



**Stop the Automatic Congressional Pay Raise**  
*Co-sponsor H.R. 156, the "Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act" of 2010*

January 14, 2009

Dear Representative:

Taxpayers for Common Sense Action urges you to co-sponsor H.R. 156, the "Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act" of 2010. The bill would prevent the automatic annual increase in congressional salaries from occurring for 2010.

To regain some credibility and demonstrate shared sacrifice, Congress should immediately move to suspend the pay raise and also swear them off until the economy is in full recovery. At \$4,700 per member, or roughly \$2.5 million, this is not much money in the context of a trillion dollar deficit. But forgoing the raise while the country is in dire economic times would send a powerful message to people that their elected officials understand the economic pain that everyone is feeling and are ready to share that pain. H.R. 156 would build on that effort by demonstrating Congress is willing to give up its 2010 raise.

We recognize that if we are to have talented citizens serve in the legislature, we do need to compensate them appropriately. Most lawmakers maintain two residences and work long hours. So it isn't that Congress should never get a pay raise. But this cynical system of auto-raises means that Congress is pocketing an additional \$4,700 while thousands of their constituents are getting pink slips.

Already, more than 70 members of the House of Representatives from across the political spectrum have signed up as co-sponsors of H.R. 156. Supporting this legislation would send a strong message that Congress understands the dire economic straits people across the country and in your district are experiencing. Again, I urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 156, the "Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act" of 2010.

Sincerely,

Ryan Alexander  
President