

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Tonight, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez condemned House Republicans for holding the legislative process hostage and threatening to raise taxes on the middle class. [Despite the Senate's overwhelming support of a bipartisan compromise on the payroll tax](#) and [several Republican Senators' opposition](#), House Republicans have vowed to defeat the measure. Congressman Gonzalez issued the following statement regarding the hostage-taking tactics of House Republicans that could prevent Congress from providing a middle class tax cut:

"American workers must not be deceived into believing that House Republicans are champions of working families by pursuing a yearlong extension of the payroll tax reduction. What House Republicans are actually doing is using the payroll tax cut proposal as a vehicle to sneak in more corporate tax cuts and cutting retirement benefits for working Americans.

"Over the weekend, House Republicans made it clear that they are the only group opposed to providing a tax cut for the middle class. Nearly 90% of the Senate voted on this compromise negotiated by Republican Leader McConnell. But now, Tea Party, hostage-taking brinkmanship has caused [Speaker Boehner to reverse his position](#), putting at risk tax cuts for more than 150 million middle class Americans.

"It is a question of different values. I joined the President and my Democratic colleagues in supporting a full-year, fully paid for expansion of the payroll tax cut to help working Americans and our economy. In contrast, [House Republicans](#) are willing to accept a middle-class tax cut, but only if they get unrelated policy riders and political issues they can use against the president. We don't like the idea of a two-month extension, but that was all that Senate Republicans would allow. I am not going to hurt working families to spite Sen. McConnell. The only responsible thing for Congress to do is to pass this measure now and make the cut permanent when we return in January. Instead, House Republicans are [jeopardizing our nation's economy](#) and working families, for political posturing.

"American families need action not ideological rhetoric. It is time to put country before party, pass this tax cut, and commit to building a stronger economy in the new year, but in the midst of a heated Republican presidential primary, that is all that is being offered by Congressional Republicans."

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