**SAMPLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ON TAX ISSUES FOR SIX-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF TRUMP TAX CUTS -- June 15, 2018**

*Note: It is best not to copy the LTE’s below word for word, but to use your own words. Newspapers do not like to publish LTE’s that have been written by others. They can do word searches to determine if one has been used elsewhere before.* ***We recommend you limit your LTE to 175 words. The ones below are 110 to 140 words or so.***

**There are two sets of LTES below: one based on the type of author (older American, union member) and the other based on the issues (health care, budget cuts and the deficit).**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BASED ON TYPE OF AUTHOR**

**OLDER AMERICAN**

The Trump-GOP tax law, which recently turned six-months old, has been nothing but bad news for older Americans like me.

While [83% of the tax cuts](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/sites/default/files/publication/150816/2001641_distributional_analysis_of_the_conference_agreement_for_the_tax_cuts_and_jobs_act.pdf) will go to the wealthiest 1% once the law is fully phased in, the law’s [nearly $2 trillion price tag](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo) will push up the deficit, endangering funding for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other services older Americans rely on. President Trump has already [proposed deep cuts](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course) to Medicare and Medicaid, programs he promised to keep untouched.

[LOCAL Member of Congress (MOC)] should stick up for seniors, many of them with severe disabilities and living on very limited incomes, by fighting to repeal the tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. We need a tax system that raises a lot more revenue, so all Americans can have a retirement where they live modestly at the least, but also with dignity.

**HEALTH CARE VOTER**

Six months ago, as part of their new tax law, President Trump and Republicans in Congress removed an essential part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that required people to buy health insurance and gave them subsidies to afford it.

Now, with this requirement removed it is estimated that [13 million Americans](https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/reports/53300-individualmandate.pdf) will lose their health insurance. It will also drive up premiums for everyone else by at least 10% a year.

Then, because the new law will drive up the [deficit by almost $2 trillion](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo), Trump in his budget proposed [big cuts to Medicare](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course) and Medicaid, which he promised as a candidate not to touch.

Seniors and working families who need health care should not be made to pay for big tax cuts for the wealthy and major corporations. I urge [LOCAL MOC] to protect our health care by reversing direction and making sure the rich and corporations start paying their fair share of taxes.

**TEACHER**

As a teacher, I know our schools need better funding. We can’t afford it, though, if we keep enacting huge tax cuts mostly benefitting the wealthy and corporations, such as President Trump and the Republicans in Congress did six months ago.

That new tax law will increase the federal deficit [by $1.9 trillion](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo), which the GOP is using as an excuse to cut essential services like education. President Trump has already [proposed budget cuts](https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-budget/trump-budget-deeply-cuts-health-housing-other-assistance-for-low-and) that would hurt students of all ages.

The lesson is clear: [LOCAL MOC] should promote education by fighting to repeal tax cuts for the rich and corporations. The money is there, our elected officials just need to side with the people rather than special interests.

**FAITH LEADER**

Every faith tradition counsels sharing of resources and care for the needy. Recent passage of the Republican tax law in Washington violates both those tenets by giving large tax cuts to the rich and corporations while cutting health care for the middle class and poor.

The Trump-GOP tax cuts enacted six months ago are heavily skewed towards the rich: 83% will eventually [go to the top 1%](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/sites/default/files/publication/150816/2001641_distributional_analysis_of_the_conference_agreement_for_the_tax_cuts_and_jobs_act.pdf). The new law will add [$1.9 trillion to the deficit](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo), which President Trump wants to reduce by cutting Medicare, Medicaid, education and other vital programs.

And the legislation made a big change to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which will result in [13 million people losing their health care coverage](https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/reports/53300-individualmandate.pdf). And insurance premiums in ACA health plans are expected to rise by 10% a year for the next 10 years.

I call on [LOCAL MOC] to show moral leadership by working to repeal the tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations.

**LOCAL ELECTED OFFICAL**

Washington politicians often create policy messes we in local government are left to clean up. That’s certainly true of the Trump-GOP tax law enacted six months ago.

Cutting taxes by [$1.9 trillion](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo), mostly to the benefit of the wealthy and corporations, will explode the deficit and endanger funding for services our constituents need: Social Security, Medicare, education. President Trump has already called for [$1.7 billion in budget cuts](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course) to these services.

On average, state budgets get about one-third of their funding from Washington. States and localities are forced to either raise our own taxes in response to budget cuts, or see our people go without. When big cuts come down from Congress legislators are forced sometimes to choose between helping families buy medicine or keeping a roof over their heads.

[LOCAL MOC] needs to stand up for [LOCALITY] by making sure that the richest among us and the most profitable corporations pay their fair share. That way we can afford to take care of all our citizens.

**UNION LEADER**

A lot of union members voted for Donald Trump because they thought he was on the side of working families. He promised tax cuts that would go mostly to the middle class. But his tax plan, which he and his fellow Republicans passed six months ago, mostly benefits the wealthy and corporations.

That new tax law will increase the [deficit by almost $2 trillion](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo), giving the GOP an excuse to attack programs unions fought hard to create: Social Security, Medicare, public education. President Trump has already proposed [many such budget cuts](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course).

The plan is also likely to increase the number of American jobs outsourced to low-taxed countries. That’s because the president’s plan let’s corporations pay a tax rate on foreign profits that is about half the U.S. rate.

That’s crazy. If [LOCAL MOC] wants to support working people, he’ll push to overturn Trump’s corporate tax cuts and tax breaks benefiting the rich.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BASED ON TYPE OF ISSUE**

**HEALTH CARE**

Six months ago, Republicans helped pay for their tax cuts that mostly benefit the wealthy and corporations by weakening a central part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The result: an estimated [13 million Americans](https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/reports/53300-individualmandate.pdf) will lose their health insurance, and premiums will spike an average of 10% every year for the next decade.

Even after hurting the ACA, the Trump-GOP tax law will still [explode the deficit by almost $2 trillion](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo). Republicans are angling to cover the shortfall with [cuts to Medicare](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course) and Medicaid, even though President Trump promised as a candidate not to touch either one. In fact, Trump’s proposed budget this year [made deep cuts](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course) to both programs.

[LOCAL MOC] should protect his/her constituents health care by voting to repeal the worst parts of the new tax law.

**DEFICIT/BUDGET CUTS**

Six months after President Trump and Republicans in Congress enacted massive tax cuts mostly benefitting the wealthy and corporations, we now know the cost is even higher than originally thought.

Last December, government budget experts pegged the [revenue loss at $1.5 trillion](https://www.cnbc.com/2017/12/15/gop-tax-bill-would-raise-deficits-by-nearly-1-point-5-trillion-jct-report.html) over 10 years. Now they’re saying it will cost almost a third more, or [$1.9 trillion](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo). Trillion – with a T!

That huge price tag increases the federal deficit, giving the GOP an excuse to try to [cut Medicare](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course), Medicaid, Social Security, education and other important programs. That’s what President [Trump‘s budget proposed](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course) a few months ago.

[LOCAL MOC] should work to repeal tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations and protect public services vital to working Americans.

**WORKER PAY**

While campaigning for his tax bill late last year, President Trump promised that if corporations got huge tax cuts, workers would [get a $4,000 raise](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/10/16/the-average-american-family-will-get-4000-from-tax-cuts-trump-team-claims/?utm_term=.4933ca73e7d0) on average. Now it’s six months later. Corporations got their tax cuts—how are workers making out?

So far, [only 4% of workers](https://americansfortaxfairness.org/trumptaxcuttruths/) have gotten any kind of pay increase tied to the corporate tax cuts, according to Americans for Tax Fairness. Most of them have gotten one-time bonuses, not permanent wage hikes.

Corporate tax cuts are mostly going to CEOs and wealthy shareholders, not to workers. [LOCAL MOC] should help build a stronger economy with better pay by finally demanding the rich and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

**WEALTHY SHAREHOLDERS AND STOCK BUYBACKS**

Wealthy shareholders and executives, not workers, are the big winners from last year’s Republican tax cuts.

Since President Trump and the GOP in Congress enacted their new tax law six months ago, a few hundred American corporations have announced nearly [half a trillion dollars in stock buybacks](https://americansfortaxfairness.org/trumptaxcuttruths/). These overwhelmingly benefit CEOs and rich investors.

All of America’s workers put together are getting just $7 billion in increased pay. That means corporations are spending 70 times more on stock buybacks mostly for the rich than they are sharing with their workers through bonuses and wage hikes.

[LOCAL MOC] should create a tax system that makes the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share. That way we can better fund services workers and families need, like Social Security, Medicare and education.

**CORPORATIONS OUTSOURING JOBS AND PROFITS**

When he ran for president Donald Trump promised he would pass a tax plan that would bring jobs back to America. I liked hearing that but that’s not what I’m seeing.

At the six-month anniversary of the Trump tax cuts, corporations seem to have more incentives than ever to outsource jobs and shift profits to tax havens. Before, U.S. corporations had to pay the same tax rate on domestic profits as they paid on foreign profits. Today, the tax rate on offshore profits is about half the domestic rate. That means corporations can save a lot more in taxes by going offshore.

Congress needs to close that loophole and level the playing field. Corporations must pay the same tax rate on profits they have shifted to a tax haven like Bermuda, as they pay in Birmingham or Boston. [LOCAL MOC] needs to stand up and side with American workers, not multinational corporations trying to dodge their responsibilities here at home.

**FOREIGN INVESTORS**

President Trump talks about making America great, but his new tax law is making foreigners rich. That’s because wealthy foreign investors own a lot of American corporate stock, and the GOP tax plan was a huge giveaway to American corporations.

This year alone foreign investors will get [$47 billion in tax cuts](https://itep.org/congressional-budget-office-new-tax-law-helps-foreign-investors-even-more-than-you-thought/). That’s more than the tax cuts going to the three-fifths of Americans who make [less than $64,000 annually](https://itep.org/wp-content/uploads/TCJAtable3.jpg), according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

In the six months since Trump and the GOP in Congress enacted their tax plan, it’s increasingly clear how skewed it is towards the rich and powerful. We need [LOCAL MOC] to work for real tax reform that ensures corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG COMPANIES**

No one I know thinks giving huge tax breaks to greedy drug companies is a good idea. But that’s exactly what the Trump-GOP tax law enacted six months ago did.

Just five big pharmaceutical firms will together get [$6 billion in tax cuts](https://americansfortaxfairness.org/gop-tax-cuts-enriching-drug-companies-leaving-workers-patients-behind/) this year alone, according to a report by Americans for Tax Fairness. The 10 biggest U.S. drug companies will get a $76 billion U.S. tax cut on the profits they’ve spent years stashing offshore. And none of this windfall is being used to cut the exorbitant cost of prescription drugs.

Big Pharma got rich price gouging suffering patients and overcharging our public health systems like Medicare. [LOCAL MOC] should work to repeal tax cuts for drug companies and other wealthy corporations.

**WALL STREET BANKS**

Ten years ago, after recklessly crashing our economy, big banks were bailed out by the American people. Six months ago, Republicans handed them huge tax cuts.

But these financial giants are showing little gratitude. According to [Americans for Tax Fairness](https://americansfortaxfairness.org/wp-content/uploads/Big-6-Bank-Tax-Cut-Blog-Post-6.6.18-FINAL-KK.pdf), the Big Six Wall Street banks will together save an estimated $14 billion in taxes this year. That’s 25 times more than the bonuses and wage hikes just three of those banks are giving their employees this year due to the tax cuts.

Meanwhile, wealthy shareholders, including CEOs and foreign investors, are getting 42 times more than their workers through stock buybacks and dividends.

[LOCAL MOC] should vote to repeal the tax cuts for greedy big banks and other corporations.

**SMALL BUSINESS**

President Trump and Congressional Republicans claim that one part of their new tax law helps small business. But the reality is it’s a massive tax giveaway to wealthy business owners.

The richest 1% of non-corporate business owners (including President Trump) will get [three-fifths of the money](https://www.cbpp.org/blog/jct-highlights-pass-through-deductions-tilt-toward-the-top) from the deduction for business income (the so-called “pass-through” deduction). The bottom two-thirds of business owners—the real small business people—will get a measly 4% of the tax cuts.

It’s been six months since the GOP tax plan became law, and small business is not benefitting. Real tax reform would demand more from the rich and corporations, not less. [LOCAL MOC] could help make it happen.

**MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BENEFITTING**

Anyone wondering who’s really benefitting from the GOP tax law enacted six months ago should ook at Congress. Fifty-three Republican Senators and Representatives are getting an average [tax cut of $280,000 each](https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2018/04/10073648/Tax-Bill-Memo-Political-FINAL-link.pdf) from just one provision of the new law. [Our own Senator/Representative NAME is one of them.].

The rest of us don’t get to write and vote on our own tax breaks. That’s probably why the new law offers so little benefit to average Americans and instead threatens their well-being.

[If not on list, LOCAL MOC] should put his/her constituents first by working to repeal these tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. [If on list, LOCAL MOC] should put aside his/her own interests and work to repeal these tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations.

**KOCH BROTHERS**

High on the list of individual winners from the new Trump-GOP tax law are the billionaire Koch brothers. Between them and their company, the Kochs stand to save [$1 billion a year](https://americansfortaxfairness.org/analysis-koch-brothers-get-1-billion-tax-cut-law-helped-pass/) or more. And they plan to [spend $400 million this year](http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/371069-koch-network-to-spend-400-million-during-2018-midterm-election-cycle) to elect a Congress that will hand them even more goodies.

This is just one extreme example of how skewed that tax law—which recently celebrated its six-month anniversary—is towards the wealthy and powerful. President Trump and Republicans in Congress claimed their plan was meant to help the middle class.

[LOCAL MOC] should stand up for his/her constituents instead of the Koch brothers and other billionaires by working to create a tax system that makes the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share.

**CONGRESSIONAL STAFF CASHING IN**

Six months after President Trump and his fellow Republicans rammed through their tax law mostly benefitting the wealthy and corporations, staffers who did the heavy lifting are being rewarded with [high-paying lobbyist jobs](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/389461-authors-of-gop-tax-law-disperse-to-lobby-firms).

This blatant example of Washington’s lucrative revolving door comes at great cost. The deficits caused by the GOP’s [nearly $2 trillion tax giveaway](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/382319-gop-tax-law-will-add-19-trillion-to-debt-cbo) offers the perfect excuse Republicans need to [cut Medicare](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-02-12/trump-to-urge-wall-opioid-spending-as-congress-sets-own-course), Medicaid, education, Social Security and other services vital to working families.

[LOCAL MOC]’s office should resist the temptation to cash in on the new law and instead work to repeal tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations.