



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

December 19, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator:

I write on behalf of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) regarding the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*. Throughout the tax reform negotiations CCUSA has urged you to adopt a tax reform proposal which prioritizes individuals working their way out of poverty, fosters family economic stability, promotes a culture of charitable giving and promotes access to affordable housing.

Episcopal Liaison
The Most Reverend
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Robert McCann

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President & CEO
Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD

While we welcome some of the last minute efforts to improve the bill, it continues to prioritize a \$1 trillion cut in corporate taxes while failing to make the investments in low-income and working class families which could have provided real and lasting change. Investments such as expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, Low Income Housing Tax Credit and an above the line charitable deduction have long had bipartisan support and for a fraction of the cost of the corporate tax cut would have allowed our country to make meaningful improvements in low-income communities. As it stands, the bill fails to make these investments and provides only small and temporary relief for low-income and working families.

CCUSA stands ready to work with you to make these meaningful investments. As you move forward, we urge you to reject efforts to use the deficit created by this bill as a pretext for even greater cuts to programs for low-income communities. Instead we urge you to address the shortcomings in this bill and recommit yourselves to the bipartisan solutions needed to lift people out of poverty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Donna Markham, OP.".

Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD
President and CEO
Catholic Charities USA

