February 11, 2014

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Opposition to Child Tax Credit Restrictions in S. 1963

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Hispanic Education Coalition (HEC), which unites more than 20 organizations dedicated to improving educational opportunities and outcomes for the more than 54 million Latinos living in the United States and Puerto Rico, we strongly urge you to vote against any and all Child Tax Credit restrictions to S. 1963. HEC strongly opposes any proposal, such as those based in whole or in part on Senator Ayotte’s S. 1977, which would deny eligible low-income working families with children access to the Child Tax Credit because they use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

Over 80% of the families affected by such changes to the Child Tax Credit would be Latino. Currently more than 6 million Latino children live in poverty, and such restrictions would harm countless Latino children.

The purpose of the Child Tax Credit is to lift children out of poverty. Restricting the Child Tax Credit would needlessly punish low-income children, and put them at greater risk of hunger and hardship. Again, the Hispanic Education Coalition urges you to vote No on any proposal that would restrict access to the Child Tax Credit. If for some reason Child Tax Credit restrictions were to pass, HEC asks that the cost savings go to education programs that benefit Latino children.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the HEC co-chairs: Adam Fernandez of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, at afernandez@maldef.org, or Luis Torres of the League of United Latin American Citizens, at latorres@lulac.org.

Sincerely,

Adam Fernandez
HEC Co-Chair
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Luis Torres
HEC Co-Chair
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)