



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

# JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

VICE CHAIRMAN JIM SAXTON

## PRESS RELEASE

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### TAX RELIEF CRITICS OFTEN FAIL TO DISCLOSE TAXPAYER BURDEN

**-- Top One Percent Pay 37.4 Percent of the Income Tax Burden --**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Opponents of tax relief should disclose who bears the individual income tax burden before attacking tax relief as “tilted,” Vice Chairman Jim Saxton said today. Attacks on tax relief legislation often are based on figures showing various tax benefits by income group, but typically fail to disclose the amount and proportion of income taxes paid by different groups. IRS data show that taxpayers in the top half, ranked by adjusted gross income (AGI), bear almost all of the income tax burden.

“The IRS data show that the top half of taxpayers pay 96 percent of the federal income tax, while the bottom half account for slightly less than 4 percent,” Saxton said. “The top half starts at an income threshold of \$27,682, hardly qualifying these taxpayers as ‘rich’.

“The share of federal income taxes paid by the top one percent amounted to 37.4 percent, according to IRS statistics, while the top ten percent accounted for 67.3 percent of federal income taxes paid. These figures are typically not disclosed by those who attack tax relief legislation for supposedly being tilted toward the rich,” Saxton concluded.

Percentiles Ranked By AGI	Adjusted Gross Income Threshold on Percentiles	Percentage of Federal Personal Income Tax Paid
Top 1 %	\$313,469	37.42
Top 5 %	\$128,336	56.47
Top 10 %	\$92,144	67.33
Top 25 %	\$55,225	84.01
Top 50 %	\$27,682	96.09
Bottom 50 %	< \$27,682	3.91

Tax Year 2000 IRS data

For more information on taxation, please visit our website at [www.house.gov/jec](http://www.house.gov/jec).

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