

LTE TEMPLATES

- Please customize these templates by filling in the highlighted areas and adding personal stories from constituents who are directly impacted by the issues where possible.
- Where possible, call on a specific legislative target—lawmakers typically notice anytime their name appears in print.
- Submit the LTEs promptly, particularly if you are responding to a headline in a tax story.

Children Pay the Price for Republicans' Misplaced Tax Priorities

Dear Editor:

The new tax bill that gives over \$1.51 trillion in tax breaks mainly to the rich and corporations once again demonstrates that Republicans' priorities are totally out of touch with their constituents.

Republicans are feverishly working on jamming the new bill to give trillions in tax breaks to the rich and corporations paid for with big cuts to Medicaid and Medicare through Congress using a fast-track process. In the meantime, the bill to re-authorize funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for 9 million low income children languishes even though the deadline for reauthorizations was back on Sept. 30th.

[Insert personal story of child who needs CHIP: My son/daughter [name] depends on CHIP for her healthcare like thousands of others in our state. Without it, we would not be able to afford regular check ups or treatment for her asthma, including an expensive inhaler. Just one emergency room visit could impact our household budget for months without this coverage.]

CHIP cost the government \$13.6 billion, small change compared to the over \$1.5 trillion in tax breaks in the new bill. Yet, Republicans argue that they can't pay for children's healthcare without cutting healthcare for their parents and grandparents causing the bill to stall.

Common sense dictates that if we can afford to give the richest one percent of Americans an average tax cut of \$48,580 in 2018, then Republicans definitely have the money to renew children's healthcare. It's just a matter of priorities.

Cutting health care for anyone and putting 9 million kids' healthcare at risk while giving tax breaks to millionaires and big corporations is unconscionable. Tell [insert target lawmaker] that our kids shouldn't pay the price for the Republicans' misguided priorities.

Sincerely,

[Congressman/woman] Has Another Chance to Do The Right Thing On Health Care by Rejecting Tax Giveaways for the Rich

Dear Editor:

Here we go again. Earlier this fall [Congressman/woman XXX] turned his/her back on constituents when he/she voted in support of the federal budget resolution that would cut Medicare by \$487 billion and \$1 trillion from Medicaid over the next 10 years.

Now Republicans are taking the next step with their new tax “reform” bill, which will give away trillions in tax breaks to the richest Americans and corporations paid for by these huge cuts to health \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and Medicare programs that seniors, kids, working families, veterans and people with disabilities depend on.

We’ve seen [Congressman/woman XXXX] vote to cut health care to give tax breaks to the rich before, during the efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act earlier this year. This time, Congress is using the same fast-track process to jam the legislation through before anyone realizes who’s really paying for these big tax breaks: us.

[Insert personal story: I depend on Medicaid every day for my healthcare. Even though I work, I can’t afford to buy coverage on the private market especially since uncertainty about the future of the ACA has driven up premiums. Thanks to Medicaid, I can get reliable coverage so that I can manage my high blood pressure and continue to work.]

We can’t allow [Congressman/woman XXXX] to cut health care in order to give his/her big donors big tax breaks. Every one in the district who depends on Medicaid and Medicare should call his/her office now and ask him/her to oppose the tax breaks paid for by of our health care.

Sincerely,

New Tax Giveaway Bill Bad News for Opioid Epidemic

Dear Editor:

The new Republican House tax bill is bad news for families struggling with opioid addiction, right now the most severe epidemic that our country has ever faced. Families have already been put through the wringer this year by multiple attempts to cut healthcare by repealing the ACA and dismantling Medicaid that put treatment at risk for millions of people.

[Insert Story here: People like me/my sister/ my brother who have been struggling with addiction for years but never had access to treatment until our state expanded Medicaid under the ACA to include people like me. Thanks to Medicaid, I got access to mental health, treatment and recovery for my substance abuse and I’ve now lived drug free for XXX years].

Disaster was averted because the Republicans couldn’t get the votes to cut healthcare, but unfortunately, they are going to keep trying. The tax bill just released would give over \$1.5 trillion in tax breaks to the rich and corporations and pay for it with \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid.

President Trump’s is right that the opioid epidemic is national public health emergency but so far, Congressional action would just make it worse. Cutting Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for the rich and big corporations—including the pharmaceutical companies that helped create this crisis—takes us in the wrong direction.

There's an old adage that talk is cheap. It doesn't cost President Trump anything to talk about a crisis that is ripping apart people's lives on the one hand while cutting Medicaid and taking health care away from people who need it to recover from addiction on the other.

But make no mistake, the rest of us will pay dearly if we let politicians substitute talk for action or allow Republicans to cut health care to fund their tax giveaways.

Sincerely,

Tax Giveaways for Corporations Don't Create More Jobs for Us

Dear Editor:

Republicans are pushing a tax bill that they claim will stimulate the economy and create jobs but we've all seen this bad movie before.

It's time to admit that giving big tax breaks to Apple, Pfizer, Wells Fargo and other multi-national corporations doesn't create jobs—it just makes CEOs and shareholders richer while the rest of us are stuck with healthcare cuts, crumbling infrastructure, and more expensive education to pay for their perks.

More than 70% of the tax cuts in the Republican proposal go to big corporations, many of whom have already avoided paying taxes for years by taking advantage of corporate tax loopholes that allow them to stash their profits in Ireland, the Cayman islands and other offshore tax havens where they won't have to pay taxes to the U.S. In fact, these corporations have \$2.6 trillion in stashed profits offshore right now.

The Republican bill would collect only a small fraction of the taxes owed on this amount, but it would also tax any future profits that companies earn in other countries at a much lower rate. Not only does that not create jobs, it actually creates more incentive for big companies to offshore jobs to other countries where they could pay a lot less in taxes on whatever profits they earn. Avoiding taxes in the U.S. is how we lost so many jobs in our country to begin with—we should know better at this point.

This bill does not create jobs and does not help working families. It actually costs American workers money because these big tax giveaways to the corporations will be paid for with cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, Pell Grants, job training, transportation and a host of other programs that working families need to make ends meet.

Our country doesn't need more failed trickle-down economics. The rich getting richer has never been good for the rest of us. [Representative/Senator XXXX] must reject this bill and stand up for us, not the corporate interests and millionaires that don't need another tax cut paid for by us.

Sincerely,