March 5, 2024

Dear Senator,

On behalf of Nemours Children's Health, thank you for your leadership on the Senate Finance Committee to advance important health care policy and tax issues under your jurisdiction as well as your commitment to protecting our most vulnerable children. We are writing today to underscore the important role that the federal child tax credit plays in improving the lives of millions of children and families and urge you to consider critical expansions of the Child Tax Credit as part of the Committee's work this year.

Nemours Children's Health is one of the nation's largest multistate pediatric health systems, which includes two freestanding children's hospitals and a network of more than 70 primary and specialty care practices. Nemours Children's seeks to transform the health of children by adopting a holistic health model that utilizes innovative, safe, and high-quality care, while also caring for the health of the whole child beyond medicine. Nemours Children's also powers Nemours KidsHealth.org, a pioneer and leader in pediatric health content that is visited by nearly 200 million people a year.

No other factor has a greater impact on the life trajectory of a child than poverty. Evidence has revealed the profound impact experiencing poverty has on child health and social outcomes, including developmental delays, chronic illness, and toxic stress. Since its establishment and subsequent expansions in recent years, the Child Tax Credit has been effective in decreasing child poverty rates. Future expansions and improvements have the potential to further support the country's lowest income families.

Nemours strongly supports proposals to extend and improve the Child Tax Credit to lift additional children out of poverty and, in turn, improve child health outcomes. Expanding the Child Tax Credit to meaningfully reduce childhood poverty can help ensure the next generation of children can achieve better health and well-being, and ultimately thrive. The importance of these policies cannot be overstated.

Thank you for your commitment to this issue. Please don't hesitate to reach out to <u>Daniella.Gratale@nemours.org</u> or <u>Casey.Osgood@nemours.org</u> with questions.

Sincerely,

Kara Odom Walker, MD, MPH, MSHS EVP, Chief Population Health Officer

Nemours Children's Health