

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year, Congress reached a short-term agreement to continue the payroll tax cut through February and help 160 million Americans. However, that deal only extended the tax cut until the end of this month.

Today, Congress passed a bipartisan compromise bill to extend those tax cuts and unemployment benefits for the rest of the year. This deal will extend the payroll tax holiday, continue unemployment benefits to those without jobs through no fault of their own for up to 99 weeks, and ensure that seniors on Medicare can continue to see their doctors.

I'm pleased that my colleagues in the House and Senate worked across the aisle and together to preserve these benefits for working families. While the agreement isn't perfect, I supported it because it will allow the average middle-class family to keep an extra \$1,000 in their pockets over the course of the year. I know Long Islanders need that right now and it's an important step in getting America's economy back on track.

For more information on the payroll tax cut extension and how I'm fighting for middle class families, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov> .

Sincerely,

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress