



Statement for the Record  
Submitted by the National Latino Evangelical Committee  
To the House Ways and Means Committee  
Hearing on the Need to Make Permanent the Trump Tax Cuts for Working Families  
Date: January 14, 2025

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement on behalf of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC), which represents Latino evangelical congregations and communities across the United States. Our mission is to advocate for policies that strengthen families, reduce poverty, and promote economic opportunity for all Americans.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017, championed by President Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans, introduced significant reforms to the U.S. tax system. While the TCJA achieved notable successes, including an expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC), it also created broader fiscal implications that require thoughtful examination to ensure the sustainability of critical pro-family and anti-poverty programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in the nation, providing vital food assistance to low-income families, including millions of Latino households. While the TCJA did not directly alter SNAP, its significant reduction in federal revenues heightened concerns about funding for essential social safety net programs. As budgetary pressures increase, we urge this Committee to prioritize protecting SNAP and other interventions that safeguard families during times of economic vulnerability.

The recent proposals to transition Puerto Rico from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to SNAP provide an important case study in ensuring equity within federal assistance programs. Currently, Puerto Rican families face significant disparities in benefits compared to those in the mainland United States. Transitioning to SNAP would align Puerto Rico with the same standards and benefits as other states and territories, promoting fairness and reducing food insecurity for millions of residents.

The TCJA's reduction in the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% was intended to spur economic growth and job creation. While the reform benefited many businesses, its benefits were unevenly distributed, and the resulting revenue loss has fueled discussions about cost-cutting measures that could jeopardize programs like SNAP. The Latino community, which disproportionately benefits from SNAP and similar programs, would face significant hardship if these programs were scaled back due to fiscal constraints.

To uphold the pro-family and pro-worker principles that underpinned the TCJA, we recommend the following:

1. **Strengthening SNAP:** Maintain robust funding for SNAP and ensure the program is protected from cuts. Additionally, prioritize transitioning Puerto Rico to SNAP to eliminate disparities in benefits.
2. **Enhancing the Child Tax Credit:** Build on the TCJA's expansion of the CTC by increasing its refundability and ensuring it reaches the lowest-income families. This would provide direct support to parents and help reduce child poverty.