



## RECESS TOOLKIT

Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress are reeling over their failure (so far) to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). So, they are pivoting to their next big priority: cutting taxes, mostly for the wealthy and big corporations.

Polling shows that the public doesn't like what they're offering, but Republicans will try to use the August recess to build public support for their tax plan, and Trump has committed to traveling the country to sell it. The Koch brothers are funding a massive lobbying campaign through their network of conservative groups. And the corporate tax lobby—from the Chamber of Commerce to the Business Roundtable—have committed to spending millions on TV ads.

Trump and Republicans then plan to introduce their massive tax-giveaway legislation in September. Make no mistake—they are still coming after our healthcare. Their plan is to cut Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, public education, and other priorities for working families in order to pay for tax breaks for millionaires and wealthy corporations. Trump's and Paul Ryan's Medicaid cuts alone are more drastic than what they proposed in their ACA repeal bills. It's no secret—these drastic cuts to services we all depend on along with their proposed tax cuts for the rich, are outlined in Trump's tax and budget plans summarized below.

Cutting taxes is the cornerstone of conservative ideology. Remember, a key part of Trumpcare was cutting \$600 billion in taxes on the rich and corporations, paid for by slashing Medicaid. Just as we won the health care fight, we can win the tax fight, but it is likely to be even harder because some Democrats actually support cutting corporate taxes too.

That's why we need to sustain and strengthen the grassroots energy that has helped us beat back attempts to repeal our healthcare. Phone calls, letters, sit-ins, protests, town halls, rallies—you name it, we need it. We need members of Congress to feel the heat, and we need the media to understand the public is opposed to cutting healthcare and education to fund tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, period.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

The table below shows the harm that will occur to services that working families depend on if Trump's tax and budget plans are enacted by Congress. An online version of this table is available at [StopTrumpTaxCuts.org](http://StopTrumpTaxCuts.org).

<b>TRUMP'S TAX GIVEAWAYS (Tax Cuts Over 10 Years)</b>	<b>TRUMP'S BUDGET CUTS (Budget Cuts Over 10 Years)</b>
<b>\$3.5 trillion to \$4.8 trillion:</b> Total cost of Trump's tax cuts, mostly for the wealthy and corporations	<b>\$4.3 trillion:</b> Trump's budget cuts to Social Security, Medicaid, education and all other services
<b>\$2.3 trillion</b> corporate tax rate cut	<b>\$2.5 trillion</b> cut to services that boost working families
<b>\$1.4 to \$2 trillion</b> tax cut for hedge fund managers, corporate lawyers & real-estate moguls like Trump	<b>\$1.9 trillion</b> cut to Medicaid and other health care spending
<b>\$600 billion</b> tax break for corporations stashing profits offshore	<b>\$261 billion</b> cut to transportation infrastructure
<b>\$445 billion</b> tax cut by repealing a minimum tax on the wealthy	<b>\$346 billion</b> cut to education, training, employment and social services
<b>\$240 billion</b> tax cut from repealing tax on estates worth more than \$5.5 million	<b>\$193 billion</b> cut to nutrition assistance
<b>\$150 billion</b> tax cut on investment income of the wealthy	<b>\$72 billion</b> cut in support for people with disabilities

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**#1 Stay informed and connected.**

At [StopTrumpTaxCuts.org](http://StopTrumpTaxCuts.org) you can get the information you need to stay informed and the resources you need to resist, including a digital toolkit for social media. Also visit [Facebook.com/Americans4TaxFairness](https://www.facebook.com/Americans4TaxFairness) and [@4taxfairness](https://twitter.com/4taxfairness) pages to keep updated.

**#2. Be on message.**

To win this tax debate we all need to use the same tax message to counter the deceit from the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress. Here's the core message we urge everyone to use:

*President Trump and Republicans in Congress are pushing plans that give huge tax breaks to millionaires and wealthy corporations while cutting Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education and other critical services. To protect these priorities and to invest in our communities, we need tax reform that makes the wealthy and big corporations pay their fair share of taxes. Tax reform must not cut funding for working family priorities, such as healthcare and education. That means we cannot afford to give one penny in new tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations.*

The other side will claim that tax cuts will create jobs and grow the economy. Don't believe them—trickle down doesn't work. And we know that cutting public education, healthcare, and infrastructure costs jobs rather than creates jobs.

[Go here for our more detailed talking points.](#)

### #3 [Print one of these signs](#) for public events.

Preferably on yellow paper so it is bold for the public and TV cameras to see. Take it to town hall meetings with your member of Congress and to other events. This format is to print on regular paper (8.5" x 11").

### #4 Ask your member of Congress questions at town halls.

- **Trump's Tax Cuts:** President Trump and House Republicans are proposing tax cuts of \$3 trillion (House) to \$5 trillion (Trump). These will mostly benefit the wealthy and big corporations. To pay for these tax giveaways, their budgets propose about \$4 trillion in cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, public education and a lot of other critical services. **How will cutting taxes for millionaires and big corporations and paying for them by cutting critical services going to help my family? Will you commit to OPPOSE ANY new tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations to protect funding for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and public education?**
- **Budget Vote in Congress:** Before Congress votes on tax legislation you will first vote on a budget and on a fast-track process known as reconciliation. This will pave the way for Congress to pass a massive tax cut later on that mostly benefits the wealthy and big corporations. This budget will put Medicare, Medicaid, education, and other critical services at great risk of being cut to pay for those tax cuts. **Will you commit to oppose any budget that puts tax cuts on the legislative fast-track known as reconciliation?** [Note: reconciliation was the procedure Republicans used to try to repeal the Affordable Care Act; it requires 51 votes in the Senate, rather than the usual 60.]
- **Corporate Taxes:** Corporate profits are at record highs but the amount corporations pay in federal taxes is at record lows. Few corporations pay close to the 35% tax rate. Many of them—like General Electric and Verizon—pay little or nothing because of all the tax loopholes. But President Trump and House Speaker Ryan want to give deep tax cuts to corporations anyway, including to corporations that send jobs and stash profits offshore. **Will you oppose tax cuts for corporations and fight to make sure they pay their fair share of taxes?** [Note: Trump proposes to cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 15% and Ryan from 35% to 20%]
- **Not One Penny:** At a minimum, Congress should make sure that the wealthy and corporations do not get one more penny in new tax cuts. **Will you oppose any tax plan that results in the wealthy and corporations paying less in taxes than they pay now?**
- **Trump's Tax Returns:** President Trump is proposing massive tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. This includes a new low 15% tax rate for real estate developers like himself. Trump is the first president in 40 years not to release his tax returns. **Before you vote on tax legislation, will you demand to see Donald Trump's tax returns so we know how he and his family may benefit from his tax plan?**

## PUBLIC OPINION ON TAXES

[Gallup News Service](#) (April 5-9, 2017, Q 26)

- 67% of Americans think corporations pay too little in taxes.
- 63% of Americans think upper-income people pay too little in taxes.

[Pew Research Center](#) (April 5-11, 2017, Q. 67)

- 80% of Americans (62% “a lot”) are bothered that some corporations don’t pay their fair share of taxes.
- 78% of Americans (60% “a lot”) are bothered that some wealthy people don’t pay their fair share of taxes.

[Washington Post-ABC News poll](#) (Jan. 12-15, 2017, Q19c)

- 61% oppose “**reducing income taxes paid by higher-income people,**” while 36% support it.