



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Worker Freedom Squelched by House of Representatives

*--House votes to turn back the clock on overtime rules--*

**WASHINGTON** — Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist today expressed disappointment at the slim majority of the House of Representatives who voted to turn back the clock on workers' eligibility for overtime.

The rules governing overtime regulations hadn't been updated in decades. As a result, millions of workers in new economy-era jobs were uncertain if they were eligible for overtime. President Bush changed all that with the first update of the rules since 1949. Among other things, it guarantees overtime to any worker making less than about \$24,000 per year (about three times the current guarantee). It explicitly protects first responders, nurses, and blue collar workers.

**"The U.S. House today stripped workers of the first enhancement and strengthening of overtime rules in a half-century,"** said Norquist. **"Even worse, it opens the door to predatory lawsuits from trial lawyers seeking to take advantage of the confusion politicians have created."**

The new overtime regulations went into effect on August 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year. Many employers have made overtime decisions with employees anticipating that the new rules would be in effect.

**"Plans have been made and workplace arrangements set,"** continued Norquist. **"Now some in Congress want to disrupt American workers by tearing down the Department of Labor's common-sense update of overtime rules".**

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

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