



House of Representatives

DAVID RALSTON
SPEAKER

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March 10, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

Today, the United States House of Representatives gave final passage to House Resolution 1319, titled "the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021."

The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board wrote that, "The bill explicitly bars states from cutting taxes."¹ See lines 1-11 on page 579 of the legislation.

The WSJ editorial continues, "The constitutionality of this is open to question. The Supreme Court's 'anti-commandeering' doctrine prohibits Congress from using federal funds to coerce states. But even if the tax cut ban doesn't meet the Court's legal test of coercion, it's still an egregious affront to constitutional federalism. In the 2020 election, Democrats failed in their goal of retaking statehouses, but now they plan to control them anyway from Washington."

On March 3rd, the Georgia House of Representatives unanimously passed House Bill 593, the Tax Relief Act of 2021, sponsored by Representative Shaw Blackmon. This measure would cut the state income tax burden on Georgians by some \$140 million by increasing the standard deduction for individuals and married couples filing jointly. This method of cutting taxes would benefit taxpayers who do not itemize and are generally of lower to middle incomes.

In Georgia, we have prioritized providing tax relief to our citizens, and H.R. 1319 appears to prohibit that relief. I pray that you will prevail upon Congress to have this flaw in the legislation corrected before signing it into law. Thank you for your service to our nation and its citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ralston".

David Ralston
Speaker

¹ See "Democrats to States: No New Tax Cuts." The Wall Street Journal. March 9, 2021. https://www.wsj.com/articles/democrats-to-states-no-new-tax-cuts-11615333751?mod=opinion_lead_pos1.