In remarks during the House debate on President Bush's $986 billion rate tax cut proposal -- only step one of his more than $2 trillion tax plan -- Rep. Pete Stark lambasted the plan for squandering the opportunity to provide an adequate and affordable Medicare prescription drug benefit in favor of tax breaks that disproportionately benefit the wealthy.

"My accountant tells me that, under the Republican plan, I will save $28,253.88. Under our Democratic alternative, I would save $737. My father-in-law – a retired Teamster and small business owner – will save only $316 under the Republican bill before us today. Under the Democratic plan, he'd save $289," said Rep. Stark.

"The $27,500 extra that I get – along with many of my colleagues in Congress – should be going to Medicare to provide a prescription drug benefit – not into my pocket or those of my colleagues. That's why I oppose the Bush tax break. It disproportionately benefits the wealthiest Americans at the expense of our seniors," concluded Rep. Stark.