

what tax reform might look like, and even the introduction of a comprehensive reform bill introduced in the last Congress. Republicans campaigned on a better way to tax reform in specified areas for reform, and we followed that up earlier this year with a framework document setting forth our principles.

Today is the culmination of more than 6 years of work, but our work is not done. Now Members of Congress and the public will have the opportunity to study the legislation in detail. When all the dust settles, two questions will remain:

Will this put more money in the average American's pocket?

Will this put America in a much better position in the global economy and allow us to finally break through years of stagnation with much healthier growth, more jobs, and higher incomes?

That should be our focus. I encourage everyone to visit fairandsimple.gop, and I look forward to a real debate on how tax reform and tax cuts will relight opportunities for all Americans.

SUPPORTING THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION

(Ms. ESTY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, for weeks we have heard that the partisan tax plan crafted behind closed doors might include the elimination of the deduction for families' State and local income taxes. Today the rumors became reality. The tax plan announced today would drastically reduce the State and local tax deduction.

Let me be as clear as I can be. This proposal is a tax increase on middle class families, and I oppose it. Working people in my State already send more dollars to the Federal Government in taxes than they receive back in support. For every dollar we send to Washington from Connecticut, we receive back just 83 cents. By attacking the State and local deduction, this tax plan would make life even harder for real people in my district.

A senior citizen in Simsbury, Connecticut, called me to say that she might lose her home if this tax deduction is taken away from her. Seniors who live on a fixed income shouldn't have to risk losing a roof over their head just so that Congress can cut the corporate tax rate.

Families who are already struggling to pay their bills, put their kids through college, and buy their first home shouldn't have to suffer in order to cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans.

The President promised that tax reform would help our middle class and would bring jobs back. It is doing neither.

I urge my colleagues to support keeping the State and local deduction.

□ 1730

SUPPORT REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, here in Washington, we are in the midst of a major debate on tax reform, tax simplification, and tax cuts.

The plan unveiled by House Republicans today is a tax cut plan for middle-income, middle class families in America. If you are a family of four making \$59,000, which is the median family income in America, you will receive a \$1,200 tax cut as a result of the plan that we unveiled today.

That is real money for middle class families in North Carolina. Maybe it is not real money in Washington, D.C., but it is real money in western North Carolina.

We need tax cuts. We need tax simplification. We need economic growth, more American jobs, and a more competitive environment in America so that we can keep jobs here in the United States and not offshore those jobs. We need middle class families to win. Our plan does that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our efforts.

FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE TAX BILL

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle released their fiscally irresponsible tax bill.

I am still reading my way through the 492-page proposal, but it doesn't take long to notice a huge flaw in the process: the majority is using the partisan budget reconciliation process, a process traditionally reserved for deficit reduction, to add over \$1.5 trillion to the deficit and jam a reckless bill through the House without hearings, study, or debate. We don't have to operate that way.

Let's compare where we were the last time Congress reformed the Tax Code in 1986 to where we are today.

When Congress last took up this monumental task, it took over 2 years. There were 4 months of public hearings, more than 450 witnesses, 26 days of markup, and months of debate. This wasn't easy, but what did we get?

We got a simplified Tax Code that did not add to the deficit and a bill that had broad bipartisan support in the House and the Senate, and the support of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, let's work together on a bipartisan basis. Let's reform the Tax Code in a way that helps the middle class and does not add to our children's deficit in the future.

BURN PITS

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, we need a hearing on burn pits immediately.

Burn pits are used by our military at bases in Iraq and Afghanistan to eliminate tons of waste, including chemicals and plastics. They cause giant clouds of black smoke containing carcinogens.

Thousands of our men and women in our military are exposed to these cancer-causing hazards. I know because my constituent and friend, Jennifer Kepner, a 39-year-old wife, mother, and Air Force veteran, died from pancreatic cancer 2 weeks ago. Her oncologist made the most probable link between her exposure to burn pits while serving in Iraq and her pancreatic cancer.

Congress must act. Too many questions remain. Are burn pits still being used? What are the DOD and VA doing to help veterans who have been exposed?

On behalf of Jenn and all concerned veterans, I, along with Republicans and Democrats, demand hearings in the Armed Services and VA Committees immediately to get answers.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, today, the Republicans released their tax plan. Unsurprisingly, it is a gift-wrapped tax cut to the rich. Christmas came early, Mr. Speaker. From huge corporate tax cuts to the elimination of the alternative minimum tax paid by the wealthiest Americans, this tax plan will hurt our economy and prioritize the top earners of our country. But there is one person—maybe a group of people—who is very thrilled about this tax plan, Mr. Speaker, and that person is Mr. Money Bags. Mr. Money Bags is really going to benefit from this tax plan.

First of all, the President himself will greatly benefit from the tax plan. It is impossible to know exactly how much because we still don't have his tax returns. He has refused to release them. We would really appreciate, and we demand, frankly, that the American