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Shaping policy that puts children first

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Earned Income Tax Credit threatened

TOPEKA – The Earned Income Tax Credit, which helps working families fill the gap between income and expenses, is facing elimination under two tax plans being considered by the Kansas Legislature.

The Internal Revenue Service has declared today EITC Awareness Day, calling the credit “potentially life-changing” for taxpayers across the country.

“The EITC is a financial boost for Kansans who are still struggling in a tough economic climate,” said Shannon Cotsoradis, president and CEO of Kansas Action for Children. “More than 90 percent of Kansas’ EITC dollars go to families with children, and maintaining this tax credit is critical to ensuring that more children do not fall below the poverty line.”

The EITC is a refundable income tax credit for low-income working families. It provides an incentive for work and allows parents to pay for basic necessities like housing, utilities and food. Studies estimate that if the EITC were eliminated, an additional 4,000 Kansas children would fall into poverty.

The state EITC is eliminated under both Gov. Sam Brownback’s and the House Republicans’ tax proposals.

“The EITC is not a handout,” said Cotsoradis. “Parents who receive this benefit have earned it by going to work and providing for their children. Family economic security is a cornerstone of a prosperous state, and retaining the EITC is fundamental part of the economic security of hard-working Kansans and their children.”

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