



November 8, 2007

Why PATCH the AMT When We Can REPEAL It?

Dear Colleague:

This week, the House will likely consider the Temporary Tax Relief Act (H.R. 3996). The name says it all. This is a bill with temporary tax relief for some and permanent tax increases for others. This approach is simply wrong.

The bill contains a long list of one-year tax extenders and just a one-year “patch” for the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). But why? It is universally accepted that the AMT was never intended to affect the tens of millions of taxpayers it is expected to affect this year. Not adjusting the AMT’s exemption for inflation in the original law in 1969 was clearly a mistake.

Therefore, H.R. 3996 is wrong in two main respects:

1. A multi-decade mistake that threatens tens of millions of taxpayers should not be corrected with a one-year patch.
2. The correction of tax mistakes should never be offset with tax increases.

The good news is that there is an alternative. The **Taxpayer Choice Act** (H.R. 3818) would immediately, fully, and permanently repeal the AMT without raising taxes on anyone, anywhere, anytime.

The Taxpayer Choice Act would also create a voluntary Simplified Tax that would give individuals the option of paying under a highly simplified income tax system or under the regular income tax as it is structured now.

For more information, or to co-sponsor the Taxpayer Choice Act (H.R. 3818), please contact Paul Teller at paul.teller@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jeb Hensarling

Rep. Paul Ryan

Rep. John Campbell

Rep. Michele Bachmann