

New Legislation Provides One-Year Relief from the AMT for 54,611 Households in New York's 22nd Congressional District

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today helped the House pass legislation that would protect more than 25 million families from the alternative minimum tax (AMT) this year including more than 54,000 families in the congressional district Hinchey represents. Without this patch, those families and individuals would be forced to pay \$61.5 billion more in taxes, which would mean an average tax increase of more than \$2,400 per affected taxpayer. The Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 passed by a margin of 233-189.

"Amid the rising cost of gas, food, health care, housing and all of life's other necessities, the last thing that middle-class New Yorkers need is a huge tax increase in the form of the alternative minimum tax," Hinchey said. "The legislation we passed in the House today would relieve 54,611 households in the congressional district I represent from being hit with the AMT. Given that we are already faced with a declining economy, we need to ensure middle class families and individuals aren't going to struggle even more throughout these difficult times by being forced to pay the AMT."

The AMT was originally designed to ensure that extremely wealthy individuals do not avoid paying income tax as a result of significant tax write-offs. The tax now threatens to impact middle-class families and raise taxes on 25 million Americans if Congress fails to take action. This legislation provides one-year relief from the AMT without adding to the deficit by closing loopholes in the tax code, promoting tax compliance, and repealing excessive government subsidies given to oil companies.