



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3000

WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG • FAX 202-541-3339

June 15, 2021

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), we write in support of the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2021 (S. 1156 and H.R. 3031). This legislation makes the full benefits of the adoption tax credit available to lower-income families, thereby increasing opportunities for children to be adopted.

As St. John Paul II stated, “To adopt a child is a great work of love. When it is done, much is given, but much is also received. It is a true exchange of gifts.” Adoption is a powerful way to welcome and respect life. It allows families to grow and children to grow up in a loving home. The USCCB has consistently and unequivocally supported laws and programs that encourage adoption and support families, including the adoption tax credit.

The adoption tax credit provides important assistance to make adoption less financially burdensome for families. However, it currently excludes many lower-income families from these benefits. Making the credit refundable would help adoptive families most in need of this assistance and promote equity among those at different income levels. It would also encourage the adoption of more children from the domestic foster care system. We urge you to co-sponsor this important legislation that enables more low-income families to afford permanent adoption. We stand ready to work with you to pass the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2021 and to support adoptive families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul S. Coakley".

Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice
and Human Development

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph F. Naumann".

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Konderla".

Most. Rev. David A. Konderla
Bishop of Tulsa
Chairman, Subcommittee for the Promotion
and Defense of Marriage