tax credit that is:

Inclusive: Children, whether adopted from foster care, through intercountry adoption, or through private domestic adoption should be able to benefit from the adoption tax credit.

Permanent: The adoption tax credit should become a permanent part of the tax code to ensure continued support to those who bring children into families through adoption.

Refundable: The adoption tax credit should be refundable to ensure that families with moderate and lower incomes receive the full benefit of the credit.

Flat for Special Needs: All families who adopt a child with special needs should be eligible for a "flat" tax credit, meaning they can claim the maximum credit without documenting expenses. This distinction, which is already in current law, recognizes the fact that many of the expenses associated with adopting children with special needs show up after an adoption is finalized.

Give families who adopt the credit they deserve. www.adoptiontaxcredit.org

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If your organization agrees with that mission and those priorities, we urge you to join the Adoption Tax Credit Working Group. There is no cost; becoming a member only requires that you be willing to take part in future advocacy efforts. We expect that the effort to make the adoption tax credit permanent will last through this year and perhaps go into next year. Among other advocacy efforts, the Working Group will be sending letters to Members of Congress, preparing adoption tax credit background information for Congress and the media, issuing press releases, organizing meetings with Members of Congress in D.C. and home Congressional districts, and issuing calls to action as needed to the adoption community. We also hope to use this structure to keep everyone up to date on efforts by Congress to address this important issue.

Promoting Save The Adoption Tax Credit is easy! Simply ask your supporters to visit our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/AdoptionTaxCredit>), 'like' it and post a brief story on why the Adoption Tax Credit is important to families and children. We will be using the Save The Adoption Tax Credit Facebook page as our primary means of communicating our activity and most importantly, building a large and vocal constituency capable of influencing Congress.

To become a member of the Adoption Tax Credit Working Group, please contact Shari Cohey at the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, at shari@ccainstitute.org or (202) 544-8500.

For your information, we have attached a letter from a number of organizations in the adoption and foster care communities thanking the President for his support for the adoption tax credit and indicating that the adoption community is prepared to defend the adoption tax credit and fight for its continuation.

Thank you, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

The Adoption Tax Credit Working Group Executive Committee

Adopt America Network
American Academy of Adoption Attorneys
Christian Alliance for Orphans
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (*Working Group Secretariat*)
Joint Council on International Children's Services
National Council For Adoption
North American Council on Adoptable Children
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
ShowHope
Voice for Adoption

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