

## Letter to the editor: Federal financial lifelines important

May 8, 2021

**E**ditor:

I have a great interest in how my tax dollars are spent and so I turn to Congressional Representative Elise Stefanik and ask her to lead her Republican colleagues in support of the Earned Income Tax Credit as well as the Child Tax Credit. Tax and housing policy can cut child poverty over 50%. With housing and food security, children do better in school and are healthier. The EITC and CTC are financial lifelines for families working in low-wage jobs. Together, they lifted 7.5 million Americans above the poverty line in 2019. Unfortunately, an estimated 27 million children in low-income families do not receive the full CTC because their parents' earnings are too low. Expansion of SNAP (food stamps) and tax credits will go a long way to help people lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

I feel really happy when I hear from my friends how Section 8 vouchers or tax credits have made the difference in being housed or homeless, able to buy nutritious food for their kids, have some breath and space in their lives.

I support a permanent expansion of EITC, CTC and SNAP in upcoming tax or economic recovery legislation.

Finally, I want to thank the congresswoman for her support of funding global nutrition programs in our foreign aid budget.

**Susan Oehser, Bakers Mills**

