Take From the Poor to Give to the Rich:
A tax plan that rewards the wealthy
at the expense of the most vulnerable

“Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power...

Meanwhile, the excluded are still waiting.” - Pope Francis¹

According to the Principles of Tax Justice², tax reform ought to benefit low-income families and generate revenue to ensure the support of vital programs that allow vulnerable communities to thrive, not crumple. It should secure funding to support healthcare programs that support the life and dignity of all. It ought to make tax loopholes and unfair breaks nonexistent so that businesses, wealthy citizens, and multinational corporations pay their fair share. Tax reform should make the tax code more just and not tax workers into poverty. However, if this proposed tax plan is signed into law, it would:

**Make significant changes to the Affordable Care Act by:**

- Repealing the individual mandate increasing the number of uninsured people by 4 million in 2019 and 13 million in 2027.³
- Driving up insurance premiums in marketplaces created under the law.⁴
- Decreasing federal spending on Medicare by 4% or about $25 billion impacting payments to doctors, hospitals and others that provide care to 56 million older and disabled Americans.⁵

** Benefit the wealthy through:**

- Expiring individual income tax provisions causing tax cuts to shrink - from $1,200 in 2019 to $300 in 2027.⁶
- Increasing low- and middle-income taxes in 2025 when corporate tax cuts, which decrease from 35% - 20%, will not be affected.⁷
### Take Action

**Contact Congress** - Urge Congress to pass a tax policy that supports all people, and promotes that the common good and does not prioritize the wealthy or corporations. Please contact your families and friends in other states and ask them to do the same.

**Senate:** 1-888-885-1748  
**House:** 1-888-422-4555

**Here is a suggested script to use when calling your representatives.**

*My name is _____. I live in [Town, State] and I’m a constituent of the [Senator/Representative]. I urge him/her to **OPPOSE** the tax bill that rewards the wealthy at the expense of the poor by delivering huge tax cuts to the richest 1% and wealthy corporations, paid for by increasing taxes on 87 million Americans and by slashing Medicare, Medicaid, and education.*

### Catholic Social Teaching

It is feared that this bill will further expand the gap between the rich and the poor which will deepen social divisions. Our Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that, “the economy exists for the person, not the person for the economy.” Leaders have a responsibility to “protect [not] undermine the life and dignity of the human person, support the family and serve the common good”8 thus protecting the very people that have elected them to office.

### Resources

**Learn More**

- What does this tax bill mean for you?  
  [http://wapo.st/2BEiYTW](http://wapo.st/2BEiYTW)  
- How the tax bill would affect the elderly?  
- How would the tax bill affect families?  
  [http://n.pr/2ksyuPC](http://n.pr/2ksyuPC)  
- How did your senator vote on the tax bill?  
  [http://nyti.ms/2jogra6](http://nyti.ms/2jogra6)  
- What the bill means for California?  
  [http://nyti.ms/2jllFvq](http://nyti.ms/2jllFvq)  
- What are the future plans to cut the deficit?  
- Tax bill analysis  

**References**

2. Principles of Tax Justice, NETWORK, [https://networklobby.org/taxprinciples](https://networklobby.org/taxprinciples)  
7. Washington Post, [http://wapo.st/2j00JVB](http://wapo.st/2j00JVB)  