

As the end of the year approaches, that means Tax Day is right around the corner. When Democrats took over Congress, we made a commitment to make our tax system fair again. I can proudly report that Congress has worked hard to do just that.

A key tool in those efforts is the "Temporary Tax Relief Act" ([H.R. 3996](#)), which was passed by the House in November. This tax package reverses the trend of tax cuts for the richest Americans, instead focusing on the rest America's taxpayers who have been largely left behind in recent years.

The tax relief act provides a "patch" to the alternative minimum tax, known as the AMT. The AMT initially was created to ensure that ultra-high income earners did not escape paying any taxes at all. However, because it has not been adjusted for inflation, it has started to hit people it was never intended to affect. The AMT "patch" will prevent the AMT from hitting nearly 40,000 additional Central Coast families this year.

The Democratic tax package will also provide tax relief to middle-class families by expanding eligibility for the \$1,000 refundable child tax credit. It establishes tax incentives for children headed to college by allowing families to deduct up to \$4,000 in high-education expenses. And it includes a provision that creates a new property tax deduction for American homeowners who currently do not itemize their federal income taxes.

All of these tax relief measures for the middle-class will be paid for by closing tax loopholes. The end result is a tax package for the middle-class that doesn't add to the national debt. Congress is working to safeguard our families and our economy without mortgaging our future.

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