

Congressman Lamb Testimony – Member Day, Ways and Means

Good morning and thank you for allowing me to testify before your committee today.

I believe we in Congress have an obligation to do everything in our power to ensure that our economy benefits everyone. This means providing the tools and resources that enable workers, entrepreneurs and small businesses to support their families.

Unfortunately, Congress has actually made it harder for many working Americans to succeed in today's economy. In fact, last year many workers, including thousands of hardworking Pennsylvanians, lost critical tax deductions for money they spent on tools, uniforms or travel for work. That is because the Republican tax reform from last session suspended the long-standing deduction for union dues and other unreimbursed employee expenses. This includes deductions for my constituents who spend their own money on things they need for their job such as tools and uniforms.

Western Pennsylvania has a proud tradition of unions. Labor unions have played a critical role in boosting wages and improving worker protections for decades. In the past, union members were able to deduct their union dues on their taxes; but unfortunately, this deduction was also suspended as part of tax reform.

My bipartisan bill, H.R. 2103, the Tax Fairness for Workers Act, would restore these simple, commonsense provisions of the tax code that helped American workers. This would not only reinstate the deduction for reimbursed employee expenses but also makes the deduction for union dues above-the-line, ensuring it's available to all filers – not just those who itemize.

I know a lot of the attention around tax reform was lowering the corporate tax rate, but I'm here to ensure more working Pennsylvanians and Americans get a tax cut in the years to come as well. The Tax Fairness for Workers Act is a simple, bipartisan bill that would help millions of Americans keep more of their hard-earned money. I look forward to working with the members on the committee to advance this legislation and I yield back the balance of my time.