

September 06, 2013

The Honorable José Serrano
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Serrano,

The Asset Building Policy Network (ABPN) commends your effort to expand the opportunities for working families to save with the Financial Security Tax Credit Act of 2013. While the tax code has long supported saving for the highest-income workers, the Financial Security Tax Credit will bring support to both middleclass families and those struggling to secure a foothold in the middleclass.

The Asset Building Policy Network (ABPN) is a coalition of civil rights, community development and policy organizations, including a financial institution, committed to the following core goals: coordinating savings and asset building policy and advocacy efforts at a national level, developing a shared communications agenda and strategy, and building the capacity of Network members and their networks. The ABPN seeks to improve the opportunity for economic progress for low-income individuals and families and in communities of color by increasing local access to responsible and appropriate financial products and services that can enable families to save, invest, preserve and build financial assets. The comments and recommendations within this letter are reflective of the ABPN as a body and not necessarily the position of each individual member.

The federal government has long recognized the importance of supporting savings and asset-building. The Homestead Acts and the G.I. bill were essentially asset-building policies. So too are home mortgage interest deductions, 401(k) plans, and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Through the years, these strategies have helped create a strong middleclass that is the hallmark of American productivity.

The tax code spends hundreds of billions of dollars every year to support savings and asset-building, but these policies are terribly skewed. They subsidize wealth building for the wealthiest among us. The Financial Security Tax Credit will address this inequity in the tax code, empowering working families to invest in their own financial security and in the talents and aspirations of their children.

We look forward to working with you in order to advance this legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

The Asset Building PolicyNetwork

Center for American
Progress

Corporation for
Enterprise Development

Citi Community
Development

The Leadership
Conference on Civil and
Human Rights

National Coalition for
Asian Pacific American
Community
Development

National Association for
Latino Community Asset
Builders

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