

If Democrats Controlled the House...

A Weekly Taste of Their Legislative Agenda



Proposal: H.R. 3105, Fairness in the American Tax Code Act

Sponsor: Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)

Summary: This proposed law would add an additional annual tax on individuals in four income brackets. A) 5% increase for income between \$350,000, and \$500,000; B) 10% increase for income between \$500,000 and \$1 million; C) 15% increase for income between \$1 million and \$10 million; D) 20% increase for income exceeding \$10 million.

Problems with the Bill: This proposal, which the legislation refers to as a 'surcharge on high income individuals,' would only exacerbate the problems in an already unjust system of taxation. The bill refers to its own measure as increasing 'fairness,' but this is a fringe view of fairness which values the equality of results over the equality of opportunity. This viewpoint is antithetical to the American notion of earned success, and it both unnecessarily and unfairly punishes those who have worked hard to achieve what they have. Even aside from constituting bad economic policy (as there is wide bipartisan agreement that taxes should not be raised during a recession), the measures proposed in this bill are unfair and wrong.

Reminder: RSC staffers and interns are encouraged to send other examples of questionable legislation to Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.