

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement in support of the Middle Class Tax Cut Act of 2011 - legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate and supported by President Obama that would extend and expand the payroll tax cut put into effect this year, saving the average working family \$1,500 on their tax bill next year. The tax cut would be fully paid for and protect the Social Security trust fund through a 3.25 percent tax on income over \$1 million. The bill also cuts payroll taxes in half for 98 percent of U.S. businesses.

"With the vast majority of Americans struggling to make ends meet this holiday season, Republicans in Congress are planning to hold up a bill that would cut their taxes. Without this bill, taxes on middle class families will go up starting on January 1, and the average working family will see their taxes increase by \$1,000 next year. With this bill, the average working family will see their taxes cut by an additional \$500 next year.

"This tax cut would not add one cent to our deficit and protects the Social Security trust fund by asking those with incomes of over \$1 million per year to contribute more. The first \$999,999 earned will be taxed at the same historically low rate it was taxed at last year. But for every dollar over \$1 million earned, we're asking for an additional 3.25 cents so that middle class and working families can afford to put food on the table, buy presents for their children this holiday season, heat their homes, drive to work and put their kids through college. This is exactly what our economy needs right now.

"Many millionaires and billionaires currently pay a lower effective tax rate than bus drivers, janitors, teachers and nurses. Having the wealthy pay a little more in taxes isn't a lot to ask in an economy where the richest one percent controls more of the country's wealth than at any other time since the Great Depression."