

#### Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Public Hearing: April 14, 2025

In Support of HB 7272 and HB 7273

Dear Co-Chair Senator Fonfara, Co-Chair Representative Horn, Ranking Member Senator Fazio, Ranking Member Representative Polletta, Vice Chair Senator Cabrera, Vice Chair Senator Miller, Vice Chair Representative Constantine, Vice Chair Representative Rader and members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee,

My name is Tida Infahsaeng, and I serve as the Senior Director of Advocacy and Partnerships at United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut (UWCWC). I am writing in strong support of HB 7272 and HB 7273.

As a proud member of both the CT Child Tax Credit Coalition and School Meals for All CT, we believe every child in Connecticut deserves the opportunity to thrive. That starts with access to the most fundamental building blocks: economic stability and nutritious food. Our shared goals — a fully refundable Child Tax Credit and universal nocost school meals — help ensure all children have what they need to grow, learn, and succeed, while also strengthening local economies and reducing burdens on working families.

#### Support for HB 7272 — The Connecticut Child Tax Credit

Thank you for your commitment to advancing a **permanent, fully refundable Child Tax Credit** — one of the most effective tools we have to reduce child poverty, support working families, and build a stronger state economy.

A \$600 per child refundable credit would deliver immediate relief to more than 550,000 children and 75% of families across the state. It's not just good policy — it's a smart investment, with an estimated 138% return for Connecticut's economy.

Connecticut is among the most expensive states to raise a family. According to the latest ALICE Report, a household with two adults, an infant, and a toddler must earn over \$9,400 per month to cover basic needs including \$1,450 for food, \$2,339 for child care, and \$1,150 for housing. Yet, unlike most states, Connecticut taxes personal income without adjusting for family size — an outdated, inequitable approach that further strains working families.

At UWCWC, we serve 27 towns, where 42% of households — over 336,000 individuals — live at or below the ALICE threshold. These are working families who cannot afford the basics despite being employed. For them, the Child Tax Credit isn't just helpful — it's essential.

In Fairfield and Southern Litchfield Counties, more than 60,000 households would benefit directly. That means more children with nutritious meals, safe housing, quality child care — and parents with the financial breathing room to plan for their future.

Enclosed with this testimony are personal stories from families in our region. I urge you to read their words. This policy is not just about numbers — it's about people and the kind of future we want for Connecticut's children.

#### Support for HB 7273 — Universal No-Cost School Meals

I also urge you to support HB 7273, which would ensure that no child in Connecticut goes hungry and every student is ready to learn.

#### IMPROVING LIVES IN -

**Greater Bridgeport** 10 Middle Street, Suite 1101 Bridgeport, CT 06504 301 Main Street, Suite 2-5 Danbury, CT 06810 Tel: 203.334.5106 Fax: 203.334.3297

**Northern Fairfield County** Tel: 203.792.5330 Fax: 203.967.9507

Southern Litchfield County 24 Bank Street, P.O. Box 29 New Milford, CT 06776 Tel: 860.354.8800

Stamford and Greater Norwalk 1150 Summer Street Stamford, CT 06905 Tel: 203.348.7711 Fax: 203.967.9507

www.unitedwaycwc.org



Universal no-cost school meals have been shown to reduce food insecurity, improve academic performance, and lower absenteeism, while eliminating stigma, shaming, and meal debt. According to the CDSE, every \$1 invested in child nutrition generates \$17 in economic activity — a strong return that benefits children, families, and communities alike.

No-cost school meals also provide critical economic relief to working families, especially ALICE families who fall into the gap between eligibility for free/reduced-price meals and the actual cost of living. These families are often left behind — forced to skip meals, accrue debt, or send children to school hungry.

For a family with two children, universal school meals can save approximately \$2,400 per year — funds that can instead go toward rent, child care, or medical bills. Like the Child Tax Credit, school meals strengthen both child well-being and household stability. Together, these policies form a strong foundation for a healthier, more equitable Connecticut.

By endorsing HB 7272 and HB 7273, we are investing in a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive and every family can meet their basic needs with dignity and stability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Tida Infahsaeng Senior Director of Advocacy and Partnerships United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut

#### **IMPROVING LIVES IN**

#### **Greater Bridgeport**

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855 Main Street, Floor 1 Bridgeport, CT 06604 301 Main Street, Suite 2-5 Danbury, CT 06810 24 Bank Street, P.O. Box 29 New Milford, CT 06776 1150 Summer Street Stamford, CT 06905 Tel: 860.354.8800

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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# **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

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#### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

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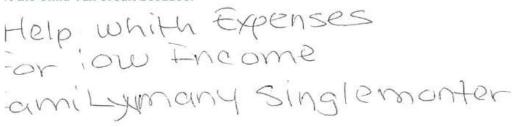
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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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### 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

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# **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

LAUREEN MATTHEWS

STAMFORD

rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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# 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

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rt the Child Tax Credit because:

ist familie out of poverty.



William B Hensley Stamford

rt the Child Tax Credit because:

Education is most important - no excuses for kids not to be in school

### 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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rt the Child Tax Credit because: Kids are expensive "an 't imagine how families are dealing with in Elaston.



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# 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Diana Abril Stomford CT



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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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# 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on. <u>Melissa Mendiela</u> <u>Stamford</u>

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# **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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# **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

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# 73% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT! Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on. Name: Yante Yante Town: Stamford

I support the Child Tax Credit because:

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Maritza Prozvely De La Cruz Aguilar Stanford

rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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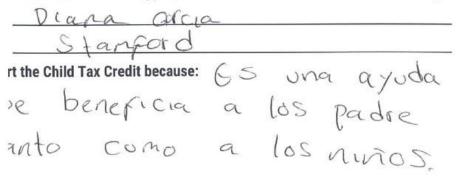
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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.



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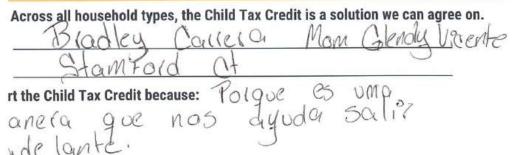
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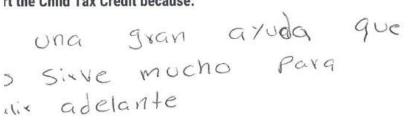
# **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**



Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

<u>Diana Morgles</u> Lilian Aquino Stamford

rt the Child Tax Credit because:



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Eully Tallaz STAMFOXO

Es una ayuda importanta Pasa la comunidad hispana

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Anthony Lopez - Glendy Lopez Stamford CT

rt the Child Tax Credit because: Nor 944da. a que los niños puedan fener mejor alimentacion-

# **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Victoria Robledo

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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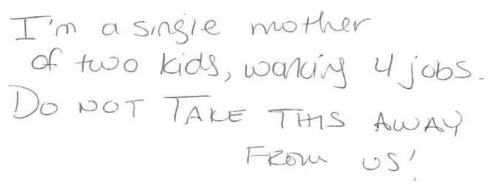
Barron Hernandez stamford. CT

rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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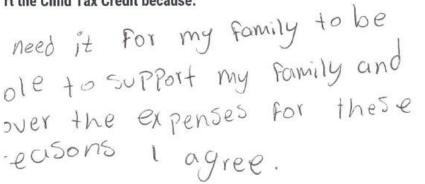
#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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rt the Child Tax Credit because: 1 de mucha ayuda para Lestros nirros.

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on. HILANO MARTINEZ Stamford CA

#### rt the Child Tax Credit because:



#### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Yahaira Azcona

Danbury CT

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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# **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Maria Salazar 06810 anbury

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#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

ALEXANDRA AYAVAGA

DANBURY CT 06810

#### rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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rt the Child Tax Credit because

Beneficio para las Familias

### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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icio y ayuda en economia las familias Ficio

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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### 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Morayma Rosario Danbuly

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

ELOria Gonzalez Danbury C.T.

rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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# 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Ines Sarmiento

Danbury

rt the Child Tax Credit because:

Peneficia y Ayuda a la Economia

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Bernardita Castro

Donbury

rt the Child Tax Credit because:

eficia y ayuda a la Economia

# 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on. Daniela Barreto

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rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on. Martina Calvillo

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Danbury CT

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### **3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!**

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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### 3% OF CT RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT!

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on. 100

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#### Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Jessira Lasmay

#### rt the Child Tax Credit because:

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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rt the Child Tax Credit because: wides essential financial support or families, helping them with

Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

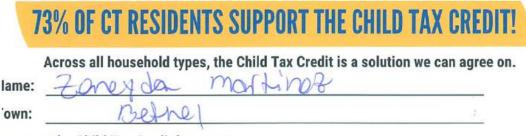
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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

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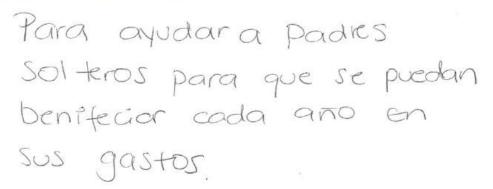
support the Child Tax Credit because:

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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on. Belen Fiallo New Town

#### rt the Child Tax Credit because:



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Across all household types, the Child Tax Credit is a solution we can agree on.

Emylly SILVO New milford The child Tax Credit because: I help formities to Support their kido. Suide for Something they might need: Dare going throw a lot of changes ght now, and lots of formilies are spheling foricially. All help is 'you them.