



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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Rep. Shuler Again Supports Plan to Protect Working Families from Tax Hike *Joins Blue Dogs to Demand Senate Pass Fiscally Responsible AMT*

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler supported legislation in the House of Representatives last night to protect working families across Western North Carolina from experiencing a massive tax increase. The legislation was the House's second attempt to fix the looming crisis posed by the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) in a fiscally responsible manner.

The AMT was created in the 1960's to ensure multi-millionaires were paying their fair share of taxes, but is beginning to affect more middle-class families due to inflation. H.R. 4351, the AMT Relief Act of 2007, would protect 23 million Americans from paying the AMT and would also expand the child tax credit. The bill was fully paid for by closing tax loopholes for hedge fund managers and corporate CEOs and cracking down on tax shelters.

"I am committed to protecting working families from paying higher taxes and being affected by the AMT," Rep. Shuler said. "The House has now passed two AMT patches that are fiscally responsible, and now the Senate must follow our lead."

The House had previously passed an AMT that was paid for by closing unfair loopholes for hedge fund managers and other Wall Street executives. However, the Senate failed to pass the legislation, instead passing a bill that violated pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budgeting. PAYGO budgeting requires that any new entitlement spending or tax cuts be fully paid for. The House adopted PAYGO at the beginning of the 110th Congress due to the efforts of Rep. Shuler and the Blue Dog Coalition.

Earlier in the day Rep. Shuler had joined with other members of the fiscally responsible Blue Dog Coalition and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer in demanding the Senate pass an AMT patch that adheres to PAYGO rules.

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