



NEWS

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Kansas Taxpayers in for more?

-- Tax increase proposals to fund education under discussion in Topeka as lawmakers resume their session --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As lawmakers return from their recess this week, the debate over Kansas school funding and higher taxes to pay for it has heated up. Before the recess, the House of Representatives had approved a school aid plan that would raise about \$155 million annually by hiking the sales tax from 5.3 percent to 5.5 percent, and by imposing a 4.5 percent individual income tax surcharge. It would also give localities the opportunity to increase local property taxes.

While the plan did not pass the Senate, tax hikes are not off the table. Yet, if compared with other states in the region, Kansas already has the second highest sales tax, rate, the highest business property taxes, the second highest residential property taxes, and the third highest personal income tax rate, with no exemption for federal taxes.

“Kansans should beware. The fact that the House plan did not pass in the Senate does not mean the danger of higher taxes is no longer imminent,” said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **“Big spenders will continue to put pressure on the legislature to raise taxes. The consequences of yet another tax hike in Kansas would be devastating, and the people of Kansas should make their voices heard.”**

As the debate heats up, taxpayer advocacy groups have begun to wage radio campaigns urging Kansans to weigh in and urge their legislators not to raise taxes.

“A tax increase is the wrong answer to Kansas’ school funding problem. The tax hike proposals being floated would hurt both Kansans and the state’s economy alike,” continued Norquist. **“Kansans deserve better. Lawmakers should use the remaining time of their legislative session to look for alternative solutions like identifying budget savings and eliminating unnecessary spending. If other states can live within their means, why shouldn’t Kansas?”**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.