



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3 MARCH 2004

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Taxpayer Group Praises Bill to Repeal Wisconsin Death Tax

Senate Bill 355 would eliminate the onerous tax beginning with deaths occurring in January of 2006

WASHINGTON—Americans for Tax Reform, America's leading taxpayer advocacy organization, today announced its strong support for Wisconsin Senate Bill 355, which would repeal Wisconsin's death tax, effective January of 2006. The bill was introduced by Sen. Bob Welch (R-14).

The federal repeal of the death tax has led to anomalies at the state level, where legislatures often took advantage of federal tax credits for state versions of the death tax. Now that the U.S. Congress has turned the corner on the death tax issue, opting to protect family businesses and farms from the crippling tax, some states like Wisconsin are looking to offer protections from state tax collectors, to make sure the benefits are passed on real people.

"An overwhelming majority of Americans consider the death tax one of our most unfair taxes. After a businessperson or farmer has spent his lifetime building up a job-creating enterprise, his last sight should not be the tax collector lurking behind the shrubberies, waiting for him to breathe his last," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, and nationwide taxpayer advocate.

Senate Bill 355 eliminates the Wisconsin death tax by making changes to Wisconsin Act 16, passed in 2001. Up until now, the Wisconsin death tax has been calculated based on a complicated formula based on federal death tax rates in the past, present, and even future, leading some Wisconsin farmers and businesspersons to feel like their children were on a spinning roulette wheel, depending on when their beloved parents passed on.

"As Congress and President Bush press on to make the federal death tax a permanent thing of the past, it is encouraging to see Senator Welch pick up the torch in Wisconsin. Americans for Tax Reform endorses Senate Bill 355 completely. The Wisconsin death tax needs to be put to death once and for all, as soon as possible. Let's let Wisconsin families worry about other final expenses, besides the taxman," concluded Norquist

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases.
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