

"Hard times create strong men, strong men create good times, good times create weak men, and weak men create hard times."

Dear Brian,

Courage is fighting for your country overseas as bullets fly by your head.

Courage is when a Christian missionary journeys into an unreached village deep in the jungle to bring the Good News to the tribe.

When we ask politicians in Boise to repeal taxes — it may be controversial — but we aren't asking them to be particularly courageous.

We are simply asking them to deliver on what the people sent them to Boise to do.

But unfortunately, even today, the Boise Swamp is filled with weak politicians.

This week the State Senate again failed to repeal the grocery tax in Idaho.

A "weak sauce" grocery tax credit bill was again on the floor of the State Senate for consideration. (*I say again because the legislature has done this before — passing a grocery tax credit bill instead of full repeal.*)

The grocery tax credit bill (House Bill 231) that was proposed by leadership would force taxpayers to save all their receipts from every week when they go to the grocery store and then file that as part of their taxes just to try to get some of their money back.

Instead of making taxpayers jump through hoops just to get a tax break, why not eliminate the tax altogether?

After all, isn't that what the politicians campaign on every election? How many times have they promised to repeal the grocery tax or cut taxes in general?

But unfortunately the story for Idaho is that government continues to expand every year!

Everyone knows House Bill 231 is a ridiculous proposal designed only to give politicians cover in the next election, it's not about providing real tax relief to Idahoans struggling under skyrocketing inflation prices!

Thankfully, Senator Christy Zito made a motion to send House Bill 231 back to committee to amend the bill to be REPEAL of the grocery tax rather than another grocery tax credit expansion.

They had to do this because Senate and House leadership refuse to allow grocery tax repeal legislation to even be introduced.

Rep. David Leavitt in the House and Sen. Glenneda Zuiderveld in the Senate (and some other legislators) wanted to introduce grocery tax repeal this year. They were blocked from doing so by committee chairs hostile to tax repeal.

And who appoints committee chairs?

The leadership in both chambers.

On other issues, when leadership wants a bill to move — they simply tell their committee chair to print the bill, hold a hearing and vote the bill to the floor.

But did leadership in the Senate direct their hand-selected committee chairs to move grocery tax repeal to the floor? They did not.

So whenever you hear a politician tell you that “they support grocery tax repeal” or that “they would vote for grocery tax repeal if it came to the floor” — that is an excuse.

It is widely understood that politicians tell you what you want to hear. Time and time again, they campaign on grocery tax repeal.

But when they have a chance to take action, they come up with excuses like “there is no pathway for a full repeal” or “this is all we can do right now.”

The people you trusted with your vote have betrayed you.

Obviously, their countless campaign promises to provide relief at the checkout counter were empty promises designed to lock in your support.

But now that they are safely in office, they feel they don't have to keep those promises.

Perhaps that is why all but five senators voted to kill grocery tax repeal this session.

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Just a few years ago, Sen. Tammy Nichols was on [video](#) with former Rep. Ron Nate supporting the full repeal of taxes on groceries rather than the tax credit.

Nichols said, “People need help now, food prices have gone just crazy and people are spending way more money which means the government is getting more money because you're paying more money on taxes on your food.”

She continued, “We have plenty of money to spend but it seems like we don't have enough money to give back to the taxpayers so let's change that, more than breadcrumbs!”

Fast forward to today, Nichols sponsored the measly food tax credit bill and defended it on the floor as the most practical and immediate relief we can offer to Idahoans.

When Sen. Nichols and her colleagues had the opportunity to vote for a full

repeal this week, they chose to sail with the political winds rather than fight for the people.

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Senators Zito, Zuiderveld, Kohl, Shippy, and Blaylock showed true courage and kept their promises.

They were the only five to fight to repeal the grocery tax even though it meant standing up to their colleagues.

In an overwhelmingly Republican majority Senate, why is it that only FIVE Republicans supported this effort?

What changed from campaign season to legislative?

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If your legislators don't hear from you, they get off scot-free.

They need to know their inactions and empty promises are unacceptable and that you are watching.

The time to act is now, we need to start standing up for what we believe in!

Thank you for taking action and for your help with this fight.

The battle for liberty continues and American Action Fund will keep you informed.

For Liberty,

Sulamita Rotante

Idaho Field Manager

American Action Fund

P.S. Only FIVE courageous Senators stood up to fight for the full repeal of the grocery tax this week.

The rest REFUSED to repeal the grocery tax.

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