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The Real Impact of State Tax Cuts.

COMMENTARY | The debate over tax cuts that's happening in statehouses across the country is about much more than revenues and spending. It's a fight over whether we will have an inclusive democracy where everyone—all races in all places—can thrive.

There's a troubling trend in state capitols across the country: Some lawmakers are pushing big, permanent tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthy and using temporary budget surpluses to hide the cuts' true cost. Eight states have already significantly cut their income taxes this year, and debates over major tax changes continue in more than 20 states.

These tax cuts will deplete the funding available for schools, infrastructure, health care and other public services. They will worsen inequality by making state tax codes less equitable and enriching those at the very top of the income scale. Meanwhile, there will be cuts to public assets that are crucial for poor and middle-class families and less money for teachers in the classroom and for public safety personnel, which means longer wait times for emergency response.

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Route Fifty

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