**Op-Ed Template = 400 Words**

**Headline:**

**Create a permanent child tax credit to make CT the family-friendliest state**

by [**[INSERT**](https://ctmirror.org/author/lisa-tepper-bates/) **NAME]**

[INSERT DATE]

**Opening Paragraph: State Your Case**

Gov. Ned Lamont set an important goal for our state: making Connecticut the most family- friendly state in America. We agree that it’s time to take action to invest in our families. Creating a permanent, fully refundable Connecticut Child Tax Credit (CTC) of $600 per child is an important, high-impact step to support our families.

**Supporting Content:**

* Relevant Facts:
  + Our state economy has suffered with more than 100,000 job openings persistently unfillable for months.
  + Our working-age population is shrinking: the most recent census report showed that between 2000 and 2022, our working-age population (people between 20 and 49) fell by 5.6 percent.
  + A permanent CTC would help keep working-aged people (usually those with young children) here in CT and help draw new young families to our state to bolster our workforce.
  + Raising a child in Connecticut is more expensive than almost anywhere else in the country.
  + We consistently rank among the top ten most expensive states for housing, and among the five most expensive states for childcare.
  + This economic stress falls disproportionately on women and families of color: 57% of Connecticut’s Black households, 63% of Hispanic, and 73% of single-female headed households with children struggle at or below the United Ways’ of Connecticut ALICE (Asset -Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) threshold of the income needed to live in Connecticut, based on real local cost data.
  + Connecticut families’ budgets are further stretched given recent and substantial reductions in federal benefits.
  + From July to December 2021, the now-expired enhanced federal Child Tax Credit provided most low- and middle-income households payments of up to $3,600 per child.
  + The 2021 enhanced federal Child and Dependent Care Credit, which provided a fully refundable tax credit of up to $4,000 per child, was not renewed.
* Local Stories – Why does it matter to YOUR community?
  + Tell a story relevant to your town.
  + Pull from [local resident feedback](https://alice.ctunitedway.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Local-Resident-Feedback-Public.xlsx) about why the CT CTC matters to them.

**Closing Content/Call to Action:**

It’s time to create a permanent Child Tax Credit in Connecticut to support our families and children and to make a sound investment to grow our workforce. It will pay dividends for years to come.