

# *U.S. Senate Approves \$1.5 Trillion Tax Bill to Benefit the Wealthiest*

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Washington, December 20 (RHC)-- The U.S. Congress has approved a massive rewrite of the U.S. tax code that will overwhelmingly benefit corporations and the wealthiest Americans, while ending a central pillar of President Obama's signature healthcare law.

Just past midnight, the Senate voted 51 to 48, along party lines, on a final version of the tax bill, as protests erupted in the gallery, with chants of "Kill the bill! Don't kill us!" -- briefly interrupting proceedings.

The Senate vote came despite overwhelming public opposition to the measure. An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found fewer than one-quarter of Americans think the tax plan is a good idea, while two-thirds of those surveyed say it's designed mostly to help corporations and the wealthy.

All 48 members of the Senate's Democratic caucus voted against the bill. During debate, Ohio Democrat Sherrod Brown opened the doors to the Senate chamber and pointed to lobbyists walking in and out of the offices of Republican leader Mitch McConnell, saying they were responsible for a bill that will enrich millionaires and corporations while taking away healthcare from ordinary Americans.

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