



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Gov. Sebelius Dead-Wrong on Taxes

-- *Americans for Tax Reform names Kansas governor 'Enemy of the Taxpayer'* --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Only days after Kansans sent a clear message in this year's election by rejecting tax hikers at the ballot box, Kansas governor Kathleen Sebelius proves that she is not in tune with her fellow-Kansans.

The governor and insurance commissioner Sandy Praeger have now proposed a 50 cent per-pack tax increase on cigarettes and a 5 percent tax increase on other tobacco products to fund increased state spending. At \$ 1.29 per pack, Kansas would then have the 12<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation. Gov. Sebelius' proposal comes against the background of the defeat of all efforts to increase taxes during the last legislative session.

**“Taxpayers in Kansas have made clear that they do not appreciate having their wallets raided. Their votes in this year’s elections were a clear mandate for those who sided with them and fought against higher taxes in the legislature,”** said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform. **“The signs could not have been clearer. Yet, the governor comes back with another tax hike proposal which would place an extra burden on Kansas’ economy and its people. This is a display of sheer ignorance of the will of the people.”**

Early this year, Gov. Sebelius proposed a tax package that would have increased the state income, sales and property taxes to pay for increased spending. The price tag of this proposal: \$450 million. While she found supporters in the House of Representatives, fortunately for Kansas taxpayers, steadfast leaders in the Senate stood up to the tax-and-spenders and passed a no-tax-increase budget.

**“Gov. Sebelius attitude is harmful for Kansas. Any tax increase would hurt the state’s economy, and ultimately the hard-working families of Kansas.”** Norquist continued. **“The governor’s proposal might be the single best thing for the Missouri economy. However, Sebelius is governor of Kansas, and as such, she should look out for her fellow-Kansans. Her neglect to do so makes her an ‘Enemy of the Taxpayer’.”**

*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 Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [cbutler@atr.org](mailto:cbutler@atr.org)*