

TALKING POINTS ON THE TRUMP/REPUBLICAN TAX LAW

March 22, 2018

The following talking points are based on a major survey of 2,000 voters conducted in March 2018 by Hart Research and Global Strategy Group for Americans for Tax Fairness Action Fund, Center for American Progress Action Fund, UnidosUS Action Fund and others.

Message #1: The Trump/Republican tax law gave huge tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations that are blowing a big hole in the national debt and will result in large cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and education.

- Having provided huge tax breaks to corporations and wealthy campaign donors, Republicans are already proposing to pay for them with deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and education.
- Instead, we should make sure the rich and corporations pay their fair share of taxes, so we can protect these priorities. And we should invest in our communities to have better schools, fix roads, bridges, and transit systems, make healthcare more affordable, and provide a secure retirement with dignity.

Message #2: The vast majority of the Trump/Republican tax cuts will go to the wealthy and large corporations instead of to working families.

- Large corporations run by wealthy CEOs get permanent tax cuts, but the tax cuts for working families are only temporary. That's because Republicans in Congress care more about helping corporations and CEOs than working families.
- The Trump/Republican tax law delivers huge tax breaks to millionaires and wealthy corporations, while middle-class families are left to pick up the tab yet again. 83% of the tax cuts go to the richest 1%, while most Americans will eventually end up paying higher taxes. Republicans gave huge tax cuts to big drug companies, big oil, and other corporations, but working families got little. This law rigs the tax code and the economy even further in favor of those at the top.

LINK TAX BREAKS FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS TO THE CORRUPT POLITICAL SYSTEM

- Many Republican politicians voted for a special tax loophole that will cut their own taxes by tens of thousands of dollars a year. [Source: Center for American Progress]
- Republicans gave pharmaceutical and health insurance companies billions in new tax breaks, but now those companies are raising drug prices and our insurance premiums.
- Republicans gave a tax cut of more than \$1 billion a year to the billionaire Koch brothers, who promised to spend \$400 million to reelect Republicans who voted for the law. This was a political payoff. [Source: [Americans for Tax Fairness](#)]
- Republicans opened a huge new loophole that gives billions to wealthy business owners and real estate developers like Donald Trump who can game the system—but working people don't qualify.

WORDS TO USE

- Republican/Trump tax scam: use with base voters not swing or more conservative voters
- "Working families," more than "middle-class" families
- "Wealthy shareholders," not "shareholders"
- "Corporate CEOs," more than "large corporations"
- "Dishonest and deceptive": a phrase that summarizes concerns about the tax law

REBUTTING CONSERVATIVES' CLAIMS

Claim: Middle-class tax relief. Our tax reform is providing much-needed tax relief to middle-class families, an average of \$2,000 per family.	Rebuttal: The law gave large permanent tax cuts to corporations, but the middle-class tax cuts are only temporary.
Claim: Tax reform benefits all Americans. Our tax cuts will benefit all Americans by growing the economy and allowing people to keep more of the money they earn.	Rebuttal: The law gave the biggest tax breaks to Republican politicians and to the wealthy donors and corporate interests who fund their campaigns.
Claim: Tax reform is growing the economy... by putting more money in people's pockets and creating a level playing field for American business.	Rebuttal: The law will weaken our economy by <i>increasing the national debt</i> , which will force deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and education.
Claim: Employers are hiking wages and providing bonuses to employees. More than 400 companies have announced bonuses, wage hikes, or other employee benefits, affecting more than four million workers, since tax reform passed.	Rebuttal: Only a tiny fraction of America's 26 million businesses has given their workers bonuses or a raise. But corporations have spent \$200 billion on stock buybacks to benefit CEOs and wealthy shareholders. [Source: Americans for Tax Fairness]
Claim: \$480 billion in new investments. Thanks to tax reform, companies have announced \$480 billion in new investments here that will create thousands of new jobs.	Rebuttal: Studies show that these are not new investments, it is what corporations had already planned to spend before the tax cuts became law. [Source: ATF]

SOLUTIONS TO OFFER

- Repeal the Trump/Republican tax cuts *for the wealthy and big corporations*.
- We need to make sure wealthy investors are taxed at a rate at least as high as workers pay on their wages.
- End tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or shift profits offshore.
- Close the loophole that benefits wealthy business owners like Trump and use the revenue for infrastructure (or other services or programs).

REBUTTAL TO POSSIBLE GOP PROPOSAL TO MAKE INDIVIDUAL TAX CUTS PERMANENT

- **Can you believe Republicans are coming back for even more tax cuts for their wealthy campaign donors?** In December, they doled out \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts that mostly benefit the wealthy and big corporations. They exploded the federal debt and have jeopardized funding for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and education. Enough is enough!
- **Making the tax cuts for individuals permanent, like Republicans did for corporations, will blow another massive hole in the deficit.** This, in turn will result in large cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and education. Our nation and our families can't afford that.
- **Making tax cuts for individuals permanent will give a huge windfall to the richest Americans.** They're already getting 83% of the tax cuts. Do they really need more? Instead, we should make sure the rich and corporations pay their fair share of taxes, so we can protect critical priorities like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and education.
- **I can't support any new tax cuts that benefit the wealthy,** and that are paid for by further exploding the national debt and cutting Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and education. We need true tax reform that makes the wealthy, CEOs and big corporations pay their fair share now, not give them more handouts at the expense of working families.