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South Carolina Senate Passes Resolution Urging Congress to Support Social Security Personal Retirement Accounts

Sen. Hawkins calls for congressional action.

WASHINGTON- The South Carolina legislature passed a resolution calling on Congress to support Social Security Personal Retirement Accounts. Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, praised South Carolina Senator Hawkins (R-12) for his aggressiveness in protecting American workers. In introducing a resolution urging Congress to work to pass Social Security Personal Retirement Accounts, Sen. Hawkins is using the power of his state legislature to shape congressional debate.

ATR's State Legislative Advisory Project was launched in 2001 in an effort to help give state legislators a louder voice in federal policymaking. In the project's first year, twenty-seven states passed resolutions urging their congressional delegations to support the Economic Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. As of June, 2004, state legislators have already introduced 159 different resolutions in 40 legislative bodies in 25 states and passed 64 different resolutions in 23 legislative bodies in 16 states.

Taxpayer advocate, Grover Norquist, president of ATR, praised the South Carolina legislature and Sen. Hawkins's efforts. "Americans for Tax Reform applauds the legislators that voted for this measure and specifically Sen. Hawkins for strengthening the voices of state legislators working to bring critical issues to the forefront of congressional debate," said Norquist. "It is the local leaders in the individual states that most closely represent the will of the people and it is up to them to hold Congress accountable to the taxpaying citizens they represent."

Sen. Hawkins's resolution addresses the problems that will arise as the number of retirees is growing faster than the number of workers funding Social Security. If the Social Security Personal Retirement Accounts were passed, younger workers would be allowed to invest a portion of their income in personal retirement accounts, eliminating the need to increase payroll taxes by 50 percent or to cut benefits.

"The pay-as-you-go system will be crushed under the weight of the retiring baby-boomers unless reform takes place immediately," said Norquist. "The only way for younger workers to achieve any kind of retirement security is through investing in Social Security Personal Retirement Accounts."

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