

Testimony of The Honorable Laura A. Gillen (NY-04)

“Member Day Hearing”

House Committee on Ways and Means

January 22, 2025

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, and Members of the House
Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to highlight a
critical priority of my constituents in the Fourth Congressional District
of New York.

As members of the chief tax-writing committee in Congress, you will
play a major role in the upcoming reauthorization of the 2017 Tax Bill.

Without a doubt, the single most urgent and important tax priority for
my constituents on Long Island is the need to eliminate the cap on and
fully restore the State and Local Tax Deduction.

As you know, since the federal income tax was first established in 1913, Congress made state and local taxes deductible from federal income. They did so out of recognition that double-taxation of Americans is simply unfair.

The SALT deduction allowed hardworking men and women I represent on Long Island, who pay some of highest taxes in the country -- to deduct the full amount that they pay in state income and local property taxes, before paying what they owe in federal taxes.

This important, bipartisan feature of the tax code stood the test of time for more than 100 years. As you know, the 2017 tax bill did away with this provision, gutting and capping the SALT deduction, and imposing double-taxation on my constituents and an estimated 11 million Americans.

By capping and scrapping the full SALT deduction, the 2017 Tax Bill has made life even more expensive for my constituents. Prior to the cap, nearly 50 percent of all taxpayers in my district used the SALT deduction, with Nassau County residents deducting \$26,259 on average, more than double the current, \$10,000 cap.

I've heard from countless hardworking families in my district over the past few years who've had to pay tens of thousands of dollars more in taxes, making their lives even more expensive, and adding to the cost-of-living crisis on Long Island.

I'm committed to reversing the harmful SALT cap and cutting taxes for my constituents. This is a critical, commonsense concern in my district that affects hardworking, middle-class families.

That is why, in my first week in Congress, I sent a letter to House and Senate leadership, calling for immediate, bipartisan negotiations to reinstate SALT.

I know there is strong support for getting this done in the upcoming reconciliation package among many House Republicans and Democrats from New York, and many other states -- as well as from President Trump, who as we all know, has now promised to “get SALT back.”

That’s why I recently sat down with my colleagues in the bipartisan SALT Caucus to discuss the path forward on reconciliation, and our belief in the need to restore SALT for all our constituents.

Last week, I was also proud to my Republican colleague, Representative Andrew Garbarino, and twenty cosponsors on both sides of the aisle, in introducing H.R. 430, the *SALT Deductibility Act*. I strongly urge the committee to swiftly consider this important bill to restore the full deduction that taxpayers had before -- and still deserve.

I will continue working across the aisle on good-faith negotiations to deliver a tax cut for Long Island.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for your time today and your work on this Committee to help serve the American people. I look forward to working with you and all our colleagues to help preserve SALT, lower taxes, and cut costs for the families I am honored represent.