

Action on Tax Bill, Immigration, and Arctic Wildlife Refuge

On Friday, the Senate approved 51 to 49 the tax bill. Senator Corker was the only Republican to vote no. Just a few hours before the final vote, Democrats were handed a 475-page revised tax bill and were being asked to vote on the bill. This whole process really made a mockery of our democratic process where adequate time is allowed for bills to be scored, studied, debated and amended.

The Senate's approval of the tax bill is a disappointing outcome particularly for the poor and middle class in our society. We do, however, have a shot at blocking things in the next week or so. The Senate bill now goes to a Conference Committee where differences will be reconciled with the House bill. If the bill makes it out of Conference, the House and Senate will have to vote on the final versions. We are concerned the House could be voting on this bill as soon as Monday, so we must act now.

Here is what you can do:

Go to Washington:

Buses leave from New York City on Monday, December 4 at 6:00 A.M. There is no cost for the bus and meals will be provided. Buses also leave from New York City on Tuesday, December 5 in morning at 6:30 and 5:30 A.M. from Binghamton. If you would like to take a New York City bus. Contact Michael Kink at [518-527-2787](tel:518-527-2787) or michael.kink@strongforall.org. For the Binghamton bus go to this link at: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/free-bus-to-wash-dc-national-protest-to-stop-the-trump-tax-scam>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/497107630688312/>

If you leave from Binghamton, host families have offered to put you up on Monday night and, again, when you return late on Tuesday night. Contact Mary Clark at [607-232-2084](tel:607-232-2084) or cabing@citizenactionny.org.

If you are going to Washington we also urge you to fill out this form as soon as you can. bit.ly/stormDC For tax actions we will meet on both Monday and Tuesday at 11 AM at the Capitol Skyline Hotel, [101 I Street SW](#).

Immigration Action in Washington on December 6 and Action to Prevent Drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge on December 7.

Immigration

If you are in Washington for the tax action, we urge you to stay and participate in a massive action at the Capital in support of DACA on Wednesday morning. Buses are also leaving all over New York State on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. [Click here](#) for more information and find the bus for you.

Arctic Wildlife Refuge

Also, there is an action to prevent drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. We will visit the offices of John Katko, John Faso, Elise Stefanik, Lee Zeldin, and Dan Donovan. We would love to have clergy and laity join us from those districts. If you would like to participate in this action contact Peter Cook at [508-380-8289](tel:508-380-8289) right away.

Call your Representative

Call your Republican representative at [877-795-7862](tel:877-795-7862). You will be automatically connected to the correct office after providing your zip code. We believe there are about 40 House members who could, for a variety of reasons, vote no on the final bill. Some of the House members voted no on the original tax bill while others voted no on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Since the Senate version eliminates the individual mandate for health insurance, which is an important factor in the stability of the program, some of these Congress people might vote no. [Click here](#) for a list of people who might change their votes or keep voting no on the final bill.

Actions in New York

Actions are being planned in each Congressional district next week. We will post actions on [our Facebook page](#) as soon as we know when they will take place. Notably, there is an information session on the tax bill sponsored by Mayor Stephanie Miner in Syracuse at City Hall in the Common Council Chambers, [233 East Washington Street](#), on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00.

MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Peter Cook's Editorial

Here is [an editorial written by Peter Cook](#) which appeared on Friday, December 1 in the Syracuse Post Standard.

The Inside Scoop

Here is the inside scoop as of Friday night, December 1 [from Mary Clark of Citizens Action](#). She describes what you can expect as votes are taken in the new few days and how you can intervene.

Talking Points

Here are post [Senate vote talking points](#) on the tax bill to share with your Congressperson.

Thank you for your faithfulness in acting to stop a massive transfer of wealth from the poor and middle class to the very rich. During this Advent season, I am reminded of Mary's song as she anticipated the birth of her son and what he would call us to do in this life:

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’

Please call me at [508-380-8289](tel:508-380-8289) or Pcook@Nyscoc.org if you have questions, want to go to Washington, or explore how best to act.