**PHONE SCRIPT (HOUSE)**

Hello! My name is \_\_\_ and I’m the [title] for [school district name] in their district. I’m calling to let Congressman \_\_\_\_\_\_ know that I strongly oppose H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, because of the devastating impact it will have on my students and community.

My opposition to the tax reform is driven by two specific provisions which will negatively impact our nation’s public schools.

First, this legislation would incentivize upper-middle-class and wealthy Americans to educate their children in private schools by providing them with a tax break as they can now utilize 529 accounts for private K–12 education. These drastic changes would enable anyone, regardless of their wealth, to put aside significantly more dollars for use at private schools, at a greater expense to taxpayers and schools.

Second, I am also deeply concerned by changes to the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction. Eliminating SALT will hurt more than 43 million taxpayers from all 50 states and across all income brackets; it also will hurt the ability of state and local governments, including my school district, to fund essential services such as public education. State and local funding accounts for about 90% of funding for K–12 schools, meaning that any reduction in state revenue—which will likely happen when any state or local tax is perceived as a double tax when it cannot be deducted—will almost certainly lead to cuts in public education. Over time, it is likely that a change in this tax provision would erode funding for education at a level deep enough to mirror a direct cut in federal, state, and local funding.

I urge Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_ to oppose this bill, which has the potential to decimate education funding for our state.

**PHONE SCRIPT (SENATE)**

Hello! My name is \_\_\_ and I’m the [title] for [school district name] in their state. I’m calling to let Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_ know that I strongly oppose H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, because of the devastating impact it will have on my students and community.

My opposition to the tax reform is driven by two provisions which will negatively impact our nation’s public schools.

First, I am also deeply concerned by changes to the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction. Eliminating SALT will hurt more than 43 million taxpayers from all 50 states and across all income brackets, it also will hurt the ability of state and local governments, including my school district, to fund essential services such as public education. State and local funding accounts for about 90% of funding for K-12 schools, meaning that any reduction in state revenue—which will likely happen when any state or local tax is perceived as a double tax when it cannot be deducted—will almost certainly lead to cuts in public education. Over time, it is likely that a change in this tax provision would erode funding for education at a level deep enough to mirror a direct cut in federal, state, and local funding.

Second, I voice my strong opposition to the inclusion of any provisions that that create a federal voucher program or provide tax incentives for families that send their children to private school have no place in this legislation. Given current levels of public education funding we cannot divert revenues to support away from the school system that educates 90% of American children.

I urge Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_ to oppose this bill, which has the potential to decimate education funding for our state.

**EMAIL TEXT**

* If you need the name and email address of the education staffer and legislative director for your elected officials, please contact us.
* Feel free to use the text below as the basis of your email and personalize with details about your district or specifics on what the tax policy ramifications will mean for your state and district.

**HOUSE EMAIL TEMPLATE:**

Dear {insert staffer name}

My name is [\_\_\_] and I’m the [title] for [school district name] in [representative’s name]’s district. I’m emailing to let Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_ know that I strongly oppose H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, because of the devastating impact it will have on my students and community.

My opposition to the tax reform is driven by two specific provisions which will negatively impact our nation’s public schools.

First, this legislation would incentivize upper-middle-class and wealthy Americans to educate their children in private schools by providing them with a tax break as they can now utilize 529 accounts for private K–12 education. These drastic changes would enable anyone, regardless of their wealth, to put aside significantly more dollars for use at private schools, at a greater expense to taxpayers and schools.

Second, I am also deeply concerned by changes to the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction. Eliminating SALT will hurt more than 43 million taxpayers from all 50 states and across all income brackets, it also will hurt the ability of state and local governments, including my school district, to fund essential services such as public education. State and local funding accounts for about 90% of funding for K–12 schools, meaning that any reduction in state revenue—which will likely happen when any state or local tax is perceived as a double tax when it cannot be deducted—will almost certainly lead to cuts in public education. Over time, it is likely that a change in this tax provision would erode funding for education at a level deep enough to mirror a direct cut in federal, state, and local funding.

I urge Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_ to oppose this bill, which has the potential to decimate education funding for our state.

**SENATE EMAIL TEMPLATE:**

Dear [insert staffer name],

My name is [\_\_\_] and I’m the [title] for [school district name] in [senator’s name]’s state. I’m emailing to let Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_ know that I strongly oppose H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, because of the devastating impact it will have on my students and community.

My opposition to the tax reform is driven by two provisions which will negatively impact our nation’s public schools.

First, I am also deeply concerned by changes to the State and Local Tax Deduction. Eliminating SALT will hurt more than 43 million taxpayers from all 50 states and across all income brackets, it also will hurt the ability of state and local governments, including my school district, to fund essential services such as public education. State and local funding accounts for about 90% of funding for K–12 schools, meaning that any reduction in state revenue—which will likely happen when any state or local tax is perceived as a double tax when it cannot be deducted—will almost certainly lead to cuts in public education.  Over time, it is likely that a change in this tax provision would erode funding for education at a level deep enough to mirror a direct cut in federal, state, and local funding.

Second, I voice my strong opposition to the inclusion of any provisions that that create a federal voucher program or provide tax incentives for families that send their children to private school have no place in this legislation. Given current levels of public education funding we cannot divert revenues to support away from the school system that educates 90% of American children.

I urge Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_ to oppose this bill, which has the potential to decimate education funding for our state.