



## **URGENT ACTION ALERT / ISSUE UPDATE**

**DATE:** November 22, 2017  
**TO:** Concerned Parties  
**FROM:** Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

### **NAACP-OPPOSED TAX BILL THAT WILL HURT LOW- AND MIDDLE- INCOME AMERICANS PASSES IN THE U.S. HOUSE; US SENATE EXPECTED TO TAKE UP ITS OWN HARMFUL VERSION NEXT SENATE PROPOSAL WOULD ADD 13 MILLION AMERICANS TO THE ROLLS OF THOSE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE TO PAY FOR CUTS FOR THE WEALTHIEST 1%**

#### **THE ISSUE:**

On November 16, 2017, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the misnamed “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” by a vote of 227 yeas to 205 nays. This legislation is bad policy for low-and middle-income Americans; it will cause great harm to public education; it could mean huge tax increases for families already saddled with exorbitant medical costs; it is mean-spirited towards immigrants and non-citizens; and it is bad economic policy. It represents an opportunity lost in terms of what is needed to help all American families prosper, not just the wealthy few.

The bill now goes to the U.S. Senate, which is expected to take up its own tax cut bill beginning the week of November 27, 2017. While details of the House and Senate tax proposals differ, both would give big tax cuts to the richest families and corporations, while most middle- and low-income families would realize little or no benefit—with many even seeing their taxes go up. Even more damaging is that both bills would increase the deficit by at least \$1.5 trillion over the next decade, forcing cuts to critical programs. That means the tax bill will ultimately lead to cuts in programs that are integral to the wellbeing of all Americans – especially children and their families, senior citizens, disabled Americans, students, and low- and middle-income working families. Tax bill induced cuts will be to programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, civil rights enforcement, housing assistance, public education, Social Security, and Medicare among others.

Furthermore, the Senate bill repeals the Affordable Care Act’s individual mandate, the requirement that most people enroll in health insurance coverage or pay a penalty. The Senate bill also sunsets most of its individual income tax cuts after 2025, but maintains a permanent cut in the corporate tax rate, from 35 percent to 20 percent. The savings from individual mandate repeal would pay for about one-third of that permanent rate cut and increase the number of Americans without health insurance by 13 million in 2027. Furthermore, repealing the individual mandate would increase insurance premiums by 10%, which amounts to hundreds of dollars per year for nearly 7 million middle-income Americans and over \$1,000 per year for seniors.

Similar to the House-passed bill, the Senate bill would also repeal the federal deduction for state and local income and sales taxes and cap the deduction for state property taxes, which will hurt state and local governments’ ability to pay for education and other critical services. Furthermore, the Senate proposal leaves out children in hard working families earning low wages from an expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC); millions of children would receive little or no benefit from the Senate plans to revise the CTC, while the Senate plan expands the credit to higher-income households—including those earning up to \$500,000 a year. Moreover, both the House and the Senate plans exclude about a million immigrant children who currently qualify for the CTC.

The leadership in the House and Senate, as well as President Trump, have squandered an opportunity to use the tax code to promote equity in our nation. Instead, they have chosen to pursue policy changes with a \$1.5 trillion price tag which punish the poor and middle classes and enhance the wealthiest 1% of American households and profitable corporations. These tax cuts will lead to larger deficits, which will further threaten the well-being of America’s struggling working families.

**SEE HOW MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE VOTED, PP.4-6**

## **THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:**

Contact your Representative and both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO REJECT ANY TAX PROPOSAL WHICH DOES NOT HELP LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME WORKING AMERICANS.** To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**A SAMPLE  
LETTER IS  
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov); click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses. To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov), and click on "Find Your Representative" (on the right hand side of the screen) and enter your zip code. This should take you to a screen that identifies who your Representative is and how to get in touch with him or her.

## **REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!**

### **THE MESSAGE**

- The proposed tax plan is bad for low-and middle-income Americans; it will cause great harm to public education; it is mean-spirited towards immigrants and non-citizens; and it is bad economic policy;
- When coupled with the extreme budget cuts which are being proposed by the Trump Administration and current Congressional leadership these changes to the tax code will seriously damage many of the programs championed by the NAACP;
- House and Senate leadership have an opportunity to use the tax code to promote equity in our nation; instead, they have chosen to pursue policy which punishes the poor and middle classes and enhances the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!**

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

**MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.**

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit [www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org)

# Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: MY OPPOSITION TO TAX PROPOSALS WHICH HURT LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME AMERICANS WHILE BENEFITTING THE WEALTHIEST AMONG US; OPPOSE THE SENATE TAX PROPOSAL**

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_;

As your constituent, I would like you to do all you can to see that any changes to the current tax structure do not harm low- and middle- income Americans. Specifically, I hope that you will work against the Senate tax proposal as it is currently written; it is bad for low-and middle-income Americans; it will cause great harm to health care, public education and other vital services

The Senate tax proposal would give big tax cuts to the richest families and corporations, while most middle- and low-income families would realize little or no benefit—with many even seeing their taxes go up. Even more damaging is that it would increase the deficit by at least \$1.5 trillion over the next decade, forcing cuts to critical programs. That means the tax bill will ultimately lead to cuts in programs that are integral to the wellbeing of all Americans – especially children and their families, senior citizens, disabled Americans, students, and low- and middle-income working families -- including Medicaid, SNAP, civil rights enforcement, housing assistance, public education, Social Security, and Medicare.

Furthermore, the Senate bill repeals the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate, the requirement that most people enroll in health insurance coverage or pay a penalty. The Senate bill also sunsets most of its individual income tax cuts after 2025, but maintains a permanent cut in the corporate tax rate, from 35 percent to 20 percent. The savings from individual mandate repeal would pay for about one-third of that permanent rate cut and increase the number of Americans without health insurance by 13 million in 2027. Furthermore, repealing the individual mandate would increase insurance premiums by 10%, which amounts to hundreds of dollars per year for nearly 7 million middle-income Americans and over \$1,000 per year for seniors.

The Senate bill would also repeal the federal deduction for state and local income and sales taxes and cap the deduction for state property taxes, which will hurt state and local governments' ability to pay for education and other critical services. Furthermore, the Senate proposal leaves out children in hard working families earning low wages from an expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC); millions of children would receive little or no benefit from the Senate plans to revise the CTC, while the Senate plan expands the credit to higher-income households—including those earning up to \$500,000 a year. Moreover, the Senate plans exclude a million immigrant children who currently qualify for the CTC.

House and Senate leadership have an opportunity to use the tax code to promote equity in our nation; instead, they have chosen to pursue policy changes which punish the poor and middle classes and enhance the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. Please do all you can to oppose the current Senate tax proposal as written and instead use this opportunity to amend the current tax code to help bring equal opportunity and fairness to our nation. I look forward to hearing from you to let me know what you intend to do and how I can further promote my ideals.

Sincerely,  
(sign and print your name and  
remember to include your address)

***Remember to contact BOTH your  
Senators.***

## H.R. 1, "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" / Final Passage / House vote #637

Final passage of legislation which is bad policy for low-and middle-income Americans; will cause great harm to public education; could mean huge tax increases for families already saddled with exorbitant medical costs; is mean-spirited towards immigrants and non-citizens; and is bad economic policy. All told, the bill will increase the national deficit by at least \$1.5 trillion over the next decade.

H.R. 1 passed on November 16, 2017, by a margin of 227 yeas to 205 nays.

### THE NAACP OPPOSED THE LEGISLATION

▲ = voted in support of the NAACP position and against the bill  
? = did not vote

▽ = voted against the NAACP position and in favor of the bill  
V = seat was vacant

<b>ALABAMA</b>		16	Costa	▲	3	Tipton	▽	<b>GEORGIA</b>			
1	Byrne	▽	17	Khanna	▲	4	Buck	▽	1	Carter, Earl	▽
2	Roby	▽	18	Eshoo	▲	5	Lamborn	▽	2	Bishop, Sanford	▲
3	Rogers, Mike	▽	19	Lofgren	▲	6	Coffman	▽	3	Ferguson	▽
4	Aderholt	▽	20	Panetta	▲	7	Perlmutter	▲	4	Johnson, Hank	▲
5	Brooks, Mo	▽	21	Valadao	▽	<b>CONNECTICUT</b>		5	Lewis, John	▲	
6	Palmer	▽	22	Nunes	▽	1	Larson, John	▲	6	Handel	▽
7	Sewell	▲	23	McCarthy	▽	2	Courtney	▲	7	Woodall	▽
<b>ALASKA</b>		24	Carbajal	▲	3	DeLauro	▲	8	Scott, Austin	▽	
AL	Young, Don	▽	25	Knight	▽	4	Himes	▲	9	Collins, Doug	▽
<b>ARIZONA</b>		26	Brownley	▲	5	Esty	▲	10	Hice	▽	
1	O'Halleran	▲	27	Chu	▲	<b>DELAWARE</b>		11	Loudermilk	▽	
2	McSally	▽	28	Schiff	▲	AL	Blunt Rochester	▲	12	Allen	▽
3	Grijalva	▲	29	Cárdenas	▲	<b>FLORIDA</b>		13	Scott, David	▲	
4	Gosar	▽	30	Sherman	▲	1	Gaetz	▽	14	Graves, Tom	▽
5	Biggs	▽	31	Aguilar	▲	2	Dunn	▽	<b>HAWAII</b>		
6	Schweikert	▽	32	Napolitano	▲	3	Yoho	▽	1	Hanabusa	▲
7	Gallego	▲	33	Lieu	▲	4	Rutherford	▽	2	Gabbard	▲
8	Franks	▽	34	Gomez	▲	5	Lawson	▲	<b>IDAHO</b>		
9	Simena	▲	35	Torres	▲	6	DeSantis	▽	1	Labrador	▽
<b>ARKANSAS</b>		36	Ruiz	▲	7	Murphy, Stephanie	▲	2	Simpson	▽	
1	Crawford	▽	37	Bass	▲	8	Posey	▽	<b>ILLINOIS</b>		
2	Hill	▽	38	Sánche	▲	9	Soto	▲	1	Rush	▲
3	Womack	▽	39	Royce	▽	10	Demings	▲	2	Kelly, Robin	▲
4	Westerman	▽	40	Roybal-Allard	▲	11	Webster	▽	3	Lipinski	▲
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>		41	Takano	▲	12	Bilirakis	▽	4	Gutierrez	▲	
1	LaMalfa	▽	42	Calvert	▽	13	Crist	▲	5	Quigley	▲
2	Huffman	▲	43	Waters	▲	14	Castor	▲	6	Roskam	▽
3	Garamendi	▲	44	Barragan	▲	15	Ross	▽	7	Davis, Danny	▲
4	McClintock	▲	45	Walters	▽	16	Buchanan	▽	8	Krishnamoorthi	▲
5	Thompson, Mike	▲	46	Correa	▲	17	Rooney, Tom	▽	9	Schakowsky	▲
6	Matsui	▲	47	Lowenthal	▲	18	Mast	▽	10	Schneider	▲
7	Bera	▲	48	Rohrabacher	▲	19	Rooney, Francis	▽	11	Foster	▲
8	Cook	▽	49	Issa	▲	20	Hastings	▲	12	Bost	▽
9	McNerney	▲	50	Hunter	▽	21	Frankel	▲	13	Davis, Rodney	▽
10	Denham	▽	51	Vargas	▲	22	Deutch	▲	14	Hultgren	▽
11	DeSaulnier	▲	52	Peters	▲	23	Wasserman Schultz	▲	15	Shimkus	▽
12	Pelosi	▲	53	Davis, Susan	▲	24	Wilson, Frederica	?	16	Kinzinger	▽
13	Lee	▲	<b>COLORADO</b>		25	Diaz-Balart	▽	17	Bustos	▲	
14	Speier	▲	1	DeGette	▲	26	Curbelo	▽	18	LaHood	▽
15	Swalwell	▲	2	Polis	▲	27	Ros-Lehtinen	▽			

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<b>INDIANA</b>		5	Hoyer	▲	<b>MISSOURI</b>		2	King, Peter	▲		
1	Visclosky	▲	6	Delaney	▲	1	Clay	▲	3	Suozzi	▲
2	Walorski	▼	7	Cummings	▲	2	Wagner	▼	4	Rice, Kathleen	▲
3	Banks	▼	8	Raskin	▲	3	Luetkemeyer	▼	5	Meeks	▲
4	Rokita	▼	<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>		4	Hartzler	▼	6	Meng	▲	
5	Brooks, Susan	▼	1	Neal	▲	5	Cleaver	▲	7	Velázquez	▲
6	Messer	▼	2	McGovern	▲	6	Graves, Sam	▼	8	Jeffries	▲
7	Carson	▲	3	Tsongas	▲	7	Long	▼	9	Clarke, Yvette	▲
8	Bucshon	▼	4	Kennedy	▲	8	Smith, Jason	▼	10	Nadler	▲
9	Hollingsworth	▼	5	Clark, Katherine	▲	<b>MONTANA</b>		11	Donovan	▲	
<b>IOWA</b>		6	Moulton	▲	AL	Gianforte	▼	12	Maloney, Carolyn	▲	
1	Blum	▼	7	Capuano	▲	<b>NEBRASKA</b>		13	Espallat	▲	
2	Loebsack	▲	8	Lynch	▲	1	Fortenberry	▼	14	Crowley	▲
3	Young, David	▼	9	Keating	▲	2	Bacon	▼	15	Serrano	▲
4	King, Steve	▼	<b>MICHIGAN</b>		3	Smith, Adrian	▼	16	Engel	▲	
<b>KANSAS</b>		1	Bergman	▼	<b>NEVADA</b>		17	Lowey	▲		
1	Marshall	▼	2	Huizenga	▼	1	Titus	▲	18	Maloney, Sean Patrick	▲
2	Jenkins, Lynn	▼	3	Amash	▼	2	Amodei	▼	19	Faso	▲
3	Yoder	▼	4	Moolenaar	▼	3	Rosem	▲	20	Tonko	▲
4	Estes	▼	5	Kildee	▲	4	Kihuen	▲	21	Stefanik	▲
<b>KENTUCKY</b>		6	Upton	▼	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>		22	Tenney	▼		
1	Comer	▼	7	Walberg	▼	1	Shea-Porter	▲	23	Reed	▼
2	Guthrie	▼	8	Bishop, Mike	▼	2	Kuster	▲	24	Katko	▼
3	Yarmuth	▲	9	Levin	▲	<b>NEW JERSEY</b>		25	Slaughter	▲	
4	Massie	▼		Mitchell	▼	1	Norcross	▲	26	Higgins, Brian	▲
5	Rogers, Harold	▼	11	Trott	▼	2	LoBiondo	▲	27	Collins, Chris	▼
6	Barr	▼	12	Dingell	▲	3	MacArthur	▼	<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>		
<b>LOUISIANA</b>		13	Conyers	▲	4	Smith, Chris	▲	1	Butterfield	▲	
1	Scalise	▼	14	Lawrence	▲	5	Gottheimer	▲	2	Holding	▼
2	Richmond	▲	<b>MINNESOTA</b>		6	Pallone	▲	3	Jones, Walter	▲	
3	Higgins, Clay	▼	1	Walz	▲	7	Lance	▲	4	Price, David	▲
4	Johnson, Mike	▼	2	Lewis, Jason	▼	8	Sires	▲	5	Foxx	▼
5	Abraham	▼	3	Paulsen	▼	9	Pascrell	▲	6	Walker	▼
6	Graves, Garret	▼	4	McCollum	▲	10	Payne	▲	7	Rouzer	▼
<b>MAINE</b>		5	Ellison	▲	11	Frelinghuysen	▲	8	Hudson	▼	
1	Pingree	▲	6	Emmer	▼	12	Watson Coleman	▲	9	Pittenger	▼
2	Poliquin	▼	7	Peterson	▲	<b>NEW MEXICO</b>		10	McHenry	▼	
<b>MARYLAND</b>		8	Nolan	▲	1	Lujan Grisham	▲	11	Meadows	▼	
1	Harris	▼	<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>		2	Pearce	▼	12	Adams, Alma	▲	
2	Ruppersberger	▲	1	Kelly, Trent	▼	3	Luján	▲	13	Budd	▼
3	Sarbanes	▲	2	Thompson, Bennie	▲	<b>NEW YORK</b>		<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>			
4	Brown, Anthony	▲	3	Harper	▼	1	Zeldin	▲	AL	Cramer	▼
			4	Palazzo	▼						

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<b>OHIO</b>		13 Boyle ▲	13 Thornberry ▼	<b>WASHINGTON</b>	
1 Chabot ▼	14 Doyle ▲	14 Weber ▼	1 DelBene ▲		
2 Wenstrup ▼	15 Dent ▼	15 Gonzalez ▲	2 Larsen, Rick ▲		
3 Beatty ▲	16 Smucker ▼	16 O'Rourke ▲	3 Herrera Beutler ▼		
4 Jordan ▼	17 Cartwright ▲	17 Flores ▼	4 Newhouse ▼		
5 Latta ▼	18 VACANT v	18 Jackson Lee ▲	5 McMorris Rodgers ▼		
6 Johnson, Bill ▼	<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>		6 Kilmer ▲		
7 Gibbs ▼	1 Cicilline ▲	19 Arrington ▼	7 Jayapal ▲		
8 Davidson ▼	2 Langevin ▲	20 Castro ▲	8 Reichert ▼		
9 Kaptur ▲	<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>		9 Smith, Adam ▲		
10 Turner ▼	1 Sanford ▼	21 Smith, Lamar ▼	10 Heck, Denny ▲		
11 Fudge ▲	2 Wilson, Joe ▼	22 Olson ▼	<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>		
12 Tiberi ▼	3 Duncan, Jeff ▼	23 Hurd ▼	1 McKinley ▼		
13 Ryan, Tim ▲	4 Gowdy ▼	24 Marchant ▼	2 Mooney ▼		
14 Joyce ▼	5 Norman ▼	25 Williams ▼	3 Jenkins, Evan ▼		
15 Stivers ▼	6 Clyburn ▲	26 Burgess ▼	<b>WISCONSIN</b>		
16 Renacci ▼	7 Rice, Tom ▼	27 Farenthold ▼	1 Ryan, Paul ▼		
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>		28 Cuellar ▲	2 Pocan ?		
1 Bridenstine ▼	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>		3 Kind ▲		
2 Mullin ▼	AL Noem ▼	<b>TENNESSEE</b>			
3 Lucas ▼	1 Roe ▼	32 Sessions ▼	4 Moore, Gwen ▲		
4 Cole ▼	2 Duncan, John Jr. ▼	33 Veasey ▲	5 Sensenbrenner ▼		
5 Russell ▼	3 Fleischmann ▼	34 Vela ▲	6 Grothman ▼		
<b>OREGON</b>		4 DesJarlais ▼	7 Duffy ▼		
1 Bonamici ▲	5 Cooper ▲	5 Green, Gene ▲	8 Gallagher ▼		
2 Walden ▼	6 Black ▼	30 Johnson, Eddie Bernice ▲	<b>WYOMING</b>		
3 Blumenauer ▲	7 Blackburn ▼	31 Carter, John ▼	AL Cheney ▼		
4 DeFazio ▲	8 Kustoff ▼	32 Sessions ▼			
5 Schrader ▲	9 Cohen ▲	33 Veasey ▲			
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>		4 Vela ▲			
1 Brady, Robert ▲	1 Gohmert ▼	35 Doggett ▲			
2 Evans ▲	2 Poe ▼	36 Babin ▼			
3 Kelly, Mike ▼	3 Johnson, Sam ▼	<b>UTAH</b>			
4 Perry ▼	4 Ratcliffe ▼	1 Bishop, Rob ▼			
5 Thompson, Glenn ▼	5 Hensarling ▼	2 Stewart ▼			
6 Costello ▼	6 Barton ▼	3 Curtis ▼			
7 Meehan ▼	7 Culberson ▼	4 Love ▼			
8 Fitzpatrick ▼	8 Brady, Kevin ▼	<b>VERMONT</b>			
9 Shuster ▼	9 Green, Al ▲	AL Welch ▲			
10 Marino ▼	10 McCaul ▼	<b>VIRGINIA</b>			
11 Barletta ▼	11 Conaway ▼	1 Wittman ▼			
12 Rothfus ▼	12 Granger ▼	2 Taylor ▼			
		3 Scott, Robert ▲			
		4 McEachin ▲			
		5 Garrett ▼			
		6 Goodlatte ▼			
		7 Brat ▼			
		8 Beyer ▲			
		9 Griffith ▼			
		10 Comstock ▼			
		11 Connolly ▲			



