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BODY:

Another tax robbery coming

While the U.S. Senate and hopefully the House clean up the mess created by denying low-income workers the increased child tax credit, another insidious attack on tax credits for low-income workers is taking place largely under the political and media radar screen. The IRS plans to "pre-certify" 45,000 taxpayers earning less than \$35,000 who claim the **Earned Income Tax Credit**. Essentially, these workers will be audited before they complete their tax returns in an initiative scheduled to roll out in July.

The procedure will require workers to provide documentation that will be exceptionally difficult and in some cases impossible to obtain--such as marriage certificates of relatives and affidavits signed under penalty of perjury by people such as absentee landlords.

The key groups targeted for this initiative are single fathers and grandparents raising grandchildren. As with the child tax credit, members of the armed forces will be disproportionately affected because of their low earnings.

Pre-certification will likely keep many eligible workers from obtaining the **Earned Income Tax Credit** they've earned. It's time to stop providing tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy while chipping away at credits for the lowest-income workers. A bipartisan group of senators woke up to this fact this past week, leading to passage of an expanded child tax credit. Let's hope that the House follows in the footsteps of the Senate on the child tax credit and that both chambers move to stop misguided IRS efforts to deny millions of working poor families their **Earned Income Tax Credit**.

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