



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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In 1999, the Republican-controlled House and Senate sent President Clinton legislation that repealed the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) permanently by December 31, 2007

**Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Charlie Rangel voted against AMT repeal
Sen. Harry Reid and Sen. Kent Conrad voted against AMT repeal**
(See the full list at www.atr.org)

HR 2488, also known as the *Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act of 1999*, addressed the AMT as follows:

Subtitle C--Repeal of Alternative Minimum Tax on Individuals

SEC. 121. REPEAL OF ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX ON INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL- Subsection (a) of section 55 is amended by adding at the end the following new flush sentence:

For purposes of this title, **the tentative minimum tax on any taxpayer other than a corporation for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2007, shall be zero.**

Government Printing Office Link: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=1999_record&page=H7031&position=all

The legislation was introduced in the House on July 13, 1999. During debate on July 21, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), speaking on the House floor, said the following:

“Thank God we have a President that is going to veto this foolishness, and thank God we have a Congress that is not going to override that veto.”

Government Printing Office Link: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=1999_record&page=H6092&position=all

During debate on August 2, 1999, **Rep. Ben Cardin** (D-MD), speaking on the House floor, said the following:

“This is an irresponsible and reckless proposal.”

“Fortunately, this bill will not become law. That is the good news.”

Government Printing Office Link: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=1999_record&page=H6802&position=all

On August 5, speaking on the House floor, **Rep. Rangel** said the following:

“Mr. Speaker, I have been in this House and privileged to serve for a long time. I have seen a lot of political things, but I have never seen a sham like the one that we are trying to pull on the American people today.”

Government Printing Office Link: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=1999_record&page=H7254&position=all

On September 15, the legislation was sent to **President Bill Clinton**.

On September 23, the legislation was vetoed by President Clinton.

In his veto statement to the House of Representatives, **President Clinton** said:

“I am returning herewith without my approval HR 2488, the ‘Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act of 1999,’ because it ignores the principles that have led us to the sound economy we enjoy today and emphasizes tax reduction for those who need it the least.”

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“The prudent course in the face of these uncertainties is to avoid making financial commitments—such as massive tax cuts—that will be very difficult to reverse.”

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“As I have repeatedly stressed, I want to find common ground with the Congress on a fiscal plan that will best serve the American people. I have profound differences, however, with the extreme approach that the Republican majority has adopted.”

Government Printing Office Links: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?position=all&page=H8613&dbname=1999_record

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=1999_record&page=H8614&position=all

On September 23, the same day **President Clinton's** veto message was delivered to the House, **Rep. Rangel** said the following:

“Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States has the right and obligation to veto any bill that an abusive Congress sends to his desk if he or she believes that the bill, the legislation, is not in the interest of the American people.

The President of the United States has reviewed this piece of Republican legislation and has vetoed the bill.”

Government Printing Office Link: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=1999_record&page=H8615&position=all

On September 23, **Rep. Cardin** said the following:

“Mr. Speaker, let me thank the President for vetoing this reckless tax bill.”

“The President made the right choice for the American people. I agree with the President.”

Government Printing Office Link: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=1999_record&page=H8616&position=all