

We will continue this debate tomorrow, Madam Speaker, so we will continue to deliver tax reform and tax cuts for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1 is postponed.

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HISTORIC TAX REFORM FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, we have heard a lot in this debate today. One thing is abundantly clear. Virtually every hardworking citizen in this country recognizes our genuine need for tax reform.

Let me summarize some of the facts that have been presented today.

The burdensome 70,000-page U.S. Tax Code has grown to be unreasonably complex, increasingly unfair, and filled with special interest loopholes. American companies are taxed at the highest rate in the industrialized world, and the government takes even more from our small-business owners and our entrepreneurs. As a result, our economic growth is stagnant, companies have gradually shifted their manufacturing and operations overseas, and families are struggling just to keep up.

Today, the hurdles in our system seem almost insurmountable for hardworking people as they are afforded fewer and fewer opportunities for economic mobility.

For previous generations, it was a different deal. We had the American Dream. The American Dream was defined by a simple promise: if you were willing to work hard and sacrifice and play by the rules, you could make a better life for yourself and your family. But today, our outdated Tax Code has pushed that dream beyond the grasp of more and more people.

The good news is we can fix this problem, and we are going to do that in this Chamber tomorrow. For the first time in over 30 years, Congress has a historic opportunity to pass landmark tax reform that will be a turboboost to this economy, and it is going to lead us to a fairer system, as we said so many times, with more jobs and bigger paychecks for everyone.

Our Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1, will deliver significant tax reductions for low- and middle-income earners, and it will help Americans in every level of our economy. The bill, which draws from 6 years of intensive work and expert analysis from more than 40 different congressional hearings, lowers individual income taxes by consolidating the existing seven brackets into four and doubling the standard deduction for everyone.

It also establishes a new family tax credit. It provides higher education benefits. It repeals the death tax. It preserves deductions for mortgage interest and charitable donations and property taxes, and it incentivizes saving for retirement.

Tax returns will become incredibly simple for the first time in my lifetime because 9 out of 10 Americans will be able to complete their annual filing on a form the size of a postcard.

The bill's business tax reforms are equally seismic because we are going to slash our draconian corporate tax from 35 percent, the highest in the world, to 20 percent, and we are going to institute the lowest rates for small business job creators since World War II. U.S. companies will finally be allowed to compete again on a level playing field and bring their jobs and operations back home from overseas.

The independent Tax Foundation estimated that our plan will result in the creation of approximately 975,000 full-time American jobs and an increase in family incomes of 4.4 percent, on average. In Louisiana, for example, that would mean 13,293 new jobs and \$1,857 of additional after-tax income for our average middle class families.

The American people have long deserved a simpler, fairer, and effective system that rewards hard work and allows taxpayers to keep and invest more of what they earn. Our plan will finally provide that relief and spark the dramatic economic growth our Nation has so desperately needed.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is about more than just smart legislation. It is about a revival of that American Dream I referenced. That has one agenda that should unite every single one of us, and we hope all of our colleagues will support this historic landmark piece of legislation tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), a great American small-business owner himself.

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Louisiana, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as my colleagues in this body know very well, it has been many years since we have reformed our Tax Code. Over the last few decades, Congress has cut some taxes here and there, but we are overdue for meaningful tax reform.

Hardworking taxpayers in North Carolina are right to ask why it has been so long since we have even reformed our Tax Code. The unfortunate

truth is that, for many years, Congress has thrown up the white flag in defeat against K Street lobbyists, and they settled for preserving the status quo. However, tomorrow, we have a rare opportunity to finally deliver a tax bill that puts working families first. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would be the biggest overhaul to our Tax Code in 30 years.

To quickly summarize, this bill would collapse our tax brackets from seven to four; it would double the standard deduction and get rid of many lobbyist loopholes; and it would slash the corporate tax rate to 20 percent, which would allow America to compete and to win.

The nonpartisan Tax Foundation found that, if we passed this bill into law, American workers would see a 3 percent increase in their wages, and our country would see nearly 1 million full-time jobs created.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, my office received a letter from a constituent of mine that said: "As a manufacturer and constituent, I urge you to support tax reform and legislation that will fix our Tax Code that has held manufacturers back for far too long." This is just an example of the many letters I have received in favor of this reform effort.

In addition to letters of support that I have received, studies show that, if we pass this bill, a typical household would see their taxes cut nearly \$2,000.

Let's think for a second what this means. Instead of the IRS taking it, families could spend it on their children. They could put it in their savings, or they could pay off debts.

I am supporting this bill so we no longer hold manufacturers back from success. I am supporting this bill because it would make life simpler and easier for job creators, savers, and hardworking families.

Last week, in this body, I addressed the fact that there are certain provisions within this bill that my colleagues and I may differ on, and I noted that that is just always going to be the case, but I also suggested that we ask ourselves three questions.

The first question was: Does this bill cut taxes for the vast majority of hardworking American families?

The second was: Will it bring back jobs?

And the third question was: Will this bill simplify the tax filing process for working families next year and in the years to come?

Madam Speaker, the answer to all three of those questions was "yes." I urge my colleagues to vote tomorrow in favor of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Last year, President Trump promised to cut taxes for working families, and that is exactly what this bill will do.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear friend and distinguished colleague from the State of Louisiana

for his strong leadership and for hosting us this evening, this Special Order, on such an important issue.

Madam Speaker, tax reform in west Texas and in rural America is about giving our hardworking and middle class families a break in allowing them to keep more of their hard-earned money. According to the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, our plan would increase wages by over 3 percent, create roughly 1 million new jobs, and raise the after-tax income of the average middle-income family by nearly \$2,600.

It is about simplifying the Tax Code and reducing the burden on taxpayers so that they don't have to spend a combined almost 9 billion hours and \$100 billion just to prepare their taxes every year. Under our plan, 9 out of 10 Americans, as my colleague mentioned, will be able to file their taxes on a form as simple as a postcard.

It is about getting off the backs of our job creators, which are our small businesses, and letting them create more jobs for their communities. Our plan would reduce the tax rate on our Main Street job creators to the lowest it has been since World War II.

It is about making America competitive again by leveling the playing field for American producers and manufacturers.

Our plan would lower the corporate tax rate and bring jobs back to America, and it would also boost the average American household income by \$4,000 and, in some studies, as high as \$9,000.

It is about giving our family farmers and ranchers a reason to invest in new tractors and equipment, combines and cotton strippers, so they can do what they have been doing: be more productive even at feeding and clothing the American people.

This plan allows our farmers and ranchers, as well as our small businesses, the ability to write off the full cost of new technology and equipment immediately, and it is about eliminating the duplicative, unfair, and un-American death tax that prevents family farmers, ranchers, and small-business owners from passing down their hard-earned American Dream to the next generation after they paid taxes on it their entire lives.

Today, more than 70 percent—listen to this—more than 70 percent of family businesses don't make it to the second generation; 90 percent don't survive to the third generation. That is unacceptable.

Tomorrow, Madam Speaker, marks an historic moment, the likes of which we haven't seen in over 30 years, to change the current economic trajectory of this country and restore freedom and opportunity for all hardworking American families. Let's seize it. Let's deliver on our promise, and let's give much-deserved relief to the American people and a much-needed boost to the American economy.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, who is always eloquent.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, it has been more than 30 years since Congress passed meaningful tax reform. In those three decades, we have seen unbelievable progress in technology, communications, manufacturing, and so much more. I am thrilled we now have a chance to pass meaningful tax reform, an opportunity to finally move to a Tax Code that works for families, small businesses, and Americans across the board.

We have a once-in-a-generation chance to bolster middle class prosperity, strengthen our economy, and help America's global competitiveness. These are not just abstract concepts. These are real people, families, businesses, and workers.

Over this past year, I have traveled through the 35 counties that I represent, and I have been so impressed by the countless Kentuckians who are working to bring jobs of the future into rural America. Unlike these innovative entrepreneurs, our Tax Code is, unfortunately, stuck in the past.

Like many of my constituents in the First District, I run a family farm and have experienced the challenges of dealing with an outdated and cumbersome Tax Code. I know firsthand the difficulties small businesses face when they try to operate, grow, and hire more workers while battling a Tax Code that does not work for them. Passing tax reform is finally within reach, and I enthusiastically support swift passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Throughout our Nation's history, small businesses have served as the backbone of our communities. These companies provide high-quality jobs, contribute to their local communities, and invest money right here at home. That is why I am dedicated to enacting tax relief that allows American small-business owners to keep more of their hard-earned tax dollars, to grow their businesses, and to compete globally.

This bill will create almost 13,000 new jobs in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and will raise after-tax income for middle class families by almost \$2,000. More than 59,000 taxpayers in the First District itemize their taxes, and because of the near doubling of the standard deduction and other simplifications, many of our taxpayers will have much simpler returns. And for our Nation, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will generate economic growth adequate to increase Federal tax receipts by \$1 trillion.

In the First District of Kentucky, there are nearly 44,000 taxpayers who earn small business income. Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, small-business owners will benefit from the new lower 9 percent tax rate on the first \$75,000 of their business income for owners earning less than \$150,000. Families and small businesses will have more opportunities to succeed with this framework.

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Additionally, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduces the number of deductions and credits aimed at special interests and other well-connected groups, which will create a simpler, more level playing field for American taxpayers. Getting rid of these special privileges in the Tax Code will ensure that all Americans, not just those who can afford their own tax preparers, get to keep more of their own money.

President Trump, my colleagues in Congress and I have promised to deliver tax reform in a big way. I am proud to be keeping this promise now. My constituents deserve a system that enables them to keep more of their hard-earned money and spend less of their time dealing with our overly complicated Tax Code.

I think it is important to address a concern that I have heard throughout the tax reform debate, one that I take very seriously: our national debt, which currently tops \$20 trillion and is growing every day. The debt is a serious problem that poses an impediment to growth, a burden on our future, and a threat to our national security.

While I am glad to finally hear bipartisan interest in addressing this challenge and getting the deficit under control, I think it is clear that any solution must include reducing government spending, particularly on mandatory programs that are the major drivers of our debt. I look forward to continuing to work towards this goal.

The last time we addressed our Tax Code was when President Reagan was in office. Sticking with the Tax Code we have had for decades, one that leaves U.S. businesses and workers behind, is not an option. Now, I have high hopes for the future with this tax reform framework.

I will continue fighting for reform that will benefit Kentuckians and our Nation as a whole, and I look forward to supporting progrowth solutions that have proven to benefit our Nation and our citizens.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, there is a trend here tonight. Those who are addressing the House this evening have had their own experience with this burdensome Tax Code. They have been small-business owners, entrepreneurs, job creators, and farmers, like my friend from Kentucky. I appreciate their zeal for this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GARRETT), a former prosecutor, an Army veteran, and always a good voice to reason.

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the last time this Nation passed major tax reform, yours truly weighed 112 pounds at the beginning of wrestling season. I had a full head of hair, I never set foot west of Mississippi, nor outside the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, the last time this country addressed tax reform, the Soviet Union was welcoming a new leader

named Mikhail Gorbachev. It has been too long.

It is an honor to represent the Fifth District of Virginia because I think it is historically unique. I have spoken from this podium and this floor about the amazing characteristics of that particular historical region.

Among the great individuals from the Fifth District of Virginia was a flawed man, an imperfect man, a slave-owner named Jefferson, who gave us a near-perfect document, named the "Declaration of Independence."

While not perfect, Jefferson had perfect insight, and, perhaps, you could argue he was prescient when it is said that he said: "I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

It has been enlightening tonight to stand on this floor. If you are watching at home, I suppose that you can turn the volume down on C-SPAN, because I don't intend to yell, as so many others have before me. And I will tell you that it is funny to listen to my colleagues across the aisle who say: This is a 429-page bill.

I would point out that saying the number of pages doesn't actually make the bill longer and that the Affordable Care Act, that they had us pass, so that we could find out what was in it, was 2,300 pages with over 20,000 pages of regulation. So there is a little disingenuity, at the very least, for them to lament the first real overhaul in our draconian tax structure in nearly two generations by suggesting that 429 pages is a long document, when such a hearty and robust undertaking is afoot.

Madam Speaker, I would submit that the government needs the people and not the other way around. That is what makes us the United States of America.

It is a clever ploy to attack the rich and the job creators, but let me point out the fact that 97.3 percent of taxes are paid by the top 50 percent of wage earners. So, therefore, when you attempt to cut taxes for working class people, someone who is in the 51st percentile will, indeed, receive a tax cut, but they are, by no means, rich.

It is a clever ploy to attack corporations, because corporations don't have faces, but people do.

And who do corporations provide jobs for?

People.

President Obama acknowledged that our corporate tax structure was among the most backward in the world, and it needed to be addressed, but he didn't address it. President Obama acknowledged that the Affordable Care Act had "real problems," but no one on the other side of the aisle will address them. So, too, did President Clinton. That is two Presidents from the other side of the aisle in a row, but no one will address them. Instead, we will create fear and demagoguery and attack

faceless corporations, because faceless corporations don't have faces, but people do.

We need to stop destroying jobs and opportunity and prosperity through the demagoguery of class warfare, attacking corporations, without acknowledging that the very people who benefit from their existence are the people who have the opportunity to send their children to college, to make memories on a vacation, to pursue and achieve dreams, to marry the love of their life with the very incomes achieved by these corporations.

Now, let's talk a little bit about corporations, because I know something about corporations, and we know something about corporations in Virginia's Fifth District.

Dan River Mills stood in Danville, Virginia—a company started in 1881. It closed its doors in 2006. In 2008, the smokestacks from Dan River Mills that had been a symbol not only of the skyline of that once thriving town, but also an identifying factor in the landscape of the city, were torn down as jobs went away.

Another corporation, Burlington Industries, Klopman Mills, in Pittsylvania County, hurt Virginia, and prospered from 1940 through 2007. When they left, over 1,000 jobs went with them as well. And the real estate for the property that once employed generation after generation, sending innumerable children to college, and fulfilling the humble dreams of working class Virginians, sold for a paltry \$750,000.

Vaughan-Bassett Furniture—and I would commend to anyone watching at home, the book "Factory Man," by Beth Macy, which chronicles John Bassett, III's struggle to keep 700 furniture jobs in this country, in my district—that corporation changed people's lives and gave them jobs.

Lane Manufacturing, for generations it was a tradition—in my part of the world, at least—that a young woman, prior to being married, might receive a Lane cedar chest—a hope chest. In fact, no less an iconoclast than Shirley Temple was used to peddle Lane cedar chests as something that would be an aspirational goal for a young, working class woman, as she set forth on pursuing the dreams of her life. From 1902, until just about 15 or 20 years ago, hundreds and hundreds of jobs, in Alta Vista, Campbell County, Virginia, left.

Broyhill. So many companies—some still around—all shadows of their former selves, as corporate money and jobs went offshore.

And why?

Because we have incentivized the departure of the very means by which our families have prospered and done so in order to vilify an entity incapable of defending itself, while neglecting to understand that the beneficiaries of the opportunity created thereby were their very neighbors and those who, in their demagoguery, they said they worked to protect.

Last year, in Danville, Virginia, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, who is still there—God bless them—had a cookout for the employees of Goodyear Tire, and the family members, thereof, and anybody who had ever worked for Goodyear Tire. They thought maybe there would be 800 or 1,000 people who attended this cookout. By the time it was over with, you couldn't get a pack of hotdog buns from a Food Lion within 30 miles, because that 1,000 people became 2,000 people, and became 3,000 people, and became nearly 4,000 people. These people didn't come to eat a hotdog with Goodyear Tire. They came to eat a hotdog with their family, their friends, and their community.

I stood last week at Piedmont Precision Machine Company, in Danville, Pittsylvania. I looked at \$1.6 million worth of new equipment that allowed this American small business to continue to compete with competitors abroad. And the rich man, who owned the company, said: TOM, I am going to have to take a loan to pay my taxes. But if you pass this bill, we will make some money, I will get more equipment, and we are going to hire some more people.

So understand that people don't come to eat hot dogs with Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, they come to eat hot dogs with their family members, their community, and people who have seen generation after generation receive opportunity, by virtue of their hard work, and opportunity provided by the very entities vilified by our opponents, without acknowledging the beneficiaries of the opportunity they provide are the very ones they purport to protect.

So Piedmont Precision Machine Company toils on. We work to attract more employers in Danville and Pittsylvania, and Henry County, and Martinsville area. Maybe Kyocera is going to come. We hope so. We think that if we get those jobs, we think that we might be able to move manufacturing jobs in high-tech to southside Virginia from Northern Virginia and California. But what I am hearing from the job creators is they want to see this thing get done. And when those jobs come from California, Northern Virginia, China, and India to Campbell County, Bedford County, Lunenburg County, and Mecklenburg County, it will be because we acted in a brave, bold manner, despite the divisive rhetoric that denies the reality that people benefit from opportunity, and opportunity is best provided, not by the government, but by people of initiative.

Now, I have heard so much rhetoric about what you oppose if you support this tax bill, so let's see if we can't flip that shoe onto the other foot. If you oppose this bill, you oppose lowering rates for working and middle-income families, while retaining the highest rate. That doesn't sound like a tax cut for the rich to me.

If you oppose this bill, you literally oppose doubling nearly the standard

deduction from \$6,350 to \$12,000 for an individual filer; and you oppose, if you oppose this bill, doubling the standard deduction from \$12,700 to \$24,000 for a married couple.

Why would people oppose that? Do they think the government can make better decisions with the money they earn than they can?

If you oppose this bill, then you oppose simplifying the Tax Code by eliminating years of carve-out deductions made for special interests.

Quite literally, a convoluted Tax Code benefits who?

Tax attorneys and accountants.

I suppose that the other side of the Chamber is the party that has a vested interest in keeping tax attorneys and accountants at work. I want to see people in Mecklenburg County at work.

If you oppose this bill, you oppose establishing a family tax credit; you oppose raising the child credit by \$600 per child; and you oppose establishing a new credit of \$300 per family member so that you might be able to help your mom, dad, aunt, uncle, or a disabled relative, who you choose to help in your home.

Why would people oppose that?

If you oppose this bill, you oppose reducing small business taxes to the lowest rate since the Second World War.

If you oppose this bill, you oppose establishing a super low nonpercent rate for small startup businesses making less than \$75,000 a year in income.

Why would you oppose startups?

If you oppose this bill, you oppose removing incentives that drive businesses to take money and jobs overseas. Don't talk to me about that. We know something about that in Virginia's Fifth.

So, finally, let me submit this: for the folks at home, who are smart enough to figure this out on their own, if you pay \$100 more because a deduction is eliminated and your taxes are cut by \$1,000 or more, as would be the case for a family of four making \$58,000 a year, that is not a tax increase.

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I have never, to my knowledge, other than the United States Army, worked for anything resembling a corporate entity in my life, but I know a lot of human beings who have, and I have seen what happens when we, through our divisive rhetoric, drive them away.

This isn't about corporations. This isn't about the rich. This is about human beings.

I think it was succinctly summarized, if perhaps by accident, by my colleague in the other Chamber, Senator SCHUMER, who said:

It is our research that indicates that if you pass this, some people's taxes might go up by 2023.

Think hard. What that acknowledges is that between now and then, people's taxes go down.

While Mr. Jefferson also said that:

The fruits of the working class are safest when the assembly is not in session.

I would submit that if indeed these problems exist, they should work with us to improve our Tax Code, which hasn't been touched since I literally weighed 112 pounds and had a full head of hair, and to start being part of the solution and stop being part of the problem.

Again, the government depends upon Americans, not Americans upon the government.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we have heard some compelling arguments here on the floor in the last few hours and some important facts have been shared.

I appreciate so much the eloquent words of my colleagues from Texas and Kentucky and Virginia and Pennsylvania and Florida and all over this great land of ours who have shared with us the importance of this landmark bill and this historic vote that we will take in this Chamber tomorrow.

I just thought there were a few more facts that were important to summarize here at the end of our debate this evening.

I wanted to quote the U.S. Chamber of Commerce because they looked at this bill and they gave an exhaustive review of this, as so many have. This is their summary: "The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is a growth bill, achieving faster economic growth, encouraging job creation, and getting more money in Americans' pockets each year."

I think that is a pretty good summary of what the bill will do and what it will accomplish.

We brought just a couple of graphics here to illustrate the national impact of this landmark reform. When we pass this bill and we get this to the President's desk, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will lead to the creation of an additional 975,000 new full-time jobs across this country.

It will raise after-tax income for middle class families by \$2,598 each. That is an increase of 4.4 percent. That is real money to families who are struggling to make ends meet around this country.

It will generate economic growth sufficient to increase Federal tax receipts by \$1 trillion. That is real money. That is a real boost to the American economy.

I brought another graphic here to show what this will mean in my district, by way of example, in Louisiana. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will mean a whole lot for my State.

It will lead to the creation of an additional 13,293 jobs in my State of Louisiana alone. Those are good-paying, full-time jobs. It will raise after-tax income for middle class families in Louisiana by \$1,857. That is real money. That will mean a lot to the families in my State.

More specifically, let me talk about the Fourth Congressional District in northwest and west Louisiana, 15 parishes, about one-third of our State by land area; good, hardworking, God-

fearing Americans. Let me tell you what it will mean to the people of Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District.

Here are just four highlights. It will be a larger child tax credit. In my district, there are 53,918 taxpayers who claim the child tax credit every year. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will increase the child tax credit from \$1,000 per child to \$1,600 per child for each of those families.

Let me give you another one: the tax relief for small businesses. This is a big thing in my district. 49,929 taxpayers in the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana have small business income, and that is a business that a taxpayer operates. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduces taxes for small-business owners.

First, the bill implements a new, lower 9 percent tax rate on the first \$75,000 of net business income for active small-business owners earning less than \$150,000 through their businesses. That is a whole lot of people, a whole lot of LLCs and small companies in my district.

Second, the bill lowers taxes on small business investment by creating a new 25 percent small business tax rate. That is capped at 25 percent. That is a big deal to people who are struggling to make ends meet.

Number three, a third feature, the elimination of the alternative minimum tax, the AMT. 4,049 taxpayers in the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana are impacted directly by the AMT. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act eliminates that factor.

Another one is simpler taxes. Listen to this number: 67,543 taxpayers in the Fourth Congressional District, in my district back home in Louisiana, itemize their taxes.

As a result of the near doubling of the standard deduction and other simplifications, many taxpayers will have much simpler returns. It is estimated, as we have said so many times tonight, that nine out of ten Americans will be able to file their taxes on a form the size of a postcard. That is a big change and a great simplification for the people of my district. We owe this to them.

I wanted to share a few other facts that I think are important to highlight tonight, Mr. Speaker.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is more than just a win for our American economy. It is a win for our American values. Let me give you a couple examples of that.

First, it is a win for free speech. The bill incorporates the language of our Free Speech and Fairness Act, which we filed as a standalone piece of legislation earlier this year in February. That will stop the IRS from policing the speech of churches and charitable organizations. That is a huge relief for men and women of faith, in particular, who watched the IRS breathe down the necks of nonprofits and religious entities, threatening to take away their tax-exempt status if they dare talk

about the moral and social and political issues of the day. That is a big win for free speech and a big win for them.

This bill is also a big win for American families. Let me give you a few examples of important features of how this helps the family in this country. The adoption tax credit has been restored. This is section 1102 of the bill. Now, this is a critically important thing to advance the policy, to advance and encourage and incentivize adoption in this country. This is something that all of us should agree on.

Over 60 percent of adopted children are adopted by middle- and low-income taxpayers in this country. Almost half of the children adopted from foster care live in families with household incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level.

Listen to this statistic: a study reported by the Federal Children's Bureau showed that the government saves between \$65,000 and \$127,000 for each child who is adopted rather than placed in long-term foster care.

Studies comparing children who remain in foster care to children who are adopted show that adopted children are 54 percent less likely to be delinquent or arrested, 19 percent less likely to become teen parents, and 76 percent more likely to be employed.

Can we all agree that the adoption tax credit being restored is an important part of this bill?

I think we can.

Here is another way it helps families, Mr. Speaker: the family tax credits. This is something that everybody back home should pay attention to. The child tax credit, section 1202 of the bill, this increases the child tax credit, as I mentioned a moment ago, from \$1,000 per child to \$1,600 per child. It provides a credit of \$300 for each parent and nonchild dependent to help all families with their everyday expenses.

The child dependent care tax credit helps families care for their children and other dependents, such as a disabled grandparent who may need additional support.

Here is another feature: unborn children are recognized in the 529 education savings account provisions of the Tax Code. Our tax reform bill allows a 529 education savings account to be opened, for the first time, for an unborn child or a child in utero. We recognize the humanity and the sanctity of life of the unborn child.

Here is another feature: the marriage penalties are finally removed. For too long, we have effectively penalized married couples in this country simply for being married. Our Tax Cuts and Jobs Act changes that. In most cases, married couples will no longer be penalized just for their choice to be married.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with just a few more remarks. A lot has been said here tonight, more will be said in the morning preceding our vote, but this is a big day for Congress and a big day for the country.

It has been over 30 years since we last updated our tax system. For reference, I was in the eighth grade the last time tax reform was accomplished in this Chamber. Many of those entering the workforce weren't even born yet the last time Congress fulfilled this responsibility.

Today, Americans are struggling to make ends meet, to find decent-paying jobs, and to prepare for retirement.

We must do right by our children and our grandchildren and give them a better future than our own. Fortunately, my Republican colleagues and I have put forth a framework to do just that.

We have discussed for the last few hours in this Chamber as we have been talking that our plan will create more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks for working class Americans and small businesses.

When businessowners are able to keep more of their profits, they will invest that money in their companies and in their employees, and that will spur economic growth, because they will expand their facilities, they will create and expand new product lines, they will add more jobs, and that is good for all of us.

Passing meaningful tax reform isn't about sticker shock talking points that we have heard so much about. It is about real everyday Americans who want to grow their businesses, offer better wages to their employees, provide for their families, but who have struggled to do so because of our oppressive and outdated tax policy.

Our plan puts Americans first and it offers real relief to those who need it most.

The Federal Tax Code today is more than 70,000 pages long. For context, that is more than 60 times longer than the King James Bible, and it contains none of the Good News.

It is time to simplify this Code and it is time to unleash the free market in our American economy again. We have that chance. This will be the biggest Christmas gift to the American people in over 3 decades. It is truly historic and it is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, we urge our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on this floor tomorrow. Let's make history together. Let's do right by the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONSEQUENCES OF PASSING THE REPUBLICANS' TAX PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COMER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we are going to be asked to cast perhaps one of the most important votes that will take place in a career here in the House based on the tax plan that the Republicans have put forward.

I say history is important, because this vote is likely to have consequences for years and years and years to come.

As I noted earlier tonight, as we look at a million new veterans from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq who deserve our care, for those of us who represent soldiers' homes and hospitals for the VA, we know just how important this is.

We know what happens to Alzheimer's patients who are going to lose the deduction on healthcare. We know what is going to happen to those students who currently write off parts of their student loans through interest deductions. We know the assessed tax that is going to go on places like the University of Notre Dame and others. We also understand that the homeowner deduction, the mortgage interest deduction, which is a huge middle class benefit, is about to be taken away arbitrarily.

State and local taxes, in some cases sales taxes, are about to be abolished all based upon the premise of maybe there will be enough economic growth.

There is no evidence, based on the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 or the repatriation that took place in 2004, that any of this is accurate, but they continue to proceed.

The next part of the challenge is they have now substituted the old supply side economics theory—remember tax cuts pay for themselves—and they have come up with a new term, and the new term that they have come up with is “dynamic scoring.”

So we have the challenge of technology, we have the challenge of globalization, and, yes, we have the challenge of skill set across America to move people into a direction of employment where they and their skills might be aligned with the jobs that are open, because the Department of Labor this week said there are 6 million jobs in America that go unanswered, 18,000 precision manufacturing jobs in New England that go unanswered, and 1 million tech jobs.

□ 2000

So we should be using this opportunity to invest in vocational education; we should be using it to invest in internship programs; and, yes, we should be using it to invest in community colleges. So part of this discussion should be based on, again, the historic vote of long-term investment.

Now, we also know that is unlikely to happen because, when people have a chance to look at these distribution tables on these tax cuts as to who gets what, they are going to be furious.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Napa, California (Mr. THOMPSON), and then the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) will be acknowledged right after that.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It is not often that I come down and participate in these Special Orders, but