



NEWS

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South Carolina Passes Resolution Urging Congress to Give First Priority to the Security of the U.S.

Rep. W. Smith demands congressional action.

WASHINGTON- **The South Carolina legislature passed a resolution calling on Congress to pass the Defense Appropriations Bill before other spending bills.** Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, praised South Carolina Representative W. Douglas Smith (R-32) for his aggressiveness in protecting American citizens. In introducing a resolution urging Congress to support and pass the Defense Appropriations Bill before passing other spending bills, Rep. W. Smith is using the power of South Carolina's influence to shape congressional debate. With the help of the South Carolina legislature, members of the U.S. Congress are now pushing to put the security of the nation first.

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 Rep. W. Smith's efforts. **"Americans for Tax Reform applauds Rep. W. Smith for strengthening the voices of state legislators, working to bring critical issues to the forefront of congressional debate. 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 constituents they represent."**

Rep. W. Smith's resolution presses for New Mexico's congressional delegates to ensure the military receives sufficient funding. The well-being of the men and women in the armed forces is a reflection of America's dedication to freedom and democracy in the world.

"Some members of Congress are more concerned about their own pork barrel spending than the security of America. Passing the defense appropriations bill first will prevent them from keeping vital funding away from our troops," said 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. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at jcollegio@atr.org.