

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement after an announcement that the U.S. House would adjourn before considering a bipartisan bill overwhelmingly approved in the U.S. Senate to prevent a payroll tax increase on 160 million Americans.

"This past weekend the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan bill that would prevent a payroll tax increase from going into effect in just two weeks. 89 Senators voted for it, including the vast majority of Republicans. If Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Cantor had held an up or down vote, it would have passed in the U.S. House too. Instead, the average tax bill for New York families is set to rise by over \$1,000 next year.

"I share the frustration of the American people. They're tired of seeing some lawmakers play politics while the cracks in the foundation of the nation they love grow gradually deeper. They're sick of seeing non-controversial legislation get tangled up with unrelated wedge issues. They're tired of the unwillingness to compromise on job creation and deficit reduction ideas. They're sick of the inaction and gridlock - and they should be. They're tired of the games of political chicken and they're sick of getting caught in the middle.

"The best gift we can deliver to the American people this holiday season is a simple up or down vote on the bipartisan legislation that was already passed by the Senate. Doing so wouldn't just prevent a tax increase; it would also halt the erosion of what little faith and confidence the American people have left in their governing institutions. Unfortunately, House Republicans leaders are refusing to do so."