Name: Melinda Longtin
Title: Support the Child Tax Credit
Organization or Agency:
Topic: HB05986 - AAE A REFUNDABLE CHILD TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX.
Supports

Testimony:

Hello, everyone! My name is Melinda and I live in Stafford Springs.

My husband and I waited until we were sure we would be economically stable to start a family. Our plan was that my husband would work virtually while also watching the baby. I would continue to work full-time as a social worker, helping others navigate mental health crises and associated economic resource needs.

Summer arrived. Nothing went as we had planned. My husband's employer increased his in-person expectations when I was a month away from the end of my maternity leave. Since my husband would no longer be able to watch our daughter, we had to make a new plan.
My job requires recurrent, mandated overtime; rotating shifts. I calculated childcare costs for that versus my salary and went "uh-oh". I would not be able to return to work and afford care for my baby. I had no choice but to quit, meaning I would both lose my income and not qualify for government financial assistance programs. I've often wondered how many moms and dads go through this with their first child.

I want to return to being a social worker. It has been difficult to find jobs that pay enough given my childcare needs, but I also struggle to pay my bills now. Having a child should not destroy a family's ability to pay for basic necessities. The truth is, no amount of mutual aid groups or supplies from local nonprofits can perform the function that the Child Tax Credit can: direct cash to pay for my child's needs. Please support this important legislation, so families like mine and those I have served can provide healthy futures for our children. Thank you.