

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



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Herger Urges Passage of Legislation to Prevent AMT Increase on the Middle Class

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger (CA-02) today expressed strong support for the "Stealth Tax Relief Act of 2005," which extends relief from the alternative minimum tax (AMT) for middle-class taxpayers. Unless Congress extends AMT relief, millions of additional taxpayers will fall prey to this tax. Congressman Herger is an original cosponsor of this legislation, and serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over it.

"The alternative minimum tax is an incredibly unjust tax, and, unless Congress acts soon, it will increasingly stampede on middle-class taxpayers," Herger said. "Although the AMT was designed to prevent a small number of taxpayers from paying little or no income tax, it has begun to trap the middle-class."

This year, the AMT affects 3.8 million taxpayers, and if AMT relief is not extended for 2006, the number of affected taxpayers will skyrocket to 20.5 million. Those additional 16.7 million taxpayers would pay an average of \$2,736 more in taxes. More broadly, the Department of Treasury estimates that by 2013, AMT repeal would be more expensive than repeal of the income tax.

"It would be crushing to millions of American taxpayers to increase their tax burden," continued Herger. "The Stealth Tax Relief Act will extend the AMT middle-class exemptions to 2006, which will ensure that this hidden trap does not snare millions of Americans.

"This common sense measure is a positive step toward recognizing the need for broader AMT reform, and I hope that the House will quickly consider and pass it," Herger concluded.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!