



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

MARCH 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER
PHONE: (631) 696-6500**

BISHOP ENCOURAGES WORKING FAMILIES TO APPLY FOR EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

With April 15 right around the corner, Congressman Tim Bishop is urging families to check whether they are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) before they file their income tax returns. The EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. Last year, over 22 million returns were credited with more than \$41 billion in payments through the EITC.

Unfortunately, millions of families who are eligible for the EITC do not receive it since they are not aware that they can claim it. According to the Internal Revenue Service, approximately 7 million households – or up to 25 percent of households entitled to the EITC – do not claim their credit.

“The EITC can make a big difference for many of Long Island’s working families,” Bishop said. “Yet as many as one out of four EITC-eligible taxpayers fail to claim this benefit.”

In 2002, EITC credits successfully raised 4.6 million Americans – including 2.4 million children – out of poverty. This year, the average benefit is \$1,900; a family of four may be entitled to a maximum of \$4,536.

“Anyone who thinks that they or someone they know may be eligible for this benefit should ask an accredited tax advisor or contact the IRS,” Bishop said.

To find out more about the EITC or to check eligibility, visit www.irs.gov/eitc or call the IRS helpline at 1-800-829-1040.

#