

The House amendment proposed by Republican leadership members Jason Osborne, Joe Sweeney, and John Janigian says “The house of representatives shall not adopt a tax on wages, earned income, personal income, or other income of individuals. This prohibition shall apply to any tax measured in whole or in part by personal income...” This would prohibit any form of an income tax, even one that might receive overwhelming public support, such as a tax on income above a million dollars a year.

When Lincoln said that we are a "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" he was describing the defining principals of democracy, where the people rule by voting directly or through elected representatives, and their government is the mechanism for collectively supporting the wellbeing of the population.

This bill undermines both these principals. Raising revenue is a necessary component of government. Eliminating a revenue option used by 44 states weakens the constitutional right of the people to determine how their government is funded. It will also be detrimental to the government’s purpose of protecting the wellbeing of its citizens. In New Hampshire, property taxes are 62% of combined state and local taxes raised each year. The national average is only 27%.

The Senate version of this bill sponsored by Senator Tim Lang is no better. It raises the required vote to adopt an income tax or general sales tax from a simple majority to a two-thirds majority.

Both versions of this bill are designed to protect the income of the ultra-rich. Ask the sponsors of this bill, “Where is their plan to reduce property taxes so more people can afford to buy a home, and seniors can afford to remain their home?”