



Idaho Asset  
Building Network

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### **JUST PASSED BILL WILL INCREASE TAXES ON 210,000 IDAHO FAMILIES**

*To pay for bill, children, the elderly and people with disabilities likely to bear the burden.*

[Boise] – Thousands of working families across Idaho are spending the holiday season worried about making ends meet, yet they got little or nothing from the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” passed by Congress today. Despite many policy experts raising the alarm about the negative effects of the proposal, the tax bill passed with Idaho’s entire Congressional Delegation voting in favor of it. Local groups expressed their disappointment and dismay at the potential harm to Idaho families.

“We know the effects of this vote will reverberate for years to come,” stated Christine Tiddens with Idaho Voices for Children. “It will cause lasting damage to many people's ability to get an education, buy a home, save for retirement or engage in a range of other activities that help them get ahead.”

According to analysis by the [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy](#), the just passed tax bill will raise taxes on thousands of low- and moderate-income households in Idaho. Under the final bill, the top 1% in Idaho will receive a total tax cut of \$41.5 million in 2027 – an average tax cut of \$4,670 per household with incomes above \$575,000. Meanwhile, the bottom 80% of Idahoans will face tax increases by 2027– with 210,600 (27% of those earning less than \$114,400 annually) facing a tax increase averaging \$126.

The tax bill is estimated to reduce federal revenue by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years. To pay for this deficit, many members of Congress say they intend to seek deep budget cuts that would likely take away health care, food assistance and other economic supports from individuals and families already struggling to afford the basics. Children, the elderly and people with disabilities are likely to bear the burden of these cuts.

“The bill builds pressure to cut critical programs for people with disabilities to make up for lost revenue stemming from tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and corporations,” said Jim Baugh, executive director of DisAbility Rights Idaho. “The resulting cuts to essential programs will undermine the last 30 years of efforts to support people with disabilities living at home rather than institutions.”

Because of the 2010 law referred to as the Statutory-Pay-As-You-Go Act (PAYGO), federal legislation that does not pay for itself will trigger automatic cuts in Medicare and other programs for older Americans and people with disabilities. The size of the deficit created by the tax bill would require cuts so big that some programs people with disabilities rely on could be eliminated, including state grants that help people with disabilities work (Vocational Rehabilitation); social services block grants (Meals on Wheels and foster care funding); and the affordable housing program. Medicare could be cut by \$25 billion in 2018 alone.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps) is exempt from the PAYGO law, but the tax bill cut the budget that funds the SNAP enough to necessitate cuts similar to those outlined

in the Trump budget – a plan that would cut SNAP by at least \$140 billion over ten years. SNAP provides basic food aid to 20 million children and benefits are already modest.

“SNAP effectively provides Idaho with a front line against hunger. Although the program is modest – with households receiving an average of just \$1.40 per person per meal – SNAP helps put food on the tables of families struggling to get by,” commented Kathy Gardner, director of the Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force. “If SNAP were weakened by funding cuts, thousands in Idaho will be harmed, including already vulnerable populations. We’ll see more hunger and food insecurity, worse health and educational outcomes and higher health costs.”

“On the heels of a tax bill that is a giveaway to the wealthy at the expense of everyone else, this is a one-two punch for working families, children, seniors and people with disabilities,” concluded Ms. Tiddens. “We believe that everyone in Idaho should have the chance to thrive. But with the passage of this tax bill, we will face greater costs as a society down the road when families lose supports that enable them to work and children don’t get the strong start they need in life.”

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The Idaho Asset Building Network works to implement strategies and advocates for policies that help people build financial stability and move up the economic ladder. Learn more: [Idahoassetnetwork.org](http://Idahoassetnetwork.org)