



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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RAHALL CALLS FOR TAX FAIRNESS FOR FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In a much needed effort to restore economic equity to American families, U.S. Rep. Rahall (D-WV) has lent his support to legislation aimed at increasing the personal exemption.

"The Tax Fairness for Families Act of 1991" would raise the personal exemption for children under 18 to \$3,500, from the current \$2,050. While designed to lessen the financial burden on families across the board, this legislation would remove hundreds of thousands of lower income families from federal income tax rolls.

"The personal exemption has historically been the vehicle for protecting family earning ability," said Rahall. "But it has dramatically eroded in value for families over the last few decades."

In 1950, a median income family of four paid two percent of its annual gross earnings to the federal government in income and payroll taxes. Today, that same family pays close to a quarter of its earnings to Uncle Sam. On top of that, State and local taxes now take an average of eight percent.

Had the personal exemption kept pace with inflation and per capita income, it would be \$7,800 today.

"The Tax Fairness for Families Act of 1991" has garnered the support of over 65 Members of the House, both Democrat and Republican. It has also been endorsed by groups which span the political and ideological spectrum, including the Family Research Council, Progressive Policy Institute, Concerned Women for America, Heritage Foundation, and Citizens for a Sound Economy.

"Tax relief alone is not a cure-all for today's mounting pressure on families," said Rahall. "But increasing the personal exemption for children is perhaps the simplest, most effective and most immediate means available to strengthen the American family."

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