



Kirk Miller <samkm@sammt.org>

AASA Call to Action: Kill the Tax Bill

1 message

Ellerson Ng, Noelle <nellerson@aasa.org>
Cc: "Domenech, Daniel" <ddomenech@aasa.org>, "Reid, CJ" <creid@aasa.org>

Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 10:42 AM

Good morning AASA state executives,

Below is the latest post from the blog, a call to action asking our members to call Congress and have them OPPOSE the tax cuts and jobs act. I have hyperlinked to a variety of context and information, and included explicit talking points. We are asking that members both call the front desk (phone tallies matter!) and to email the education staffer and legislative directors, to ensure the policy staff know the position.

I had shared the congressional directory information a few weeks ago; please let me know if you want me to resend/reshare.

Please push this call to action out to your members. And, as always, let me know if you have any questions.

Noelle

[Call to Action: Kill the Tax Bill!](#)

This week, Congress is poised to vote the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law. AASA is opposed to this legislation, and we urge all AASA members and public school advocates to contact their full Congressional delegation and ask them to OPPOSE the bill. We've included all the information you need below, including background, contact information and talking points.

Background:

- AASA joins four national organizations in [letter of opposition](#) to tax bill. Read our letter here. We were joined by the Association of School Business Officials, International; Association of Educational Service Agencies National Rural Education Association; and National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium.
- This [guest blog post](#) does a great job explaining five reasons this bill is no good for public education.
- This month's [The Advocate](#) was focused on the tax bill, provided a side-by-side of the House and Senate bills, and explained how and why we are opposed to certain education-impacting provisions.
- Executive Director Daniel A. Domenech's [response to the Senate vote](#) articulated are continued frustration and disappointment with the bills as drafted and the apparent disregard for how these tax policies have no support for public education.
- [Guest blog post](#) from ASBO Executive Director John Musso detailed the implications of proposed changes to bond and finance options for schools.

CALL TO ACTION:

Both the House and Senate are set to vote on the conferenced Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, bringing the bill one step closer to the President's desk and being signed into law. AASA has been engaged in the process of this year's effort to overhaul the tax code. We reviewed and opposed both the House and Senate bills, and detailed our opposition to specific provisions which undermine federal support for public education and will negatively impact state and local funding for public schools. Unfortunately, the bill going back to both the Senate and House chambers failed to make any changes that allow the bill to support and strengthen public education. To that end, we have a two-prong call to action: We ask you to both call your Congressional offices (the phone tallies count!!) AND to email the staff in your Congressional offices.

1. Call the Congressional Switch board (202) 224-3121 and ask to be transferred to your Senators/Representative. The person who answers is taking a tally of votes for and against, and the script you can read is below.
2. Email the education staffer and legislative director for each of your Congressional delegation. You can email ALL of your Congressional offices at once; you want to send this email to the people in the office who are handling/tracking the policy specifics.

PHONE SCRIPT

- Hello! My name is [____] and I'm the superintendent in xxxx District in his district. I'm calling to let Congressman _____ know that I strongly oppose the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act because of the devastating impact it will have on my students and community.
- My opposition to the tax reform is driven by specific provisions which will negatively impact our nation's public schools.
- First, this legislation would incentivize upper-middle-class and wealthy Americans to educate their children in private schools by providing them with a tax break as they can now utilize 529 accounts for private k12 education. These drastic changes would enable anyone, regardless of their wealth, to put aside significantly more dollars for use at private schools, at a greater expense to taxpayers and schools.
- I am also deeply concerned by changes to the State and Local Tax Deduction. The proposed changes to SALT will hurt more than 43 million taxpayers from all 50 states and across all income brackets, it also will hurt the ability of state and local governments, including my school district, to fund essential services such as public education. State and local funding accounts for about 90 percent of funding for K-12 schools, meaning that any reduction in state revenue—which will likely happen when any state or local tax is perceived as a double tax when it cannot be deducted—will almost certainly lead to cuts in public education. Over time, it is likely that a change in this tax provision would erode funding for education at a level deep enough to mirror a direct cut in federal, state and/or local funding.
- I am concerned with the significant share of deficit financing being used to off set the extensive tax cuts. I am concerned with how this large growth in the deficit will limit the ability and willingness of Congress to invest in critical programs, and this will translate into spending cuts for programs, including critical education programs.
- I urge Senator/Representative _____ to oppose this bill, which has the potential to decimate education funding for our state.

EMAIL TEXT

Do you need the name and email address of the education staffer and legislative director for anyone in your Congressional delegation? Let us know, or email your state association director. We gave them the full set of contact information.

Use the text below as the basis of your email, and feel free to personalize with details about your district or specifics on what the tax policy ramifications will mean for your state and district

SAMPLE EMAIL

Dear {INSERT NAME},

- My name is [____] and I'm the superintendent in xxxx District in his district. I'm emailing to let Representative _____ know that I strongly oppose the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act because of the devastating impact it will have on my students and community.

- My opposition to the tax reform is driven by specific provisions which will negatively impact our nation's public schools.
- This legislation would incentivize upper-middle-class and wealthy Americans to educate their children in private schools by providing them with a tax break as they can now utilize 529 accounts for private k12 education. These drastic changes would enable anyone, regardless of their wealth, to put aside significantly more dollars for use at private schools, at a greater expense to taxpayers and schools.
- I am also deeply concerned by changes to the State and Local Tax Deduction. The proposed changes to SALT will hurt more than 43 million taxpayers from all 50 states and across all income brackets, it also will hurt the ability of state and local governments, including my school district, to fund essential services such as public education. State and local funding accounts for about 90 percent of funding for K-12 schools, meaning that any reduction in state revenue—which will likely happen when any state or local tax is perceived as a double tax when it cannot be deducted—will almost certainly lead to cuts in public education. Over time, it is likely that a change in this tax provision would erode funding for education at a level deep enough to mirror a direct cut in federal, state and/or local funding.
- I am concerned with the significant share of deficit financing being used to justify the extensive tax cuts. I am concerned with how this large growth in the deficit will limit the ability and willingness of Congress to invest in critical programs, and this will translate into spending cuts for programs, including critical education programs.
- I urge Senator/Representative _____ to oppose this bill, which has the potential to decimate education funding for our state.

Noelle Ellerson Ng

Associate Executive Director, Policy & Advocacy

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

1615 Duke Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

(c) 703-774-6935

nellerson@aasa.org

Twitter: @Noellerson

#LovePublicEducation