



*A coalition of nonprofits  
supporting a fair estate tax*

Steering Committee Members

Alliance for Children and Families  
Alliance for Justice  
American Arts Alliance  
American Association of University  
Women  
AFL-CIO  
American Federation of State, County  
and Municipal Employees  
(AFSCME)  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Association of Art Museum Directors  
Campaign for America's Future  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
Citizens for Tax Justice  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Communications Workers of America  
(CWA)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America, Lutheran Office for  
Governmental Affairs  
Friends of the Earth  
Independent Sector  
Institute for America's Future  
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights  
League of Women Voters  
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits  
MoveOn.org  
National Committee to Preserve Social  
Security and Medicare  
National Committee for Responsive  
Philanthropy  
National Council of Nonprofit  
Associations  
National Priorities Project  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK, A National Catholic  
Social Justice Lobby  
OMB Watch  
Open Society Institute, DC Office  
People for the American Way  
Religious Action Center of Reform  
Judaism  
Responsible Wealth  
Taxpayers for Common Sense  
United Church of Christ Justice and  
Witness Ministries  
United for a Fair Economy  
US Action

## Statement on Proposed Senate Action on the Estate Tax

The Senate is currently considering a budget resolution that includes money to accelerate the repeal of the estate tax from 2010 to 2009.

In a time of massive federal deficits, which all Americans will have to pay for eventually, it is especially unfair and fiscally irresponsible to reduce taxes on a tiny fraction of the wealthiest Americans while diverting resources away from vital domestic priorities.

### **We strongly urge members of the Senate to vote against the FY2005 budget resolution.**

The acceleration of the repeal would affect only multi-millionaires and cost billions in reduced revenues. The Congressional Budget Office expects to collect \$19 billion in estate tax revenue in 2010 alone (the first year which would feel a major impact of the accelerated repeal); and extending the repeal after 2010 would have an estimated 10-year cost of \$206 billion according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Under current law, in 2009 individuals could pass on the first \$3.5 million worth of estates to heirs tax-free, and married couples could pass on \$7 million tax-free. Accelerating the repeal would thus only benefit a very small number of people – less than 1 in 200 decedents would benefit from this repeal.

The *Americans for a Fair Estate Tax* coalition continues to believe that the estate tax should be preserved, and that efforts to repeal the tax – especially in times of financial difficulty – are misguided.

In addition, we oppose other proposed changes to the budget rules that would make estate tax repeal more likely – including changes to PayGo that would exclude tax changes, and changes that would require OMB and CBO to assume tax extensions in their budgetary baselines.

### About AMERICANS FOR A FAIR ESTATE TAX

Americans for a Fair Estate Tax (AFET) is a broad-based non-partisan coalition of nonprofit groups, including civic, labor, social justice, faith-based, and environmental organizations, as well as organizations providing human services.

AFET advocates that instead of repealing the tax on multi-million-dollar estates, Congress should reform the estate tax to ensure that family farms and small businesses are not unfairly taxed while keeping 98 percent of taxpayers exempt and safeguarding Medicare, Social Security, education, charities and other key national priorities that would be threatened by a complete repeal. See <http://www.fairestatetax.org> for more information.

---

Americans for a Fair Estate Tax  
c/o OMB Watch  
1742 Connecticut Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
Phone: 202.234.8494  
Fax: 202.234.8584

<http://www.FairEstateTax.org>

---