

**House Ways and Means Committee
Full Committee Hearing**

Member Day

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 10:00am
Longworth 1100

SUGGESTED STATEMENT:

Thank you Chairman for hosting this opportunity.

The State and Local Tax deduction, commonly called the SALT deduction, is not just the top tax issue for Long Islanders... it is the top issue.

If you asked any subset of people on Long Island what the first thing they want changed, nearly all would say they want their full SALT deduction back.

I hear it at every town hall or event in Suffolk County.

New York has the dubious distinction of having the highest combined income, property and sales taxes in the nation.

That's a problem created by Albany politicians.

Governor Hochul and the one-party leadership in Albany have made Long Island one of the most expensive places to live in the nation.

Albany Democrats must do more to repeal unfunded mandates and lower taxes statewide.

Long Island cannot continue to be a piggybank for the rest of the state.

New York is not alone. States like California, New Jersey, and Illinois have also adopted tax and spend policies to the detriment of the citizens.

While the SALT problem is created by Albany, my constituents know better than to rely on Albany to make their lives easier.

In Washington, we must raise/eliminate the SALT cap to make sure the middle class on Long Island can make ends meet.

One of the reasons I came to Washington was to lower the cost of living for families back on Long Island.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act marked a transformative moment in American economic growth.

Most of the country experienced unprecedented innovation and prosperity.

American competitiveness improved and we saw the best economy in recent history.

But not everywhere got to experience its full benefits.

Many Long Islanders actually saw their tax bills go up because of the creation of the SALT cap.

The imposition of a double tax on high-cost areas greatly diminished the simplification of the tax code and pro-growth policies.

When the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed in 2017, it passed with 12 Republican Nos.

This Congress, only two or three no votes would doom the tax package.

TCJA also sealed the fate of 17 members.

A \$10,000 cap was not acceptable for those members and their constituents then and it will not be now.

Many members have argued that the SALT deduction is a bailout for blue states.

Respectfully, I and the facts disagree.

New York is actually a donor state.

For every dollar New York sends to the federal government, we receive 87 cents back.

The average state fairs much better.

The national average was \$1.24 received for every dollar sent.

While New York would still be a donor state, repealing the SALT cap would help close this gap.

These are the middle-class families on Long Island that were hurt most by the creation of the SALT Cap in 2017.

Last Congress, I helped introduce the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act.

My colleagues and I offered a solution that improved the life of the average middle class family.

Sadly, Democrats and some members of this committee voted against floor consideration.

I made a promise to my constituents that I would not support a tax package without a SALT fix. Since day one, I made that clear to my colleagues.

In January 2024 I upheld that promise. I voted against the Wyden-Smith tax bill because it failed to address the SALT cap.

This Congress, I hope we can work together to ensure that middle class families throughout the nation receive the full benefit of the tax package.