

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Senate Finance Committee Markup on Taxpayer Assistance and Service Act

Sen. Cantwell Remarks

July 30, 2026

[\[VIDEO\]](#)

Sen. Cantwell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for working in a bipartisan fashion to pull together some common-sense changes. But I want to just point out that this is only half the story of what we need to be talking about.

Making sure that the IRS is funded and staffed is essential to having a fair system. And we look at the cuts that came through earlier this year, it means we're eliminating trained and experienced revenue agents who can audit and do complex returns.

Obviously, address the concerns of the public, who are responsible for bringing in 96 percent of the country's total revenues. Those cuts won't produce savings—they just actually cost money. The Yale Budget Lab estimated last year's cuts resulted in 861 billion in less revenue, the staffing cuts.

So, if we're going to get our fiscal house in order, the least we can do is fund our own tax accounts receivable function. And I hope we can work together on this in the future in making sure that our constituents get timely information.

Also, want to speak briefly about the Wyden amendment. We do need to close loopholes, Mr. Chairman. We can't have anybody who has a loophole just because they've been given permission by someone to ignore the tax laws without consequence.

My constituents were outraged by the 1.8 billion slush fund, but the offer of blanket immunity from any tax enforcement claims was especially appalling. Our office has received more than 7000 messages from constituents expressing their opposition and anger.

Over 165 million individual tax returns were filed in 2025, approximately 4 million from the state of Washington. We need to make clear to those law-abiding citizens that the well-connected are not above the law, and they don't get a free pass when it comes to compliance with our tax laws. Thank you.