



Write Here! Write Now!

Say No to Congress's Fake Tax Plan

www.uusj.org click on Advocacy for Issue Action Information
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
advocacy@uusj.org 703-786-5206 or 202-600-9132

Time period: ASAP Congress Conference Committee to meet December 13. Keep writing and calling until bill is defeated or passed. (as of December 7, 12:30pm ET)

Instructions for writing and sending letters to UUSJ for delivery to Congress in DC:

- **Focus on the topic** - the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is morally and economically bankrupt. The vast benefits of this bill go overwhelmingly to large corporations and America's wealthiest individuals—all at the expense of our communities and our country's fiscal health.
- **Be original and speak from the heart.** If possible describe a personal experience or story, or include 1-2 talking points (on page 2), **in your own words**, to support the main message.
- **Include a clear and specific action request.** "I urge you to..."
- Include your name and **complete address** - proves that you are a constituent.
- **Send us your letters:** If you are sending your own, or if you are offering a WHWN at your congregation, **PDF or scan, and email** to advocacy@uusj.org. In the subject line write: Tax Letters from (insert your state). If time allows, **mail letters two-day delivery in a single envelope**. Contact us for the mailing address.

Sample Letter

Today's date

Dear (Senator/Representative insert name),

I am a Unitarian Universalist from (optional: name of congregation and location). Guided by my faith, I strongly oppose the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that increases economic inequity. Paying for large and permanent tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy by taking away healthcare from millions of Americans and raising taxes for middle-class and low-income people and families is not moral.

The bill will explode the deficit and add to economic inequity, with big budget cuts to programs like Medicaid and Medicare. Supporters say giving more money to the rich will lead to so much economic growth that it pays for itself. This "trickle down" theory has been proven wrong time after time.

[Insert personal experience, story, or pick 1-2 additional talking points (page 2) that are important to you, state it in your own words, to support the main message.]

I urge you to oppose the tax bill because it is bad for our community and our country. Please speak up and actively support protections for the most vulnerable in our society. [PERSONALIZED - WRAP UP SENTENCE]

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME and **COMPLETE ADDRESS**

(See other side for Background, Talking Points and Key Messages)

Background & UU Grounding

Background: Passing a major tax reform bill is the number one priority for the Administration and Congressional Republicans. The next step is reconciliation between the House and Senate versions which will begin December 13, with a vote expected by both Houses by December 22.

But the House and Senate tax bills are not genuine reform efforts. They are “fake reform” plans that disguise the goal of granting tax breaks to the rich by claiming their main focus is reform. Their centerpiece is a cut in corporate tax rates from 35 to 20 percent, and cuts in individual tax rates that go disproportionately to upper income earners. Both plans would add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit over 10 years, and claim to be revenue neutral in the long run only because of wildly optimistic projections of economic growth.

UU Grounding: The tax proposals would increase the growth of economic inequity in the US. The UUA adopted a Statement of Conscience on “Escalating Economic Inequity” in 2017 that highlights the moral damage caused by growing inequality. The resulting budget cuts to programs that help poor people, the environment, and education would challenge core UU values.

Tax Bill — Key Messages and Talking Points

Key Messages: The current versions of the bills are morally and economically bankrupt. Don’t support massive tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy few and make everyone else foot the bill. Cuts to healthcare and programs for middle-class and low-income people and families deepen the growing wealth divide and are bad for our country.

Talking Points (choose one or two that speak to you and put in your own words):

- **Oppose repealing the Affordable Care Act individual mandate** that would contribute to 13 million people becoming uninsured and millions more facing significant premium increases;
- **Do not allow permanent, deep tax cuts for corporations or the most wealthy but only temporarily lower tax bills for some individuals and small businesses;**
- **Fight the plan to balloon the deficit by more than \$1.5 trillion over ten years**, likely leading to cuts in Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP (food stamps), education, scientific research, environmental protection, international conflict prevention, and all other federal non-defense programs;
- **Oppose eliminating deductions for state and local income tax**, which would put pressure on states to cut services and increase sales taxes;
- **Oppose changes to the estate tax**, leading to even higher concentrations of wealth and economic power;
- **Block the anti-abortion fetal personhood language in any tax bill.** [Codifying “unborn child” in the tax code helps extremists achieve their goal of legally establishing fetal personhood and claim that fetuses have constitutional rights, laying the groundwork for banning abortion outright.];
- **‘Trickle-down’ theory doesn’t work!** American companies today enjoy record profits and all-time highs in the stock market; they do not need tax cuts to spur investment; and
- **Oppose repeal of the Johnson Amendment**, that would allow churches and other non-profit charities to legally engage in partisan political activity. Repeal would blur the lines between religion and politics and cost \$2.1 billion over 10 years.

(See other side for writing instructions and sample letter)