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CRAIG HAILS PASSAGE OF TAX BILL Praises Amendment to Increase Adoption Tax Credit

WASHINGTON DC - Idaho Senator Larry Craig issued the following reaction to today's passage of the bipartisan Senate Tax RELIEF Act, which includes the amendment sponsored by Senator Craig to extend and expand the tax credit for families who adopt.

"There has never been a more important time to reduce the tax burden -- right now Americans pay more in taxes than they spend on food, clothing, and housing combined. Today the Senate eased this tax burden by a total of \$1.35 trillion, which is enough to give every American a tax reduction, bury the death tax, fix the marriage penalty, and double the child credit. This tax bill delivers on the tax relief President Bush campaigned on, and reflects the coming together of Republicans and Democrats to get the job done for the American taxpayer," said Craig.

The following are examples of how taxpayers will benefit under the Tax RELIEF Act in 2001:

* A single mom with one child and \$25,000 income will receive a tax cut of \$400. She will receive an \$800 tax cut when the per-child credit is fully phased in from \$600 to \$1,000.

* A married couple with two children and \$15,000 income will pay no income tax. The family will receive \$4,008 from the earned income credit - an increase of \$402 - and a benefit from the expanded per-child credit of \$600. This family will receive an additional \$1,001 from the government.

* A couple over age 65, married and filing jointly with \$30,000 income will see a \$600 cut in their taxes.

Senator Craig, who sponsored the successful Hope for Children Amendment to the Tax RELIEF Act said, "This adoption tax credit is a major victory for children who need loving, permanent homes, and will make a real difference for families who hope to adopt, but have been put off by the burdensome and expensive adoption process."

The bill now goes to a joint House-Senate Conference where final details will be worked out, approved by both chambers, and then sent to the President for signature.