

## Tax Bill Update – December 12, 2017

On Wednesday, December 13, the Conference Committee will hold a public hearing at 2 in Washington. While details from the Committee are not available as of this writing, we believe there is nothing in the Conference report which will fundamentally change the problem with this bill which will give only nominal tax cuts for the poor and middle class and in a great many cases a tax increase. At the same time, the rich and corporations will see a massive tax cut. It is also disturbing that the individual mandate which requires people to purchase health insurance will be eliminated and mean large increases in premiums for those who remain on the plans. The tax bill is a back-door way to destroy the Affordable Care Act. Moreover, we are very concerned about forthcoming cuts in Medicare and Medicaid further compromising the health and financial stability of our families including the elderly and the disabled. Another poison pill in the bill, among so many, is to permit drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

### What you can do:

**Call your New York Congressperson at 877 795-7862 or [enter your zipcode here](#) and you will be connected. The official call-in day is Tuesday, December 12.** Dan Donovan, Lee Zeldin, and Peter King all voted no on the original tax bill. We believe they will be a firm no on the final bill. They should be thanked for voting no and encouraged to hold firm. John Faso and Elise Stefanik also voted no but we are very concerned they are leaning towards voting yes. Claudia Tenney, John Katko, Chris Collins and Tom Reed all voted for the tax bill and need to be strongly encouraged to change course and vote no.

### Here are some points well worth making as you talk to your Congressperson:

1. The tax bill, as designed, will cut Medicare and Medicaid and undermine the Affordable Care Act. Share a personal story of how you or a loved one would be affected by diminished access to health care. The inability of people to deduct high medical bills (nursing home care) results in a massive tax increase for the elderly and disabled. Its not fair to compromise people's health care to give a big tax cut to the rich.
2. The \$10,000 ceiling for deduction of property taxes is inadequate combined with the inability to deduct state and local taxes. For New Yorkers, the standard deduction in many cases is insufficient to cover the loss of these deductions resulting in a tax increase.
3. Overtime nominal tax cuts for the poor and middle class revert to tax increases. At the same time the rich and corporations will see a substantial tax cut.
4. You are a resident who votes. How your Congressperson votes will be duly noted during the next election.

### Attend rallies and phone banks this week in New York

Go to [our Facebook page](#) for the up to the minute information about rallies and protests around the state. We anticipate mass actions across New York State on December 19 and 20. You can also check out the schedule on the [Take Action page of our website](#).

### Phone Bank Information:

If interested, please RSVP to Hae-Lin Choi at [haelin.choi@gmail.com](mailto:haelin.choi@gmail.com)

**Tue, & Wed, 6-8p**

**Manhattan**

[80 Pine Street, New York, NY 10005](#)

Call from either this office or home. If coming to Pine Street, Hae-Lin will need names for security.

**Suffolk County**

**Tuesday, 6-8p, Local 1108**

[39 Baker St, Patchogue, NY 11772](#)

Need RSVP

**Nassau County**

**Tuesday, 6-8p, Local 1104**

[1 Florgate Rd, Farmingdale, NY 11735](#)

Need RSVP

**Staten Island**

**Wednesday, 6-8p, Local 1102**

[3950 Amboy Rd, Staten Island, NY 10308](#)

Need RSVP

**Queens**

**Wednesday, 6-8p, Local 1106**

[22110 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica, NY 11428](#)

Need RSVP

**Friday December 15 Kingston “Faso Fridays” protest:** Bard students at Faso district office  
721 [Broadway 3-5PM](#) <https://www.facebook.com/events/1637179623016014/>

**Go to Washington:**

Activists and people of faith all around the country will be there to protest and engage in civil disobedience. If you would like to go to Washington on Wednesday, December 13, please sign up and fill-in the form for the free bus at this link <http://bit.ly/NOGOPtaxscam> and plan to be in Washington by 10:00 AM. Please contact Michael Kink for more information at 518 527-2787 or [michael.kink@strongforall.org](mailto:michael.kink@strongforall.org). There will also be a mass action in Washington DC on December 18.

Peter Cook, on behalf of the Council, was arrested in Washington last week. If you would like to know what is involved in getting arrested, please give him a call 508 380-8289.

**Media Clips**

Here is some press coverage from the tax protest last week; [from WAMC radio in Albany](#) and [from Think Progress in Washington DC](#).