



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Rep. Chris John's Betrayal of Louisiana Taxpayers

Taxpayer group exposes John's abysmal record on taxes, asks him to sign Taxpayer Protection Pledge

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), a non-partisan taxpayer advocacy group, has sent an open letter Louisiana senate candidate Rep. Chris John (D-LA) demanding he explain his tax policy. John claims he supports middle class tax cuts despite voting against millions of dollars for Louisiana's middle class taxpayers. From the letter:

“Just last year you voted at least twice against accelerating the child tax credit and marriage penalty relief. By voting no on the 2003 tax cut package you voted against the 747,224 Louisiana children eligible for the accelerated child credit, which would have denied an additional \$298 million for Louisiana families. This includes the 116,728 children in your own congressional district which would have resulted in \$47 million less for District 7 families. Moreover, you voted to deny marriage penalty relief to 506,493 married families in the state.”

ATR's letter calls for Chris John to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge and put in writing that he will never again be on the wrong side of Louisiana taxpayers. If John refuses to sign the Pledge, ATR demands that he openly announce his position on Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry's plan to raise taxes. Kerry's government run healthcare plan will cost \$1.5 trillion dollars over 10 years and require an across the board tax hike to fund it, wiping out the hard fought tax relief earned over the last four years.

“If Chris John is really on the side of the taxpayers, then he will put it in writing and sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge,” said ATR Vice President Damon Ansell. **“If Chris John refuses to take the pledge, he owes it to the citizens of Louisiana to tell them what taxes he is prepared to raise, and exactly how much.”**

A full copy of the letter to Chris John is below.

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at cbutler@atr.org.

October 1, 2004

Honorable Chris John
U.S. House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative John:

With 30 days left before the November election, I find it shocking that you are now pretending to represent taxpayers' interest. Claiming you support tax cuts when you voted to deny the same relief in the first place is disingenuous to every Louisiana taxpayer.

Just last year you voted at least twice against accelerating the child tax credit and marriage penalty relief.¹ By voting no on the 2003 tax cut package you voted against the 747,224 Louisiana children eligible for the accelerated child credit, which would have denied an additional \$298 million for Louisiana families. This includes the 116,728 children in your own congressional district which would have resulted in \$47 million less for District 7 families. Moreover, you voted to deny marriage penalty relief to 506,493 married families in the state. Fortunately for Louisiana families your vote was not needed to pass this legislation.

Your vote to deny tax cuts has real consequences for Louisiana families. A married family of four with \$40,000 of income saw their federal income taxes reduced from roughly \$1,800 to just \$46 from the legislation you voted against. In no way can you claim you are for middle-class families, when in fact, you have worked hard to deny them much needed relief.

I would also add that you have not denounced Sen. John Kerry's proposal to raise taxes, which will severely harm Louisiana taxpayers. Sen. Kerry has repeatedly claimed that he will not increase spending without paying for it with tax increases. This is particularly important to Louisiana taxpayers because the cost of his government run healthcare program has recently been scored at \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, while providing 60 percent of the benefits to already insured citizens.

This proposal alone would require a repeal of all the tax cuts, including the middle and low income provisions such as the child credit, marriage penalty, and 10 percent bracket. Do you support Senator Kerry's healthcare spending and repealing all the tax cuts that is required to pay for this?

If you really are a supporter of protecting Louisiana taxpayers, then you will sign a copy of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, which is included. Signing the pledge allows elected officeholders to demonstrate their commitment on taxes to their constituents. Talk is cheap – signing the pledge will put you on record to every Louisiana resident that you oppose tax increases.

If you decline to sign the pledge, you owe it to the taxpayers of Louisiana to let them know what taxes you are prepared to raise if you are elected to the United States Senate. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully Yours,



Damon B. Ansell
Vice President for Policy

¹ HR 2, Roll Call Vote #182: Passed 222-203: 5/9/03, John Voted Nay
HR 2, Roll Call Vote #225: Passed 231-200: 5/23/03, John Voted Nay