

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4333

Support Tax Relief for Our Grandparents

Co-sponsor legislation to provide tax relief for grandparents taking care of their grandchildren

ENDORSED BY: *Latinos for a Secure Retirement, National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, WISERWomen, Caring Across Generations and Generations United*

Dear Colleague:

The definition of a “family” has changed over the years. Now more than ever, a grandparent’s role has expanded to include acting as a caregiver in many homes in our communities. How many of us have seen the tireless efforts of grandparents supplementing parents as caregivers in many families? I certainly did firsthand when I, my brother, and mother moved in with our grandmother when I was ten years old. That’s why I introduced the Grandparents Tax Credit Act of 2015.

Millions of grandparents across the country are stepping up in their golden years to help raise their grandchildren when the children’s parents are facing challenging situations like working multiple jobs, long term unemployment, or extended time away from home due to military service. In fact, the U.S. Census found that in 2010, over 10% of children, up to 7.5 million children, in the U.S. were living with a grandparent and over 2.7 million grandparents have responsibility for their grandchildren.

This large commitment requires daily sacrifices in order to provide a better life for their grandchildren. Statistics show that:

- 8% of grandparents live with their grandchildren.
- 60% of grandparents taking care of children are also in the workforce.
- 580,000 grandparents were responsible for grandchildren with incomes below the poverty level.
- \$45,000 is the median income for families with grandparents responsible for children.
- 670,000 grandparents responsible for their grandchildren have a disability.
- Grandparents are the primary source of child care for 30% of mothers who work and have children under the age of 5.
- 62% of grandparents have provided financial support or monetary gifts for grandchildren within the past 5 years, averaging \$8,289.

The Grandparents Tax Credit of 2015 will provide much needed tax relief for our grandparents, who bear many responsibilities and costs associated with child-rearing, by providing a \$500

refundable tax credit for grandparents residing in the primary residence of a child they are helping raise. It aims to alleviate the financial burdens placed upon the grandparent for the out-of-pocket expenses that they incur.

Please join me in making a pledge to our grandparents and providing them with a credit for their many expenses by signing on to the *Grandparent Tax Credit Act of 2015*.

If you have questions or would like to cosponsor the “Grandparent Tax Credit,” please contact Kenny Palmer (kenny.palmer@mail.house.gov) at 5-9897.

Sincerely,

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Marc Veasey
Member of Congress