

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

Dear San Diegans,

With the April 15th filing deadline fast approaching, I encourage you to take a moment to consider the tax benefits that are available to low-to-moderate income workers and their families. Two of these benefits in particular can be a great resource for working families in our district: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

The EITC is a refundable Federal income tax credit for individuals and families with children who earned less than \$50,300 in income in 2012. Those who qualify may be eligible for a tax refund worth almost \$6,000. **To qualify for this tax break, you need to file an income tax return, have a valid Social Security number, and earn income from a job in 2012.**

The CTC gives taxpayers a tax credit for qualified children under the age of 17. **All children who are your dependents on your income tax returns and who are under the age of 17 qualify for this tax break.** The tax credit is generally worth \$1,000 per child.

Unfortunately, an estimated 20 to 25 percent of EITC-eligible workers and CTC-eligible families fail to claim these tax benefits each year. Take just a few moments to see if you are eligible. You can place a phone call to my office, or contact one of the many free resources available in our district to see if you can keep more of your hard-earned money.

Some of the ways that you can find out if you are eligible are:

1. Visit the IRS website for a free EITC:
 - a. <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Earned-Income-Tax-Credit-%28EITC%29-%E2%80%93-Use-the-EITC-Assistant-to-Find-Out-if-You-Should-Claim-it>
2. Find a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) site near you. Each of these sites is staffed by IRS-certified volunteers who are prepared to answer your questions and assist you through your filing. These sites can be found all across the 52nd district by using your zip code in the generator below:
 - a. <http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>
3. Consider using the Free File service, made available by a public-private partnership between the IRS and commercial tax software companies, if your annual income for the year 2012 was \$57,000 or less. Top of the line software will guide you through the filing process, identify tax breaks, and e-file your return upon completion.

- a. <http://www.freefile.irs.gov/>
4. Call my District Office with any questions about VITA or TCE sites, the Free File service, eligibility requirements for EITC or CTC, and locations of local IRS offices.
 - a. Congressman Scott Peters – District Office: (858) 455-5550
5. Call 2-1-1 to connect with one of their trained Customer Service Representatives and ask your questions about any of these tax breaks or services or get assistance in scheduling an appointment online at a participating free tax preparation site in San Diego.
 - a. Dial 2-1-1 or visit their website at <http://www.211sandiego.org/financial-assistance>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Peters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Peters
Member of Congress
US House of Representatives
California, 52nd District