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## Is the Ability to Pay Principle Ethically Bankrupt?

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### Abstract


This article critically examines the ability to pay premise from an ethical perspective. The author finds the ability to pay principle to be ethically bankrupt whether one takes a utilitarian or rights approach to ethics.

**Keywords:** Ability to pay, tax policy, redistribution, ethics

**JEL Classification:** D63, E62, H23, H22, H24

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