

**THE SCOOP ON TAX BILL FROM MARY CLARK, CITIZEN'S ACTION
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017**

“We anticipate Senate passage of the tax bill by a vote of 51 to 49. Senator Corker is the only Republican who will oppose the bill. He held true to his principles to oppose the measure because it balloons the deficit. Sen. Jeff Flake [announced his support](#) this afternoon—without getting anything of substance in return for caving on his principles. Sen. Collins put out a lengthy [statement](#) noting what she “won” in the bill, but she failed to act to ensure that the full and destructive force of ACA repeal does not happen.

We’re expecting a vote in the Senate this evening on a “manager’s amendment”—not sure if it’s in an hour or well beyond that, as they figure out how to square the circle on deals they have cut and how to pay for them, or not to pay for them most likely. Final passage vote will likely be preceded by vote-a-rama, which is a lightning fast series of amendments that are offered with little debate and quickly voted on. This could go on for a while, but given that it is Friday evening and Republicans have the votes for final passage it may not last very long.

Once the bill is passed, it is expected that the House and Senate will go to conference to work out their differences. These include things like individual tax rates, how much taxes are cut on pass-through businesses, whether the estate tax is repealed, and whether to repeal the ACA’s individual mandate. House leadership has told members to be back for votes at 6:30 on Monday on a motion to go to conference with the Senate. Instead of going to conference, there is the possibility that the House could vote on the Senate-passed tax bill, which would then go to the President for his signature.

The fight is not over. In anticipation of a conference, we are turning our attention back to the House, where we need to flip 11 votes from yes to no to defeat the bill. It is not clear that House moderates will accept things in the Senate bill, such as the repeal of the individual mandate (there were 13 Republicans who voted against the ACA repeal but voted for the tax bill), or that the hard-right conservatives will accept anything short of a full repeal of the estate tax, and, other divisions, including over popular deductions that are eliminated in the House bill but retained in the Senate bill; such as the medical expense deduction and the graduate student tuition waiver. If there is a real conference, Republicans will try to wrap it up quickly, but it could last a week or more, particularly given the fact that the attention of leadership will be focused on averting a government shutdown, which will come Friday night at midnight.

We want to rapidly move to putting pressure on [House targets listed here](#). It’s urgent that we start taking action. We need visibility outside target Representatives’ offices. Phone calls, rallies, whatever action you can do. If you have work going on in these districts, let us know. If you have ideas we can support, we are eager to help. We’re interested in moving very quickly, to have some media attention actions to pressure these House targets.

We’re more likely to get Representatives to oppose this tax bill if they originally opposed ACA repeal. The Senate tax bill’s inclusion of the individual mandate repeal means we’ll be focusing on those who voted against repealing the ACA as the more likely persuasion targets. We will also be targeting members for accountability.

Feel free to contact our field team led by Heather Booth and her capable assistants at:

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