

December 18, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 700,000 members and officers of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I am writing to strongly urge you to oppose the conference report for H.R. 1 when it comes up for a vote this week. Rather than remedying the provisions that made both the House- and Senate-passed versions of H.R. 1 a massive giveaway to the wealthiest Americans, Wall Street, and companies that offshore jobs, the conference report expands on those problems by providing new tax cuts for millionaires and to personally enrich numerous members of Congress.

The conference report on H.R. 1 is clearly designed as a massive wealth transfer from working families to the wealthiest Americans. The overwhelming majority of the benefits of this bill would go to the richest 1% of Americans, while tens of millions of working families would see little to no benefit, or even face tax increases. Even worse, the bill causes 13 million people to lose their health insurance, while also jeopardizing future funding for Medicare and Medicaid.

H.R. 1 would also provide strong new incentives for companies to move money and jobs overseas. Under the bill, companies that shift operations like call centers overseas could potentially face no U.S. taxes on their overseas earnings. It makes no sense to provide additional tax incentives for companies to move good jobs overseas, as this bill does.

Finally, although the bill's supporters promised numerous times that it would not benefit the wealthy or Wall Street, the opposite is the case. Instead of closing the carried interest loophole--which allows predatory private equity and hedge funds to pay a lower tax rate than teachers, nurses or call center customer service representatives--it opens yet another loophole for these same multimillionaires by allowing them to reclassify their businesses as "pass-through" corporations subject to a lower tax rate. The conference report makes it even worse by expanding the pass-through loophole for certain limited liability corporations to secure the votes of members of Congress who would personally benefit from the loophole. It also would lower the highest tax bracket to 37%, despite that provision not being included in previous versions of the bill, simply to further benefit the wealthiest Americans.

Given the huge, immoral transfer of wealth from working families to the richest people in the country contained in H.R. 1, I strongly urge you to oppose the conference report. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shane Larson
Legislative Director
Communications Workers of America (CWA)