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Big Spenders Rally in Topeka as Session Resumes

-- Gov. Sebelius encourages big spenders to pressure lawmakers for increased education funding --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As lawmakers were back in Topeka Wednesday after a three week break, supporters of higher spending funded by higher taxes rallied in the city and were greeted by Democratic Governor Sebelius, who encouraged these activists to be visible and vocal.

While the House had approved several spending bills for education – among them a school aid plan that would raise about $155 million annually by increasing the sales tax from 5.3 % to 5.5%, and by imposing a 4.5% individual income tax surcharge – the Senate had rejected a number of measures that called for higher taxes. Currently under discussion in the Senate are new plans to increase the sales tax and the income tax, but lawmakers remain divided.

"It is hard to understand: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which the Governor asked for advice on the various tax increase proposals, has clearly pointed out that tax increases would be bad for both Kansas' economy and its people," said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **"Why does she – against this expertise – turn around and encourage big spenders to call for more?"**

In a statement issued by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, experts had made clear that: "Various combinations of increased taxes have a common thread – they will cost more Kansans their jobs. As such, increased taxes at this time give employers in Kansas a Hobson's choice – or no choice at all".

"Fortunately for Kansas taxpayers, the Senate has not jumped on any of the tax-hike bandwagons," Norquist continues. **"One can only hope that cooler heads prevail, and Kansans will be spared from a raid on their pocketbooks."**

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.