

EAST BAY TIMES

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East Bay Times Letters to the Editor for Sept. 21, 2023

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Country can't afford not to renew CTC

Re: "[State keeps title as having nation's highest poverty rate](#)" (Page A6, Sept. 15).

California leads the nation in technology, agriculture, entertainment — and poverty.

More than one in 10 Californians experienced poverty in the United States in 2022, according to newly released Census data. Among them, children saw the worst increases — child poverty levels more than doubled from the previous year.

In 2021, the Expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) was passed as a part of the American Rescue Plan and massively curbed child poverty. In a decision that children and families in poverty now bear the brunt of, Congress did not renew the Expanded CTC after 2021.

While some members of Congress ask how we can afford such a policy, I ask them this — how can we afford to ignore important and vulnerable members of our community?

As Californians, we are no strangers to leading the charge. I call on our California U.S. Congress members to elevate this issue and fight for all families and children.

Danica Berry *San Francisco*

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