

July 31, 2012

Dear Representative:

The National Women's Law Center urges you to support the Middle Class Tax Cut Act (H.R. 15), which would end the Bush-era tax cuts for the richest two percent of Americans (those with income above \$250,000 per couple, \$200,000 per individual) and continue the tax cuts for low- and moderate-income families enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). H.R. 15 represents a key step toward restoring fairness to the tax code and balance to fiscal policy, helping to protect services critical to women and their families.

We also urge you to oppose the "Job Protection and Recession Prevention Act" (H.R. 8), which would extend the Bush-era tax cuts for the richest two percent while ending the tax cuts for low- and moderate-income families enacted as part of ARRA. Under H.R. 8, millionaires wouldn't lose a penny of tax cuts – worth an average of \$160,000 in 2013 – but more than one-third (37 percent) of all families with children and nearly three-quarters (74 percent) of low-income families with children would lose tax benefits next year.

Those families include 12 million who would lose the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, an average of \$800 per family; 11 million who would lose the American Opportunity Tax Credit for college expenses, an average of \$1,100 per family; and 6 million who would lose improvements in the Earned Income Tax Credit (expanded marriage penalty relief and the increase for families with three or more children), an average of \$500 per family. For a single mother with two children who works full-time at a minimum wage job, H.R. 8 means the loss of \$1,545 next year.

Allowing the Bush-era tax cuts to expire on income above \$250,000 (\$200,000 for an individual) simply asks the richest two percent to begin to pay their fair share. Over the past decade, the incomes of the wealthiest soared and were boosted even further by disproportionate benefits from the Bush-era tax cuts. Under H.R. 15, all Americans, including the wealthiest, would still get tax cuts on their first \$250,000 of income (\$200,000 for a single taxpayer) – but additional tax breaks for the richest two percent on income above those amounts would end.

Women have a particular stake in ensuring that those with the greatest ability to pay contribute their fair share of taxes, because taxes provide the revenues needed to protect and strengthen programs vital to women and their families at every stage of their lives. Women disproportionately rely on programs funded by federal revenues to protect their health, access higher education, obtain quality child care, meet their basic needs, and achieve a secure retirement. A wide range of domestic programs have already been cut in the name of deficit reduction and deeper cuts are scheduled to take effect next year, but the very wealthiest and corporations have not been asked to contribute a penny in additional revenues.

We urge you to stand up for tax fairness, fiscal responsibility – and women and families. Please support H.R. 15 and oppose H.R. 8.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Duff Campbell". The script is fluid and cursive.

Nancy Duff Campbell
Co-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan Entmacher". The script is fluid and cursive.

Joan Entmacher
Vice President, Family Economic Security