

PERMANENTLY EXTENDING INCREASED STANDARD DEDUCTION, AND 15-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE BRACKET EXPANSION, FOR MARRIED TAXPAYERS FILING JOINT RETURNS

SPEECH OF

**HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2004*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4181. It will permanently get rid of the marriage penalty. I voted for this tax cut as a matter of equity and fairness. I do not believe couples should be penalized for getting married. The standard deduction for a single person should simply be doubled when a couple gets married. This measure does this and makes it permanent. Under current law, relief from the marriage penalty ends in 2010.

In our current economic climate, families across our country deserve tax relief from the time they are newlyweds to the time they are parents with children to the time they are enjoying their golden years. This move is a good first step to help all families.

But, I am disappointed that the Republican leadership brought this bill to the floor without a plan or a means to pay for it. This move will add to the deficit. I believe the U.S. House of Representatives has a responsibility to fund this cut. We can no longer cut taxes and increase the deficit. We are borrowing against our children and grandchildren's future.

I supported the Democratic Alternative that would have permanently eliminated the marriage penalty while not adding to the deficit. Here on Capitol Hill, we should provide tax relief but at the same time we must exercise fiscal restraint.

The Republican leadership intends to bring more tax cuts to the floor and I will consider each on a case by case basis. We must find the right tax cuts for the right time. Our children and grandchildren deserve it.

STATEMENT ON OVERTIME PAY

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 2004*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Today, the White House and Department of Labor issued the final regulations to end overtime pay for as many as 10 million Americans.

Millions of hard-working American police officers, fire fighters, first responders, nurses, and veterans will see their paychecks cut.

The regulations are the result of a White House initiative to help employers lower the costs of doing business by cutting employee pay and benefits.

On Oct. 2nd of last year, I voted to block these controversial changes. We succeeded by a vote of 221–203, but the Republican Congressional leaders quietly reversed that decision at the White House's urging.

The Bush Administration, despite Congressional opposition, is still cutting the pay of American workers.

Over 2 million workers have lost their jobs under this Administration while millions more are working at McJobs with no benefits. You can't feed a family on minimum wage and leftover happy meals.

Congressional Republicans and President Bush are letting millions lose their unemployment benefits.

Congressional Republicans and President Bush think it's a good idea to ship American jobs overseas.

And now, Congressional Republicans and President Bush show that they believe the best way for America to compete with the third world is to pay Americans third world wages.

We don't know the exact number of people affected without more time to analyze the details. But here's what we do know: in March of 2003 the Administration planned to end overtime pay for 8 million people, but claimed it only hurt 600,000 people.

Now they claim that only 107,000 people will be hurt. Please forgive me if I don't believe them.

President Bush's initiative to cut the pay of hard-working Americans that work overtime is unconscionable, and must be reversed. This will hurt many of the people that deserve the pay the most—the police that patrol our streets and nurses that care for our sick.

I wonder, what's next on the Bush agenda—canceling Christmas?

I urge my colleagues to rally in defense of overtime pay so we may overturn President Bush's misguided policy to export American jobs and import third world wages.

HONORING BILL AND MAGGIE KAPLEN

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 2004*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to Wilson and Margaret Kaplen, known as Bill and Maggie to their family and friends, for their dedication to community service and philanthropy. The Kaplens are life-long New Jersey residents, currently living in Tenafly. I have had the privilege of knowing the Kaplen family for many years.

In acknowledgment of Bill and Maggie's many contributions and devotion to the community, the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center will recognize Bill and Maggie Kaplen at the Medical Center's annual black tie gala on May 8, 2004 at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The Kaplens will be the first recipients of the Touchstone Award from the Medical Center, an award that has now been established in their honor.

In 1963, Bill established the Kaplen Foundation, and with the assistance of Maggie and their children, the Kaplens have given their time, hard work, and resources to endeavors including healthcare initiatives, civic projects, education and youth programs, social services, the arts, and Jewish organizations. The Kaplens have been given numerous awards for their charitable endeavors, including the Torch of Liberty Award from the Anti-Defamation League and the Chaver Award from the Jewish Community Center of the Palisades (JCC) in Tenafly. Bergen County residents have honored the Kaplen family name at the Kaplen Family Field of Dreams in Teaneck and the Michael F. Kaplen Red Cross Service Center, named in loving memory of their son, Michael.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Bill and Maggie Kaplen for their commitment to making our community a better place for all people. The Kaplens represent the best of the human spirit and serve as a true source of inspiration to us all. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Wilson and Margaret Kaplen for their contributions to our community, and in wishing them continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.