

GROUNDWORK ACTION AND DATA FOR PROGRESS FIND CTC AND EITC EXPANSIONS BROADLY POPULAR, REDUCE POVERTY, BENEFIT TENS OF MILLIONS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2021

Imagine two simple policy changes that, taken together, would lift millions of Americans out of poverty, drive the child poverty rate down to historic lows, and put money into the pockets of those families who have been hurt most by the COVID-19 crisis. If you think that sounds like something policymakers should do, new polling shows that the vast majority of Americans agree with you.

The two policy changes, increasing the Child Tax Credit and expanding the Earned Income Tax credit, shouldn't be controversial; they both have strong bipartisan support. And they are both included in the American Rescue Plan currently being debated in Congress. Now, policymakers need to listen to people across the country and get them over the finish line as quickly as possible.

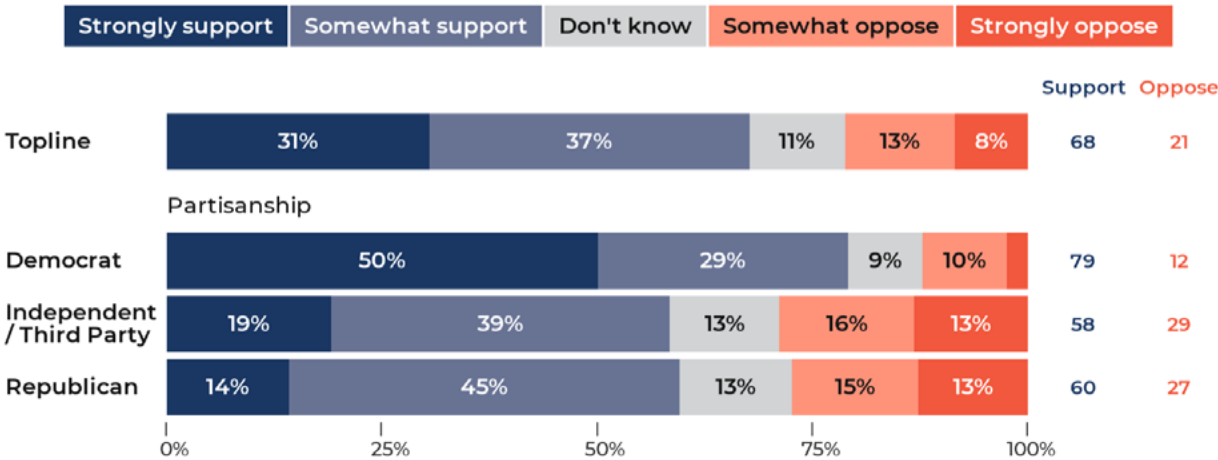
CHILD TAX CREDIT REDUCES POVERTY AND IS EXTREMELY POPULAR

According to data from the Columbia Center on Poverty and Social Policy, the proposed increase in the Child Tax Credit alone would lift 6.7 million people out of poverty this year, including almost 4 million children. It would drive the child poverty rate down to 8.1 percent and the Black poverty rate to 14.5 percent, both historic lows, and reduce the Black/white poverty ratio to below 2 for the first time since we began collecting poverty statistics. This CTC expansion is also extremely popular with the public.

Voters Support Expanding The Child Tax Credit

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing **expanding the Child Tax Credit** so that it provides \$3,000 per year for each child under the age of 17 – and \$3,600 for young children under 6 years of age.

Would you support or oppose this proposal?



According to polling conducted over the weekend by Data for Progress, 68 percent of Americans would support increasing the child tax credit to \$3,000 per child per year (or \$3,600 per child six and under), including 60 percent of Republicans. Notably, the question did not specify that this increase would expire at the end of the year or tie it to the pandemic recession.

CHILDLESS WORKER EITC EXPANSION IS ALSO EXTREMELY POPULAR, BENEFITS TENS OF MILLIONS

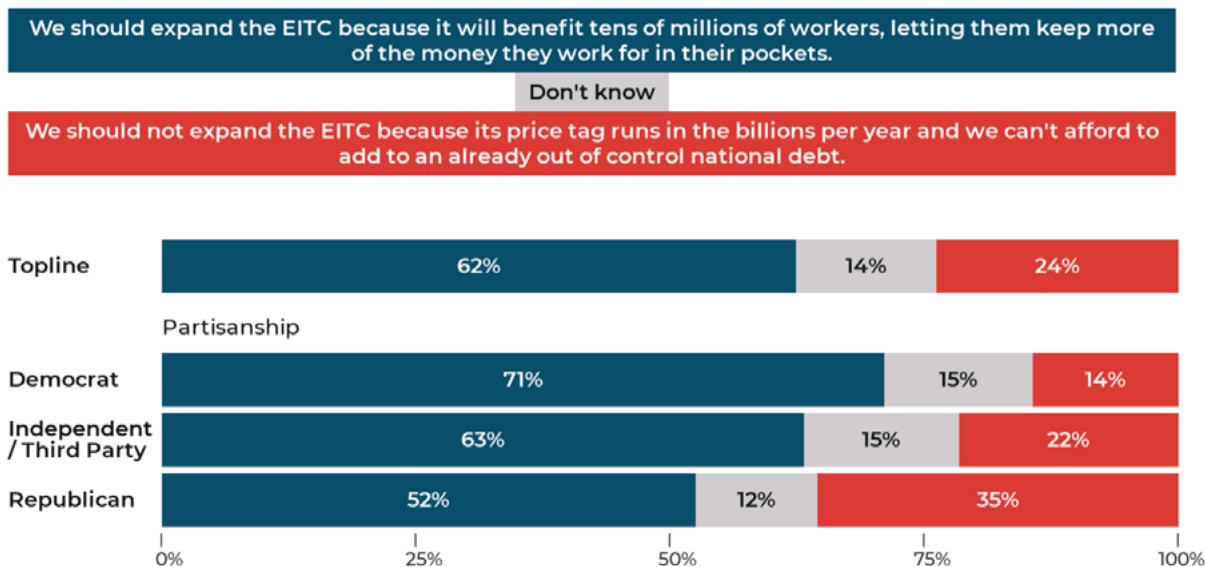
While the childless worker EITC would pull a smaller number of people across the poverty line than the CTC expansion, it would provide real benefits to 38.4 million people, either directly or because they live with someone who would receive the boost.

Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for childless workers, like the CTC, is very popular with the public.

Voters Support Expanding The Earned Income Tax Credit

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to increase the income that lower-income workers receive, making sure that no one's tax bill pushes them below the federal poverty line.

When thinking about this proposal, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



Feb 12 to Feb 13, 2021 survey of 1234 likely voters

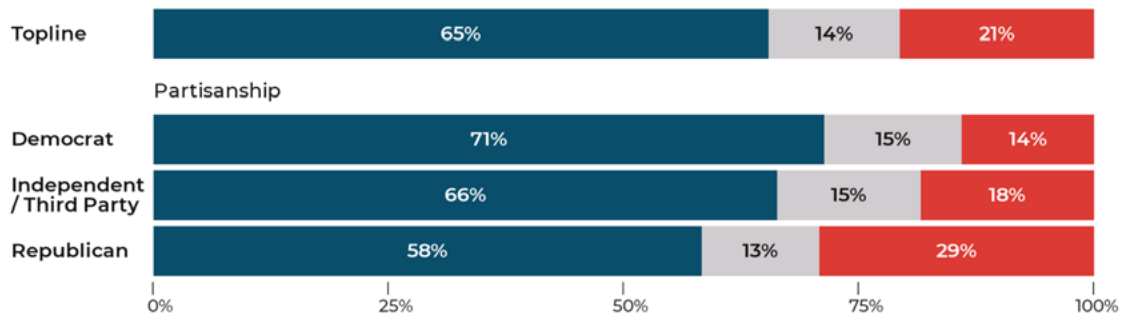
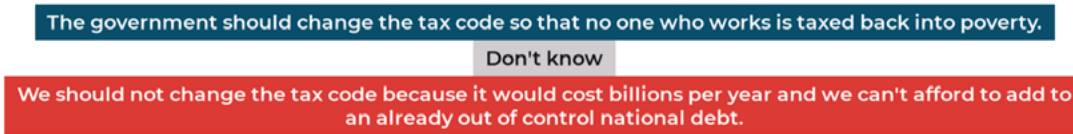


When asked which statement came closer to their view, 62 percent of respondents, including more than half of Republicans, chose “We should expand the EITC because it will benefit tens of millions of workers, letting them keep more of the money they work for in their pockets” while only 24 percent of respondents chose “we should not expand the EITC because its price tag runs in the billions per year and we can’t afford to add to an already out-of-control national debt.”

A similar share of respondents (65 percent, including 58 percent of Republicans) chose “The government should change the tax code so that no one who works is taxed back into poverty” over “We should not change the tax code because it would cost billions per year and we can’t afford to add to an already out-of-control national debt,” which garnered only 21 percent support.

Voters Support Changing The Tax Code So That No One Is Taxed Back Into Poverty

Currently, some childless adults who work end up being taxed below the federal poverty line. When thinking about this, which statement comes closer to your view?



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When respondents are reminded that Republicans have previously supported the EITC but that it is now primarily a Democratic priority and exposed to current Republican messaging that the expansion will cost too much and leave some low-income people paying nothing in taxes, 59 percent of respondents still support the expansion.

