

**JUNE 30, 2003**

**HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER PELOSI  
JOINS SCHAKOWSKY AND COLLEAGUES  
IN CHICAGO TO PUSH FOR CHILD TAX  
CREDIT BENEFIT TO WORKING FAMILIES**

**CHICAGO, IL -House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and members of the Illinois delegation today called on Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) to provide 378,000 Illinois working and military families with an extension of the child tax credit when Congress returns following the Forth of July holiday. Nationally, 12 million children of working and military families were denied the child tax credit, including 674,000 in Illinois.**

At a news conference today at Erie Neighborhood House, Leader Pelosi and the members joined working families from Illinois who were denied a child tax credit increase by Republicans in Congress.

Last month, Republicans removed a provision that would have provided an increase in the child credit to working and military families making between \$10,500 and \$26,625 during final closed-door negotiations on the tax bill recently signed by President Bush.

After it was reported in the press, and following Democratic pressure, the Senate passed H.R. 1308 by a vote of 94 to 2 to increase the child tax credit to working families. However, House Republicans insisted on passing an \$80 billion political ploy designed to sabotage the bipartisan Senate effort to help the children of working and military families this year.

Below is the statement of U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, Chief Deputy Whip and a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee:

**STATEMENT OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JAN SCHAKOWSKY (D-IL)  
ERIE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE  
JUNE 30, 2003**

I am honored to stand here today with our Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and my colleagues from the House of Representatives. We are here to express our commitment to working families, families who have earned our praise and our respect.

Every day millions of families send their children to childcare centers like Erie Neighborhood House so they can go to work, earn a living and provide for their loved ones. Families at Erie House work hard and play by the rules, their median household income is less than \$14,000, and 42% of families have an income between \$10,000 and

**\$15,000. And like many families across the country, the breadwinners are often home health aides, teacher aides, childcare provides or security guards.**

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**Christin Howard is a proud mother of a nine-year son and is a home health care worker who takes care of our seniors. Sharon Pennington has four children and works with the Chicago Police department as a crossing guard. Guadalupe Narvaez has three beautiful children and works very hard to take care of her children. As a day care teacher at the Howard Area Community Center in Chicago, which is my District, she takes good care of other people's children, too. She cares for other people's children as if they were her own.**

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**Sadly, those families do not matter much to the Republican leadership. For all of their hard work and dedication, those families here today along with 6.5 million working and military families got the short end of the Republican tax cut stick. They were denied a child tax credit of few hundred dollars by the Republicans so that millionaires can get their dividend tax cut.**

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**To make room for tax cuts for the Bush class, Republicans denied giving tax relief to 12 million children from families making between \$10, 500 and \$26,625. This was done in secret, behind closed doors; no Democrats were involved in the negotiations. Vice President Cheney who negotiated that deal that cut working families out will reap about \$116,000 a year from the dividend and capital gains provisions in the tax bill. But nearly 674,000 children or one in four children in Illinois who would have qualified for this tax relief get nothing.**

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**One million of these kids are the children of veterans or active members of the armed forces. Is this how President Bush and Republican leaders in Congress show their appreciation for families that risk their lives to serve their country?**

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**The decision to eliminate tax relief for working families showed the true colors of the Bush Administration and its friends in Congress. It was unfair and un-American, but it was typical of the radical House Republican leadership.**

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**The Republican leader in the House of Representatives Tom DeLay said after the Senate acted in shame and passed a bill to give these families a tax break: "It ain't going to happen." He later said Republicans were too busy to deal with this issue before the 4th of July. Whatever the excuse, Republicans can't hide from the truth. They decided to take care of the millionaires first instead of taking care of workers who look after, teach, and protect our children.**

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**That is why we are here today to be the voices for Christin, Guadalupe, Sharon, Gladys, Patricia and the 6.5 million families with 12 million children who deserve a child tax credit. Democrats in Congress will not rest until families get the help they need and deserve. Our Democratic Leader in the House, Nancy Pelosi, has made it clear to Speaker Hastert and to President Bush that action must be taken immediately to provide those working and military families with tax relief. Twelve million children, including**

**one million in military families, are counting on us.**

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**At every turn the Bush Administration and Republican leaders have resisted our efforts, but we are here are here to say that we are not going to stop until these families are treated with the same respect and dignity by President Bush, Speaker Hastert, and the Republican Congress as millionaires across this country.**