

United Way of Northern New Jersey

P.O. Box 1948 | Morristown, NJ 07962 | tel: 973.993.1160, x103
John.Franklin@UnitedWayNNJ.org | UnitedWayNNJ.org



John B. Franklin | Chief Executive Officer

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the 1.2 million **ALICE** and poverty-level households in our state, United Way of Northern New Jersey strongly urges you to consider championing a move to save critical Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) provisions this fall.

You know **ALICE** – **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. These are your constituents who get up each day and head off to one or more jobs but come home unsure of whether they can afford dinner on the table or costly prescription medications or quality child care for their toddler.

You also know how the EITC is the nation's top pro-work, anti-poverty policy, improving life for millions of children who have a better chance at graduating college and making a stronger living once they enter the workforce.

If current credit provisions expire in 2017, more than 200,000 New Jersey families and more than 400,000 children would be negatively affected. Also included in these numbers are some 25,000 New Jersey military families and their 13,000 children.

Let us introduce you to one such family. Nora is a divorced mother of three and works two jobs as a counselor at homes for adults with disabilities. Despite working nights, overnights, and weekends – sometimes even working 14 consecutive days – she struggles to make ends meet.

Nora is at risk of losing the nearly \$4,700 she receives in EITC and CTC if today's credits are not extended beyond 2017.

What does Nora use this money for? Her refund goes to pay for basic necessities – food, utilities or car repairs. Without these credits, if Nora faced just one emergency she could quickly find herself spiraling into poverty. And we all know how it is far harder to rise out of poverty than to stay afloat.

By supporting these preventative measures, our nation is saved the much larger cost of playing catch-up in social services, education, and criminal justice.

ALICE works hard and plays by the rules. We hope you agree that ALICE should also be able to make ends meet. Can we count on you as an advocate for ALICE families? We look forward to an opportunity to speak with you and your staff about making these tax credits permanent this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Franklin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Franklin, CEO

P.S. To learn more about Nora and United Way's work to help ALICE see the enclosed story or visit www.UnitedWayNNJ.org/Nora.