



Last night, President Trump and Congressional leaders in the Majority succeeded in pushing their so-called ‘tax reform’ bill one step closer to law. Sadly, instead of helping hardworking families, the plan will grow the deficit and benefits the rich and giant corporations at the expense of everyone else.

When families sit down to do their taxes and find out they owe hundreds or thousands more, it’s going to cause real pain. Sure, the promise is that tax returns will be simpler, however simpler should not be harsher and at the expense of hard working families. Here in New York, decreasing or eliminating state, local and property tax deductions will hit middle-class families especially hard. And projections show most people making under \$75,000 a year will be worse off than they are now.[\[1\]](#)

I am well aware of the burden of local property taxes and over the past several years the tax cap and hard work of local government officials have helped reduced the tax burden for many and limited what was continual increases. Yes, we still have more to do and difficult decisions to make but not at the expense of hard working families.

Once you take a close look at the details of this plan, it becomes clear just how much the wealthy benefit while the majority of families I represent do not. It’s heartless to tell a teacher they can no longer get a tax deduction for buying extra school supplies or to tell a new homeowner they can no longer deduct the interest they pay on their mortgage or even the recent college graduate drowning in student loan debt, ‘sorry, you can’t deduct the interest you pay.’ The deductions that regular people routinely use will be eliminated in order to help pay for a huge corporate tax cut.

This is problematic for small businesses in this ever changing economy as one needs to be profitable to pay taxes and that is less apparent in the district I represent.

I believe in a positive business climate and we need to focus on a balance of some tax relief supported by more regulatory relief which is what drives businesses crazy. Additionally, we need to be mindful of the downright terrible provision in the house to remove the historic preservation tax credit which would quell any redevelopment of historic properties and only aggravate the tax base situation that many of our cities face.

We need an open discussion of these issues in Washington this month and a will to do what is best for all Americans ... not just a select few.

[1] [cnn.com/2017/11/27/politics/cbo-score-senate-tax/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/27/politics/cbo-score-senate-tax/index.html)

(<http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/27/politics/cbo-score-senate-tax/index.html>)