



Kirk Miller <samkm@sammt.org>

School Administrators of Montana Input on Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

1 message

Kirk Miller <samkm@sammt.org>

Thu, Nov 16, 2017 at 12:52 PM

To: Matt Daines - Ketron <matthew_ketron@daines.senate.gov>, Dan Daines - Gerig <dan_gerig@daines.senate.gov>, Darin Daines - Thacker <darin_thacker@daines.senate.gov>

Cc: "samkm@sammt.org" <samkm@sammt.org>

Bcc: "DAcommittee@sammt.org" <DAcommittee@sammt.org>, Brenda Krueger <b_krueger@cfmthschools.net>, Jules Waber <jwaber@powellcountymt.gov>

Dear Senator Daines, Legislative Director Darin Thacker, Education Legislative Aid Dan Gehrig, and Tax Legislative Aid Matt Ketron,

My name is Kirk Miller, and I'm the Executive Director of School Administrators of Montana (SAM). SAM represents the interests of our 1020 school and district administrators and leaders in Montana. I'm emailing to let Senator Daines know that SAM strongly opposes the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act because of the devastating impact it will have on public school students and communities across our state.

First, we are deeply concerned by changes to the State and Local Tax Deduction. Eliminating SALT will hurt more than 43 million taxpayers from all 50 states and across all income brackets. It will also hurt the ability of state and local governments, including Montana school districts, 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.

Second, we voice my strong opposition to the inclusion of any provisions that that create a federal voucher program or provide tax incentives for families that send their children to private school have no place in this legislation. Given current levels of public education funding we cannot divert revenues to support away from the school system that educates 90 percent of American children.

We urge Senator Daines to oppose this bill, which has the potential to decimate education funding for our state.

Respectfully,

Kirk J. Miller, EdD

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