




AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM

 Center for
Fiscal
Accountability

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Geoff Davis
United States House of Representatives
1108 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Davis,

We write to encourage your colleagues to co-sponsor and otherwise support H.R. 10, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act. The bill would require Congress to approve every new major rule proposed by the Executive Branch and retain existing law that permits legislative disapproval of non-major rules.

In 2009, the federal government issued 3,316 new rules and regulations. Many of these new regulations, which strangle small business and extinguish job growth, have been proposed and implemented by unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats in the Executive Branch. This exploding regulatory regime leads to higher costs for taxpayers, who are already shouldering the burden of increased spending and higher taxes.

Each year, Americans for Tax Reform Foundation and the Center for Fiscal Accountability publish the Cost of Government Day Report which calculates the burden of government for the average American—in 2010, Americans had to work 48 days just to pay for the cost of federal regulations.

To diminish these escalating costs, the REINS act requires major rules to be approved by Congress. A major rule is one that may have an annual effect on the economy of more than \$100 million. As stewards of their taxpayer dollars, elected officials should be gravely concerned about deferring such massive lawmaking authority to unaccountable bureaucrats.

For example, the health care bill provides significant deference to the authority of federal agencies, with more than 40 provisions in the bill requiring further clarification and rulemaking. As the price tag of this bill continues to grow, its implementation should be subject to a transparent procedure, checked by the elected officials in Congress.

The imprudent delegation of lawmaking authority to the Executive Branch stands in stark contrast to promises of honesty and transparency made by legislative and executive leadership. Lawmakers should ensure the regulatory process is open and accountable to the taxpayers who are hampered by the expanded regulatory regime by supporting the REINS Act. We encourage you to co-sponsor this bill and look forward to working with you further diminish the regulatory burden on taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Mattie Corrao
Executive Director
Center for Fiscal Accountability

Cc: All Members of the United States House of Representatives

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