



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Contact your U.S. Senators and your U.S. Representative during their August Recess!

Call, organize a Zoom meeting, have an in-person meeting, or attend a town hall meeting. Don't be shy about calling to ask questions and/or learn about town hall meetings. Please be cognizant of safety during COVID. Here are our U.S. Senators' websites and the site for finding your U.S. Representatives:

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin: [www.baldwin.senate.gov/](http://www.baldwin.senate.gov/)

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson: [ronjohnson.senate.gov/](http://ronjohnson.senate.gov/)

Directory for U.S. House of Representatives: [www.house.gov/representatives](http://www.house.gov/representatives)  
(plug in your Zip Code to find your Representative and website)



### The Expanded Child Tax Credit Helps Children

- Standing with my neighbor is who is in need of food and healthcare is part of my call as a Christian.
- The Child Tax Credit expansion is predicted to reduce child poverty by 30 - 50% in the United States. Our country has never had a fall in child poverty that is greater than 10% in a single year.
- This expanded credit has a particular benefit to children of color. This expanded credit is predicted to cut childhood poverty for Black children by 52%. Additionally, this expanded tax credit will lift 1.7 million Latinx children out of poverty, and 4 million Latinx children will be brought closer to being out of poverty.
- About 35 - 40 million households will receive the CTC benefit, which will directly help about 65 million kids. In **Wisconsin**, an estimated 1.2 million children—92%—will be impacted by the tax credit and 46,000 will be lifted out of poverty.
- As opposed to the previous Child Tax Credit, this expanded CTC is refundable, which means that every child in poverty can receive the full amount, no matter their household income.

#### Advocacy Asks

- We support this expanded Child Tax Credit in its entirety and would like Congress to permanently reduce childhood poverty by extending this new Child Tax Credit indefinitely.
- We support continuing to make this tax credit fully refundable to help children who experience deep poverty.
- We support the current CTC expansion's accessibility, including to children who come from mixed- status families and children who are 17 years of age. We also support the

infrastructure that reduces barriers to filing and receiving CTC payments. We encourage Congress to make permanent these policies and practices that make benefits readily available to as many low income children as possible.

- We support permanently increasing the tax credit amount from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600 per child under the age of 6 and \$3,000 per child from aged 6 -17.

### **Policy Changes to the Child Tax Credit**

- Increases the credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600 for children under 6 and \$3,000 for children between the ages of 6-17
- Children aged 17 are now eligible for the CTC for the first time.
- The expanded credit is fully refundable, meaning they are not tied to a family's tax liability. This means families who owe little to no taxes can still be eligible for the full refund.
- Mixed status families are eligible for the CTC as long as the children have a Social Security Number! If a parent of caregiver is undocumented, they will need an ITIN number to claim the benefits on behalf of their children.
- Claiming the CTC will not affect anyone's immigration status.
- The first half of the CTC payment will now be disbursed automatically in monthly installments until 2022, while the second half will be given in one lump sum after next year's tax deadline.



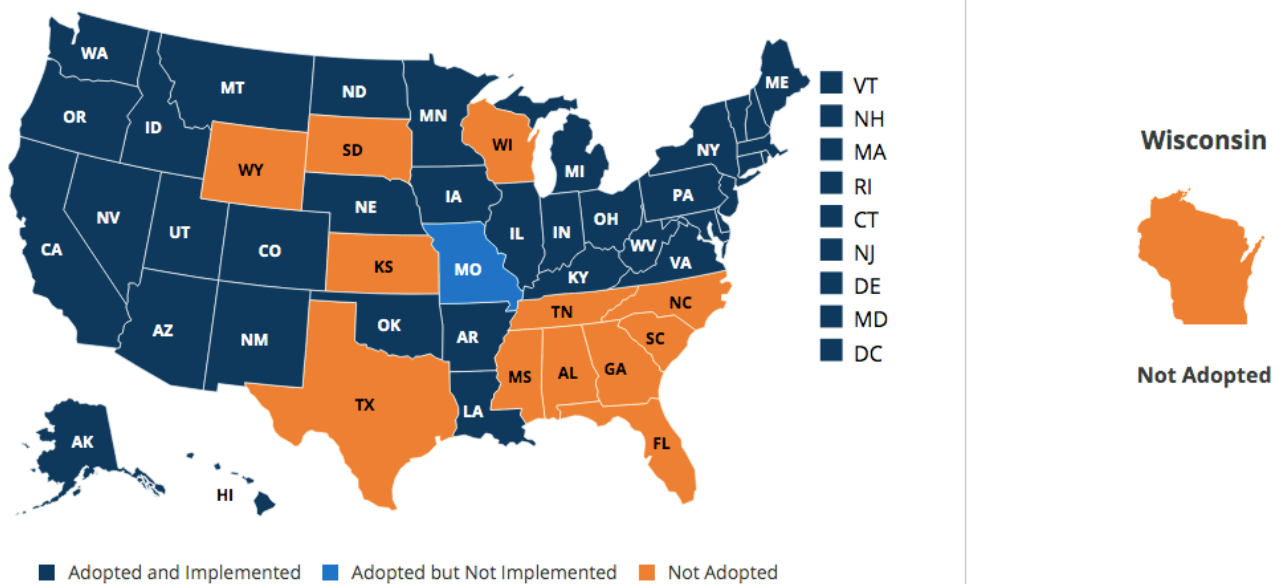
## **Medicaid Expansion**

The Medicaid Saves Lives Act would expand health care coverage for individuals in the 12 states that have not accepted Medicaid expansion. If passed into law, the act would direct the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to create a federal Medicaid look-alike program, which would provide the same full, essential benefits of Medicaid, but run and administered at the federal level. Individuals at 138% of the poverty level may include those already enrolled in marketplace plans under the Affordable Care Act.



- Currently, Wisconsin's BadgerCare (Medicaid) covers people who are at 100% of the federal poverty level. If you are an individual earning more than \$12,800 per year, for example, you do not qualify (Federal Poverty Guidelines). Expanding BadgerCare to people at 138% of the poverty level would extend comprehensive health and dental insurance to about 91,000 additional Wisconsinites working low wage jobs.
- We are one of the 12 states that has refused to receive federal dollars to expand Medicaid.
- Via the Medicaid Saves Lives Act, we have an opportunity to provide quality, affordable health care for over four million additional Americans, including about 91,000 Wisconsinites (more than half in Wisconsin are parents), in low wage jobs.
- It is great that the American Rescue Plan is temporarily filling the gaps of health care coverage for many low income workers enrolled in the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Let's put federal legislation in place to better ensure people have quality health care now and beyond the pandemic.

- BadgerCare is comprehensive and includes dental care. Many low wage earners sacrifice taking care of their teeth, which can lead to long-term dental and health problems.
- Across these 12 states, the Americans who are most harmed by this inaction from state leaders are people of color: 60 percent of people in the coverage gap are Black, Hispanic, Asian, or Pacific Islander.
- Medicaid Saves Lives Act would require no additional federal offsets. Funding was already budgeted under the Affordable Care Act.
- Medicaid Saves Lives Act will save Wisconsin money. Right now, without Medicaid expansion, federal dollars pay 59% and Wisconsin pays the other 41% for BadgerCare for everyone currently enrolled. If we had taken the Medicaid expansion, we would only be paying 10% of the cost for everyone currently enrolled plus individuals earning up to 138% of the poverty level. This would have saved Wisconsin money. However, under the federal plan, 100% of the costs would be covered by federal tax dollars, saving Wisconsin and the other 11 states even more state money.
- By not accepting federal funding to expand Medicaid under the ACA, Wisconsin has missed out on billions in federal funding since the beginning of 2014. This obstruction has meant the refusal of \$1.6 billion in federal funding for the next two years.
- Wisconsinites have been paying into Medicaid expansion with our federal dollars, which have benefited all states except the 12 states that have refused the expansion.
- Please support the federal bill, Medicaid Saves Lives Act.
- It is time to expand BadgerCare and Medicaid in the other 11 states.



**Primary resources for Medicaid Expansion:** Institute for Research on Poverty, Public Television, and Kids Forward

**Primary resources on the Child Tax Credit:** Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Center for American Progress, and The White House

**Find more information at the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) at [www.loppw.org](http://www.loppw.org)** For expanded info on this particular resource, go to Resources, Reflections & Tools and click on Hunger