

Ways and Means Member Day Hearing
Testimony
January 22, 2025
Congressman Mike Haridopolos

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

As a former American History professor and business owner, I think that we should allow our approach to be informed by the lessons and wisdom from our past and knowledge of the impacts of our consequences in the future.

Exactly 62 years ago this Friday, in a message to Congress, President John F. Kennedy said, “The largest single barrier to full employment of our manpower and resources and to a higher rate of economic growth is the unrealistically heavy drag of federal income taxes on private purchasing power, initiative, and incentive.”

He was right: History teaches that President Kennedy spurred the economy with the 1963 tax cuts, President Ronald Reagan did the same in 1986, and even more recently in 2017, President Donald Trump and Congress reduced taxes and spurred unprecedented economic growth that lifted the prosperity of all our people.

Yes, history, especially recent history, teaches us that reducing taxes will be a key tool to grow our economy. Therefore, I appear here today to represent the taxpayers in my district and to proclaim the critical importance of extending the Trump 2017 tax cuts.

But the importance of extending these tax cuts is not just a lesson of history; if we allow these tax cuts to expire, there will be very real consequences for the people I represent.

If we do not extend the Trump Tax Cuts, the average taxpayer I represent will see a 27% increase in taxes. That’s intolerable. A family of four with an income of \$77,000, the median income in my district, would see an increase of almost \$1,600 in annual taxes if we allow the Tax Cuts expire. This amount is equal to about 9 weeks of groceries for a typical family of four in the region.

Sadly, that would not be the end of the pain that failing to extend the Trump Tax Cuts would bring:

- If we allow the tax cuts to expire, nearly 80,000 families in my district would have their child tax credit cut in half;
- If we allow the tax cuts to expire, 90% of the people I represent would have their standard deduction cut in half;
- If we allow the tax cuts to expire, over 58,000 small businesses in my district would be hit with a 43% tax rate when the 199A Small Business Deduction expires;
- If we allow the tax cuts to expire, over 1,000 Family-Owned Farms in my district would have their Death Tax Exemption slashed in half next year, exposing millions of dollars of estate value to inheritance tax;

Mr. Chairman, as you can well imagine, I won't sit by and watch this happen to the workers, families, and small businesses owners that I represent.

We must act. I urge you to act swiftly to renew the Trump Tax Cuts, and I pledge you my support and will deliver whatever assistance you may ask of me to achieve this critical objective. I yield back.