

# Tax bill called ‘punch in the gut’

■ **Schumer calls** on GOP to vote against proposal

■ **Property-tax** deduction repeal said to harm families

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Sen. Chuck Schumer stood with a Rockville Centre family Thursday morning and called for New York representatives to vote against a GOP tax bill that would eliminate state and local tax deductions for homeowners.

At a news conference at the home of Maureen and Jeff Orosz, a family that Schumer said depends on the mortgage deduction for their \$20,000 in annual property taxes, the Senate minority leader urged all New York representatives to vote against any bill that excludes property-tax deductions.

“It’s a punch in the gut to middle-class families across New York,” Schumer said. “It’s not good enough for representatives to say, ‘I’m against it.’ You can’t vote for any bill that has it.”

Schumer (D-N.Y.) said he is in favor of tax reform, but not tax breaks for the wealthy or measures that hurt the middle class. He said the tax bill would hit Long Island hardest in New York State, costing 47 percent of Long Islanders an average tax deduction of \$19,886.

Schumer’s call on House Republicans mirrored a plan by Rep. Peter King (R-Seafood) to gain support from upstate representatives and house leadership. King is also proposing allowing families making under \$400,000 to still be able to claim deductions.

King said Thursday that he has met with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) in an attempt to pass a tax-reform bill that includes keeping state and local deductions intact.

“It would decimate the district I represent,” King said. “Most of my constituents are middle-class income people who would be hit very hard because their home is their main asset.”

The White House has not submitted any bill, but King said he was encouraged by a news report that President Don-



Sen. Chuck Schumer with Jeff and Maureen Orosz and their son Jude on Thursday at their home. ■ Video: [newsday.com/rockvillecentre](http://newsday.com/rockvillecentre)

## Ryan blames states that pay billions in taxes

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top House Republican on Thursday blasted high-tax states that deliver billions to the federal government.

Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) went on the offensive against high-tax states like California, New York and New Jersey, even though disgruntled GOP lawmakers need to be brought on board to support the \$6 trillion tax overhaul.

But Ryan contended the rest

of the country is “propping up profligate, big-government states” that levy high taxes and spend recklessly.

“States that got their act together are paying for states that didn’t,” the lawmaker said at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

In fact, California, New York and New Jersey send many billions more in taxes to Washington than they get back in federal spending. Divided by total



Paul Ryan

state residents, New York gets back 81 cents for every \$1 it pays in, New Jersey 74 cents and California 96 cents, according to an analysis last month by the Rockefeller Institute of Government.

New York contributed \$48 billion more in taxes to the federal government than it received in government spending — the biggest deficit found for the budget year ending Sept. 30, 2015.

The state-local deduction is claimed by about 44 million people and costs the government an estimated \$1.3 trillion in lost revenue over 10 years.

“New Yorkers send over \$50 billion more to the U.S. government than they receive back. So New Yorkers, and in particular Long Islanders, are subsidizing the rest of the country; not the other way around as you suggested,” wrote Kevin Law, president of the Long Island Association, in a letter to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

ald Trump may consider including the tax deductions after all.

Schumer said he has spoken with the president about keeping the deductions in any tax-reform package.

“I’ve told the president three times if he doesn’t undo this tax reform it will fail. There

won’t be enough votes, so maybe it’s sinking in,” Schumer said. “Don’t start your opening plan with such poison pills. It makes it unpopular.”

However, Trump’s chief economic adviser, Gary Cohn, discounted the news report that the president had expressed

concerns over the proposed repeal. Asked whether Trump was rethinking the move, Cohn said no.

Long Island economic officials said excluding tax deductions could decimate the housing market by forcing families out of their homes or lower-

ing home values.

“This will be a Category 5 disaster for Long Island,” said Lauren Harris, the president of the Association for a Better Long Island, a real estate developer lobbying group. “Hardworking families will suffer greatly and disproportionately.”

With AP

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newsday.com NEWSDAY, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017