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## **FREEDOMWORKS APPLAUDS TAXPAYER CHOICE ACT**

*Bill would fix Alternative Minimum Tax, put small government ideas back on offence.*

Washington, D.C. -- Not content with simply trying to stop legislation that would expand the size and scope of government, Congressman Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) was joined by Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas) and other members of the Republican Study Committee to unveil the Taxpayer Choice Act, legislation designed to permanently end the Alternative Minimum Tax and give taxpayers the opportunity to opt into a simplified tax system. The Taxpayer Choice Act gives fiscal conservatives a bill to rally around during the upcoming budget and tax battles.

Each year Americans lose over 7 billion hours and \$140 billion calculating their taxes, while lobbyists and special interests groups are busy carving out loopholes and giveaways in thousands of pages of credits, exemptions, deductions, phase outs, subsidies, extensions and other preferences in the federal tax code. Under the Taxpayer Choice Act, citizens could choose between the current 60,000 page code or a simplified version with only a 10 percent and a 25 percent bracket.

The Taxpayer Choice Act also solves the looming AMT crisis by permanently ending the tax, and saving taxpayers the major headache of calculating their taxes under both the existing tax code and the AMT. Originally designed to only tax 155 targeted wealthy taxpayers, the AMT, if not stopped, will capture 30 million families this year that the tax code defines as rich, or 70 percent of households earning above \$75,000.

FreedomWorks President Matt Kibbe commented:

"While the mood in Washington is to raise taxes, create new bureaucracy, and regulate economic activity, it is a breath of fresh air to hear a dedicated group on Capitol Hill authoring legislation that will streamline the tax code and give taxpayers a choice between business as usual and a simplified tax system. The RSC understands that the purpose of the tax code is simply to only raise the revenue necessary to fund the expense of the government, it is not a place for social engineering or rewarding special interests."

A leading advocate for the past three decades for creating a tax code that respects taxpayers, FreedomWorks Chairman Dick Armey added:

"Congressman Paul and the RSC are focusing on good policy by putting forward a principled plan to end the AMT once and for all and give taxpayers a choice between complexity and simplicity in the tax code. These legislative entrepreneurs are not sitting on their hands and moaning about losing the majority. They are taking the lead and rebuilding the conservative brand identity of cutting spending and fighting for lower taxes."