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# Letter Urging Congressional Leaders to Extend TANF Program

November 24, 2020

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
2309 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1011 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Wyden, Chairman Neal, and Ranking Member Brady,

As a coalition of membership organizations representing the nation's state legislatures, counties, cities, and state and local workforce and health and human services agencies, we are writing to urge you to provide a one-year extension to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, effective through December 31, 2021. TANF provides essential funding to help state and local governments deliver an array of services that help families with low-income achieve economic mobility. This support is of the utmost importance as our nation continues to grapple with the long-term economic and health impacts of the pandemic, which disproportionately affect low-income families and have resulted in state and local budget shortfalls.

Congress last reauthorized TANF in 2005 and has renewed the program through a series of short-term extensions that have largely left the program unchanged. Most recently, Congress passed the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 8337) extending TANF through December 11, 2020. This approach to policymaking has hindered efforts to modernize TANF in ways that lay the tracks to help people meet their full potential, talents, and skills. TANF modernization is needed to help our nation respond to the deeply rooted, multilayered barriers to economic well-being faced by millions in our country. During this one-year extension, we will work to build consensus for bipartisan policy reform that enables TANF agencies to best support the economic mobility and well-being of families.

There is much work ahead and we stand as allies and partners to advance outcomes that work. As we continue this work, we call on Congress at this pivotal time in our economic recovery to authorize a one-year TANF extension so that families can continue to access essential services. Thank you for the opportunity to bring this important matter to your attention.

Should you have questions or need further information, please contact Matthew Lyons at [mlyons@aphsa.org](mailto:mlyons@aphsa.org).  
Sincerely,

Tracy Wareing Evans  
President and CEO  
American Public Human Services Association

Matthew D. Chase  
Executive Director  
National Association of Counties

Tim Storey  
Executive Director  
National Conference of State Legislatures

Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The United States Conference of Mayors

Clarence E. Anthony  
Executive Director and CEO  
National League of Cities

Marc A. Ott  
Executive Director  
International City/County Management Association

David Adkins  
Executive Director/CEO  
Council of State Governments

Claudia Tuck  
President  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators

Chris Morrill  
Executive Director  
Government Finance Officers Association

Ron Painter  
President and CEO  
National Association of Workforce Boards

Scott B. Sanders  
President and CEO  
National Association of State Workforce Agencies

cc:

Rep. Danny Davis, Chairman  
Sen. Rob Portman, Chairman  
Rep. Jackie Walorski, Ranking Member  
Sen. Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member  
Rep. Terri Sewell  
Sen. Bill Cassidy  
Rep. Brad Wenstrup  
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto  
Rep. Dwight Evans  
Rep. Stephanie Murphy  
Rep. Jimmy Gomez  
Sen. Michael Bennett  
Rep. Judy Chu  
Sen. James Lankford  
Rep. Ron Estes  
Sen. Robert P. Casey Jr.  
Rep. Gwen Moore  
Sen. Todd Young  
Rep. Tom Reed

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TANF Extension Coalition Letter

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