

Income, Taxes & Your Money
Committee Report – Nov. 9, 2017

Income, Taxes & Your Money meets the 3rd Monday of each month by teleconference. Email darren.white@hotmail.com for details.

As we are a year from the November 2016 election, Income, Taxes & Your Money looks back at bills we have opposed in 2017. We started bill tracking in April and held our first team teleconference on April 17th. The inaugural bills we opposed:

[H.R.1116 - Tailor Act of 2017](#)

[H.R. 1031 - Eliminate Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection](#)

[S.545 - National Right-to-Work Act](#)

[H.R.785 - National Right-to-Work Act](#)

[H.R.1457 Mobile Act of 2017](#)

[H.R 1801 Pacer Act of 2017](#)

The Tailor Act, Pacer Act and the Mobile Act were introduced by Rep. Scott Tipton. We learned to closely follow the Financial Services Committee on which he sits.

In June, we opposed the so-called “Working Families Flexibility Act”, which harms workers by allowing employers to substitute “comp” time in lieu of paying overtime. Update: This bill passed the House and is stalled in the Senate.

We decided to include bills that we support in July, adding the H.R. 676 & S. 1242. Also, we added opposition both the so-called “Financial Choice Act of 2017” and the “Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017”. Update: Both H.R. 10 & H.R. 1180 passed the House and are in committee in the Senate.

[S.951](#) — Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017

[H.R.676](#) — Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act

[S.1242](#) — Raise the Wage Act

[H.R.10](#) — Financial CHOICE Act of 2017 (Passed House; on to Senate)

[H.R.1180](#) — Working Families Flexibility Act of 2017 (Passed House, on to Senate)

We found that our Representatives tend to pass legislation that favors the wealthy & corporations on Fridays or during James Comey testifying (with H.R. 10) to avoid media reporting on harmful bills.

In September, we began opposing Appropriations & Budget bills. We oppose the Trump Budget, the so-called “Make America Secure & Prosperous Appropriations Act”, and the National Defense Authorization Acts in the House and Senate.

[H.R. 3354](#) NEW BILL TO CONSIDER “**Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018**” - combines the remaining eight spending bills reported by the Committee on Appropriations: Interior (H.R. 3354); Agriculture (H.R. 3268); Commerce, Justice, Science (H.R. 3267); Financial Services (H.R. 3280); Homeland Security (H.R. 3355); Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (H.R. 3358); State and Foreign Operations (H.R. 3362); Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (H.R. 3353). **Passed House (9/14/17), needs to pass Senate**, could come up for vote soon

[S. 1519](#) - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Senate) & [H.R. 2810](#) National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (House)

Appropriations bills: [HR 3354](#) & [HR 3219](#)

This month, November – a year from the 2016 election, we oppose the most major piece of legislation thus far - H.R. 1, so-called “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act”. Opposition points summary:

- the bill would reduce the current marginal income tax brackets to four from seven — 12, 25, 35 and 39.6 percent
- the rate applied to the lowest income bracket would increase, although the first \$12,000 for an individual \$24,000 for a couple would be deductible (doubled)
- repeal the individual Alternative Minimum Tax — which primarily affects households with incomes from \$200,000 to \$1 million — and would maintain preferential rates for investment income.
- repeal the estate tax after six years, in the meantime doubling the amount of inherited wealth that is exempt from the tax to \$11 million from \$5.5 million.
- eliminates most itemized deductions, keeping in place just three — deductions for mortgage interest, charitable contributions and state and local property taxes
- mortgage interest deduction would be capped for newly purchased homes up to \$500,000, and the property tax deduction would be capped at \$10,000
- one of the largest deductions that would be eliminated is the one for state and local income taxes, repealing would make it more difficult for states and localities to provide vital services such as education, healthcare, and income support because the after-tax cost of paying state and local taxes will increase for residents who used to itemize
- largest deduction claimed by taxpayers in the lowest income group is for medical expenses, which is eliminated in the bill
- repeal the personal exemption, which is currently \$4,050 per taxpayer and dependent claimed on a return
- increases the child tax credit to \$1,600 from \$1,000 and creates a new \$300 credit for filers, spouses, and non-child dependents; new \$300 credit expires after five years, and the increased child tax credit won't make up for the loss in personal exemptions
- changes measure of inflation to chained C.P.I. which would result in a tax increase over the long run

- the most expensive change to taxpayers in the bill is a reduction of the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent
- limits to 25 percent the tax rate for “pass through” businesses rather than the 39.6% rate for sole proprietorships, partnerships and S corporations that currently pay taxes at the individual rate of their owners - 70 percent of partnership income accrues to the top 1%
- adds \$1.5 Trillion to the deficit with half of tax cut going to top 1%
- former students won't be able to deduct student loan interest
- repeals Johnson Amendment - churches would be allowed to endorse political candidates while keeping tax-exempt status
- eliminates tax credit worth up to \$13,750 per child for adoption
- office day care centers could no longer claim a credit for employee child care

We are actively tracking the following bills (click links for details):

- [H.R. 676: Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act \(Support\)](#)
- [H.R. 785: National Right-to-Work Act](#)
- [S. 427: Social Security Expansion Act \(Support\)](#)
- [H.R. 1116: TAILOR Act of 2017](#)
- [H.R. 1516: Healthy Families Act \(Support\)](#)
- [S. 951: Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017](#)
- [S. 1242: Raise the Wage Act \(Support\)](#)
- [H.R. 2810: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018](#)
- [H.R. 3219: Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018](#)
- [H.R. 3354: Interior and Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, Commerce, Justice, Science, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, ...](#)
- [H.R. 1: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Darren White

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