

Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2007 8:49 AM

To: EMAILUPDATE-MI08@LS1.HOUSE.GOV

Subject: Legislative Email Update - Fighting the Largest Tax Increase in American History

I write today to update you on recent legislative activities in the United States Congress. I appreciate the opportunity to contact you.

Fighting the Largest Tax Increase in American History

On the heels of Democrat Governor Granholm raising income taxes on every Michigan family by 12 percent and adding a new 6 percent tax on services, Representative Charlie Rangel, the Democratic chairman of the Ways and Means committee and the man in charge of writing all tax laws, recently introduced a plan that will further hurt Michigan's economy and families.

The basics of his plan are simple: raise taxes by \$3.5 trillion over the next ten years. This is the largest individual income tax increase in the history of our nation.

Families, farmers, and small business owners will take the biggest hit and further plunge the economy of Michigan. Your tax deduction for your mortgage interest, charitable giving, medical expenses, state and local taxes, and your standard deduction will all be taken away. All the tax cuts that have aided families since 2001 will be taken away as well. Finally, the income that small business owners and farmers create for themselves will be penalized by historic proportions.

The bottom line is that taxes are already too high. Too much of your hard earned money goes to feed ill-conceived, poorly run, wasteful government programs. When we cut taxes, it takes money away from Washington and puts it back where it belongs, in the pockets and purses of Americans. But when Congress stops tax cuts from taking effect, or worse still when they roll-back hard-won tax relief, a piece of our freedom is taken away and handed over to bureaucrats in Washington.

This is a bad bill for Michigan and for the country, and rest assured I will do everything in my power to stop Washington from taking more of your hard earned money.

To read more details about this dangerous tax increase, please [click here](#).

Cracking Down on China's Illegal Trade Practices, Protecting Michigan Jobs

Recently, I was pleased to learn that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson has finally begun to recognize the unfair trade practices of China, which has been stealing Michigan jobs and putting Americans at an unfair trade disadvantage.

These recent statements open the door for the Bush Administration to reverse its earlier declarations that deny the existence of China's currency manipulation. American jobs are at stake and putting an end to China's illegal acts is crucial for the future of our own nation.

With the Secretary having publicly acknowledged China's disregard for fair trade laws, it is time for the Bush Administration to focus more effort on holding China accountable for its blatant disregard for the rule of law. That is why I have again called for an official acknowledgement by the Treasury Department that China does in fact manipulate its currency.

Rest assured I remain committed to ending China's currency manipulation, theft of intellectual property, counterfeiting of American products, and illegal subsidizing of Chinese businesses. I have introduced a measure to boost enforcement of international trade rules, and I continue to be a strong advocate in Congress to promote fair trade rules that protect Michigan workers and job providers.

For more information about my efforts to fight China's illegal trading practices, [click here](#).

Reducing the Cost of Healthcare

I recently introduced legislation designed to help save lives by promoting the use of health information technology. My legislation, entitled the "Promotion of Health Information Technology Act" will improve health care efficiency, reduce costs by streamlining medical recordkeeping, and improve access by reducing the paperwork involved in providing health care.

The legislation I authored will:

- Provide resources for the adoption of health information technology nationwide
- Establish a streamlined process for implementation of this technology
- Provide privacy protections for patients and their medical information
- Advance health information research and consumer education and awareness

Technological advances are already helping Americans live longer, healthier lives by providing better access to quality medical care. I believe accelerating the use of health information technology will make recordkeeping and health care provider communications more accurate and faster to meet the needs of patients. Speeding the adoption of health information technology will have a powerful effect on enhancing patient safety, reducing medical errors, improving the quality of care and reducing healthcare costs.

As an example, a Washington, DC, hospital, the Washington Hospital Center, adopted a paperless patient record system and began using electronic records. In the first year, they saved \$3 million. A major savings came in the emergency room where doctors and nurses no longer had to wait for paper records to arrive.

If we could duplicate that achievement nationwide, imagine the impact on patient care. Specialists and lab results could be accessed more easily and quickly; diagnosis and treatment could be given sooner and with more accuracy; and doctors could consult from remote locations so there would be less duplication of tests.

I am confident my legislation will greatly improve patient care, help save more lives, and reducing health care costs across the country.

For more information on this legislation, please [click here](#).

I appreciate your continued interest in the legislative activities of your U.S. Congress. As always, should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



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