Tier 1, AMDT # 6
March 20, 2012 8:00pm

Amendment to the Chairman’s Mark

Offered by Representatives Van Hollen, Schwartz (PA), Doggett (TX), McCollum (MN), Pascrell (NJ), Ryan (OH), Bass (CA), and Bonamici (OR)

Protect the American Middle Class from Tax Increases

This amendment rejects tax increases on individuals with income below $200,000 ($250,000 for couples). It expresses the Sense of the House that Congress should not increase tax burdens on the middle class and the poor – such as by stripping away tax benefits like the mortgage interest deduction or the child tax credit – so that Republicans can use the proceeds to give millionaires with hundreds of billions of dollars in *additional tax cuts*.

A **YES** vote rejects tax increases on the middle class.

A **No** vote means choosing to protect tax breaks for the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

1. At the end of Title 6, add the following:

“Sense of the House Rejecting Any Tax Increases on the Middle Class”

(a) The House finds that---

(1) According to CBO, between 1979 and 2007, real after-tax incomes for the top 1 percent of income earners grew 278 percent or a stunning $973,100 per household; whereas real after-tax incomes of the middle 20 percent of families grew just 25 percent and incomes of the poorest 20 percent increased just 16 percent.

(2) According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American families lost ground even during the 2000s as median incomes slipped 4.8 percent in real terms between 2000 and 2009.

(b) It is the sense of that House that this resolution should not allow taxes to be raised on net on any individual with adjusted gross income below $200,000 or any married couple with adjusted gross income below $250,000. Raising taxes on working families while slashing spending on the services that benefit them – all for the purpose of providing millionaires with trillions of dollars in *additional* tax cuts – could have serious negative consequences, including the following:

(1) unduly burdening the finances of working families, making it even harder for them to make ends meet;

(2) reducing consumer spending, which will greatly weaken economic growth and cost the economy millions of jobs over the coming years;

(3) weakening or eliminating tax incentives like the Earned Income Tax Credit and the refundable component of the Child Tax Credit that promote work and family, resulting in diminished levels of employment and worsened economic outcomes for child-raising – particularly for those families at the lowest rungs of the economic ladder;

(4) eliminating incentives in the tax code that support financing and owning a home, hurting all homeowners and kicking the housing industry when it is already down;

(5) eliminating employer-sponsored health insurance coverage by weakening or eliminating the exclusion of employer contributions for medical insurance premiums and medical care;

(6) making the tax code more regressive and further widening the income gap between the wealthiest households and the middle class.

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution would not allow taxes to be raised on any individual with adjusted gross income below $200,000 or any married couple with adjusted gross income below $250,000.