



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Will Washington Congressional Members Preserve Tax Deduction for Washington Taxpayers?

Washington delegation is critical to preserving sales tax deduction for state residents

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Within the next week, the United States House of Representatives will vote on a tax cut package which will extend the ability of Washington residents to deduct their state sales tax payments from their federal income taxes. Without passage of the legislation, the current provision expires December 31, 2005 thus forcing Washington residents to pay higher taxes to the federal government on this year's taxes. The vote is expected to be close and the Washington delegation can decide whether the legislation passes or fails.

Enacted in 2004, the sales tax deduction finally put states like Washington on par with the rest of the country. Prior to the legislation passing, only states with income taxes were able to deduct their tax payments to the federal government. Yet, Washington has no state income tax and residents were being unfairly punished by discriminatory federal tax policy. If the measure does expire, Washington residents will be forced to revert to this unfair and harsh treatment of the federal government by forcing them to pay higher taxes.

“Are members of the Washington Congressional Delegation for higher taxes on Washington residents just because they live in Washington,” asked taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“It is vital that every member of the delegation tell their constituents exactly where they stand on this critical issue affecting nearly every family in the state.”**

Members of the Washington Delegation who have not voiced an opinion yet on the issue are the following members.

Name	District
Rep. Jay Inslee	WA-1
Rep. Rick Larsen	WA-2
Rep. Brian Baird	WA-3
Rep. Norm Dicks	WA-6
Rep. Adam Smith	WA-9

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at cbutler@atr.org.