

I voted Yes on H.R. 3630, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act.

H.R. 3630 would extend the current payroll tax cut for Upstate workers. This provision is critical to middle class families. Without extending this rate, New York workers could see their taxes go up by \$1,000 next year. Importantly, the legislation protects Social Security by making up for foregone revenue by transferring general fund dollars to the Trust Fund in the same amount.

This bill also helps those who need it most by extending Unemployment Insurance benefits, while making permanent reforms focusing on personal responsibility. For example, the bill would establish job search requirements, require those without a high school diploma to work towards a GED and would allow states the option of drug testing recipients. The duration of unemployment benefits available would be gradually phased down from a possible 99 weeks to 59 weeks.

This legislation will help create jobs. Small businesses will benefit from an extension of 100 percent expensing for real property investments – an element included in my "AGREE Act" jobs bill. It also directs the president to approve permit for construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, unless he determines it is not in the national interest. This would create construction jobs and career tracks in the energy field in our nation. At a time of economic uncertainty and tumultuous conditions in the Middle East, looking at North American sources of energy is not only prudent, but essential. The Keystone pipeline offers us access to a safe and dependable source of energy from a country that remains a strong ally.

H.R. 360 would also help states pay for child care services because it would extend authorization and funding for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). It also extends the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families state block grant program at its current level, and up to 30% of these funds can be used by states to support child care services through the CCDF.

Important to Central New Yorkers, the bill would reauthorize, reform and strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). H.R. 3630 would reauthorize NFIP through 2016 and make changes to improve the finances of the program. Another key provision is a one-year delay in the mandatory purchase requirement for certain properties and the establishment of a Technical Mapping Advisory Council to ensure local participation in the flood mapping process. This bill

protects homeowners and communities from being erroneously drawn into flood zones and subsequently required to purchase expensive insurance policies. It streamlines the appeals process for homeowners who believe they've been incorrectly included in a flood map.

Notably, this bill will not increase the federal deficit, but rather reduces it over the long-term by almost \$1 billion. This legislation is fully paid-for by commonsense steps like freezing pay for Members of Congress and ending fraud, abuse and waste in various Washington programs.

The bill was approved by a bipartisan vote of 234 – 193.