

I am writing you as a constituent and an Episcopalian. I have concerns about the overall equity and long-term impact on our public services resulting from the tax bill just passed by the House and the tax proposal being considered by the Senate.

By incurring a \$1.7 trillion increase to the national debt, according to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill will threaten the long-term health, productivity, economic outlook, and functionality of our government and nation. In recent years, our community has felt the negative impacts of sequestration and budget cuts. It is visible in the quality of our infrastructure, costs of our public universities, and lack of sufficient services for those in need. This bill will clearly not raise enough revenue to fund the services the people expect of their government.

The theory that reducing taxes will result in increased tax revenue has, unfortunately, not worked. This was seen most recently in Kansas where the State Legislature overrode the Governor's veto and raised taxes after tax cuts resulted in an inability to meet basic public needs. Rather than passing a tax package that will require future budget cuts, Congress must implement equitable reforms to our tax system that takes ability to contribute and public spending needs into account.

Rather than follow this path, the current proposal calls for a tax increase on those least capable of contributing while offering much larger breaks to those who could afford to contribute more to the public good. Additional tax changes would pay for tax breaks for multinational corporations by adding to the burden of working families by cutting, restricting and implementing degrading and unnecessary administrative burdens on such programs as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and American Opportunity Tax Credit.

Senator Elizabeth Warren recently wrote:

*“You and I know that we can't build the future by starving education, letting our roads crumble and bridges collapse, throwing Americans off of their health insurance, or shutting down the big pipeline of medical and scientific research in this country....”*

*I remember a time when American society worked for working people. After my daddy had a heart attack and was out of work for a long time, my mother—who was 50 years old at the time—got a minimum-wage job at Sears. Back then, a minimum-wage job could keep a family of three afloat.*

*That was possible because I grew up in an America that invested in families like mine. But if Trump and the Republicans in Congress have their way and make deeper cuts for working families to give more to those at the top, stories like mine will never be possible again.”*

Many of us have life experiences similar to Sen. Warren's or know people who have. I ask that you vote against any tax bills that reduce the equity and appropriate distribution of responsibility to pay for our common needs, such as those contained in H.R. 1. We need tax and budget policies that will restore to current and future generations that promise of America described by Senator Warren.