The Rising Cost of Unfair Upside Down Tax Programs

Each Year, Congress Spends Hundreds of Billions of Dollars Through Tax Subsidies and Tax Breaks to Help Families Build Wealth.

Most of that spending goes to help the wealthy build more wealth, while everyone else gets little or no support at all.

1 Author’s calculations based on data from the Office of Management and Budget (2017) and Tax Policy Center (2013, 2017). Asset-building tax programs include tax expenditures for homeownership, investments and inheritances, retirement, and higher education, as well as the foregone revenue from reduced estate taxes.

2 Calculations based on projected data from the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center (2017). “Working Families” defined as those with $50,000 or less in income. Dollar amounts reflect average benefit in 2017 from several tax programs in the two income categories.

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