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OPINION

Earned-income tax credit an excellent idea for working families

April 8, 2011



We applaud Gov. Malloy for proposing a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). As nonprofit organizations who host free tax sites in Fairfield County as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, we have seen firsthand the impact that the federal EITC has had on our clients' lives. The EITC is the largest sum that most working families will see in a given year, and we have seen it prevent families from losing their homes, enable them to purchase a car so that they can get to work, provide the opportunity to pay off debt and catch up on bills, or empower them to get a college education.

We also support a state EITC because it would benefit our community as a whole. In Fairfield County last year, the federal EITC brought millions of dollars back into the community; surveys indicate that much of that money was spent locally. A state EITC would provide not only a boost to a working family's budget, but also an important boost to our economy.

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Enacting a state EITC is the right thing to do for Connecticut's struggling, hard-working families and for our economy. It is time for Connecticut to become the 25th state that supports working families with an EITC.

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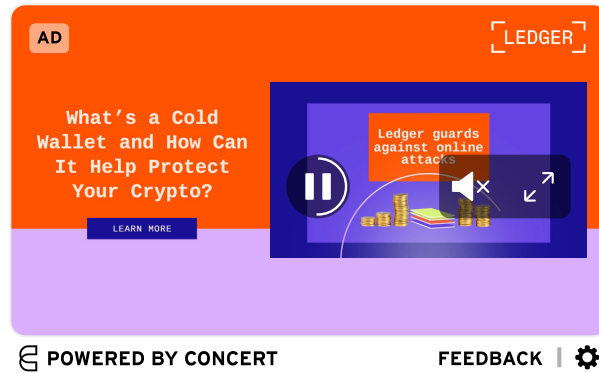
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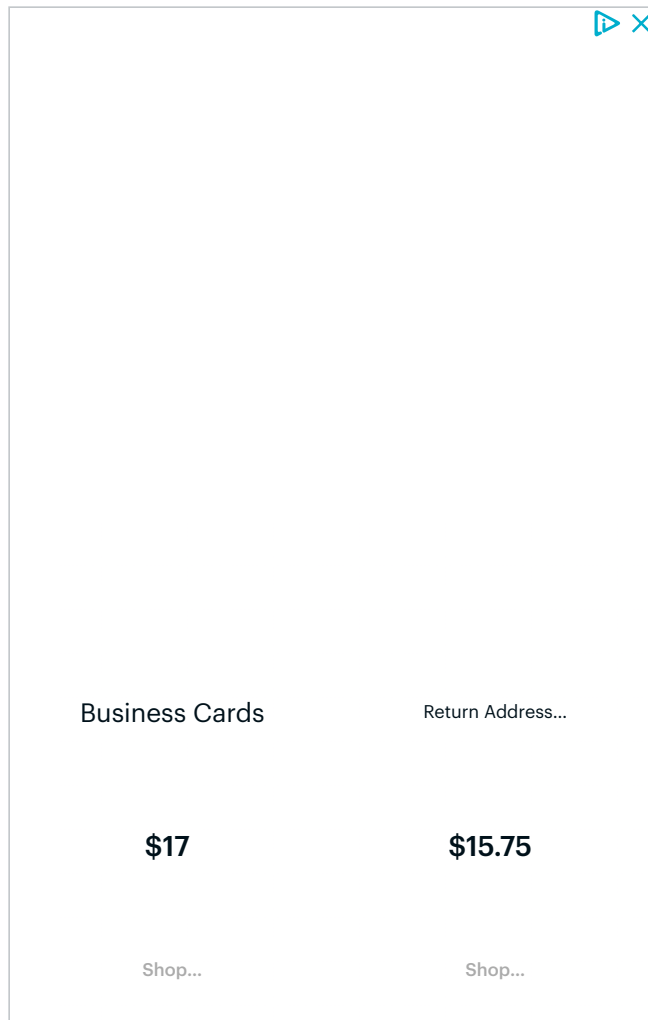
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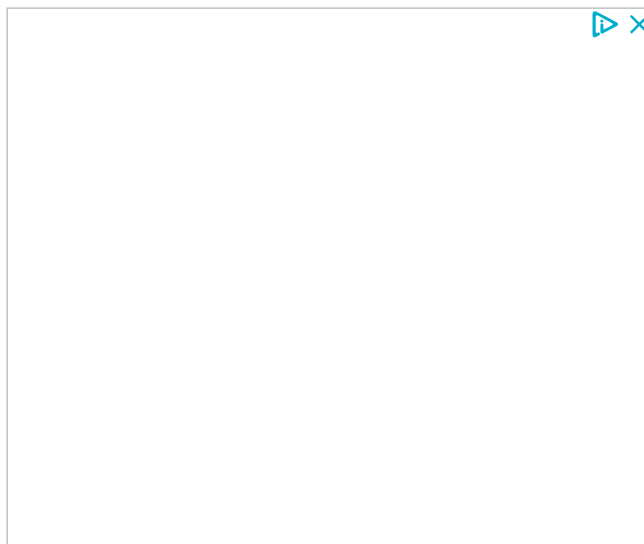
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