

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1201

The April 15th deadline for filing your tax returns has past but I want you to consider a few things:

In 1900, most Americans only had to work until January 22nd to fully meet all of their tax obligations to the federal, state and local governments. At that time the percentage of your income needed to pay your taxes was just 6 percent. Imagine how much easier your life would be today if you were done working for the government by the end of January.

Today, "Tax Freedom Day" for most Americans doesn't come until tomorrow, April 23rd. The deadline to fill out your tax forms comes and goes, yet you're still working for the government, not for yourself, your business or your family. A third of your income goes to pay the taxes you owe the government.

Government has demonstrated an insatiable appetite to grow. In fact, Federal spending has more than tripled since 1965. Almost every week in Congress, I am asked to vote to create new programs and expand existing ones. Unless there is some urgent need, I vote "no". Americans just can't afford any more. Congress is not being careful enough with your hard-earned tax dollars.

The Democrats' recently passed budget plan would raise taxes by \$683 billion in the next five years. That's the biggest tax increase in American history. It includes higher taxes on married couples and small businesses. Their plan also includes no permanent fix for the Alternative Minimum Tax that threatens unsuspecting middle income Americans to the tune of \$70 billion in new taxes.

And on the horizon are even more tax increases if Congress fails to act. Higher income tax rates and higher capital gains taxes will hit virtually everyone. Higher dividend taxes will hit every investor. The death tax will be back, as will the marriage tax penalty. The tax credit for every child will be cut in half.

I'm fighting to make Congress recognize that Americans are taxed too much. That is why I am proud to cosponsor Congressman Walberg's Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2007 which would prevent an unprecedented tax increase. Congress must make a priority of finding ways to lower the tax burden on Americans instead of increasing it. If we don't, Tax Freedom Day will soon be delayed until May or June, and we'll reminisce about the "good old days" when our tax debts were paid in full by April. Let's hope and pray that never happens.