



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036  
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
9 January 2004

CONTACT: Paul Proski  
202-785-0266

## U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia Named “Enemy of the Taxpayer”

*Ambassador Lawrence Butler uses U.S. taxpayer money to promote a leftist agenda in tiny Balkan nation.*

WASHINGTON – When American grassroots activist Kerri Houston, Vice President for Policy of Frontiers of Freedom, traveled to the tiny Balkan nation of Macedonia, she was prepared to see poverty and ethnic rivalry in this nation of ethnic Macedonians, Albanians, Turks, and Roma. But she did not expect to see giant depictions of homosexual activity with Uncle Sam’s seal of approval on it.

In this traditional nation of predominantly Orthodox and Muslim believers, most of the nation considers homosexuality to be immoral. So Ambassador Butler’s embassy undertook to change the people’s “backward” ways. The agency erected billboards with larger-than-life images of homosexual groups in suggestive positions, and calling on Macedonians to “Face Reality” and “Promote the Rights of Sexual Minorities.” The seal of the U.S. embassy prominently declares who commissioned the signs.

**“The government should not be spending our tax dollars to attack the moral beliefs of anyone,”** said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“It’s bad enough when millions of tax dollars flow to left wing activists here in this country. But when our money is going to the other side of the planet to undermine local beliefs, I am stunned.”**

Many Macedonians are offended, from the President, Boris Trajkovski, to the common man. According to a 2002 study by the Swedish Helsinki Committee, 64% of the people think that homosexuality is a disease, and 60% believe it is immoral. And they wonder why America is spending so much money on trying to re-educate them when their country has so many other more pressing needs.

**“Macedonia is a small country that has been on the verge of civil war,”** continued Norquist. **“We should be helping to build democratic institutions and to free economic opportunities. Instead, we are sowing more controversy in this divided country. And we are making enemies among the people instead of friends. Your tax dollars at work!”**

*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](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org).*