



# NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Governor Sebelius Proposes Money Devouring Health Plan

*--HealthyKansas similar to Tennessee's Struggling Program--*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS) is currently proposing a plan to increase cigarette taxes by 50 cents per pack in order to fund a new health care plan, HealthyKansas. The goals of the plan are to streamline the various healthcare programs into a new bureaucracy called the Kansas Health Care Authority, and to expand the current government run system.

HealthyKansas would be similar to the plans that many other states have attempted to put into effect. Tennessee's TennCare is one instance in which the program was insufficient. Enacted in 1994, TennCare now costs \$7.8 per year and eats up an ever increasing share of the state budget. The system is full of legal troubles and is quickly driving the state closer towards bankruptcy, yet not providing quality healthcare.

**“Kansas would be foolhardy to follow such states into bankruptcy. Costs in Tennessee have grown so much that pro-TennCare politicians have been talking about ending the program and returning to the traditional Medicaid program. There are better alternatives and cheaper ways to reform the health care system in Kansas”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform.

Several states across the country are seeking consumer-driven alternatives to the current federal Medicaid system, without having to turn to the cost inefficient program which Governor Sebelius is proposing. Waivers and Health Savings Accounts, such as those being proposed by South Carolina, are more successful and are beneficial to those who are covered by the plan.

**“Instead of evaluating the more cost friendly options, Kansas legislators want to throw the taxpayers' dollars at the health care problem. The people of Kansas have shown through their decisions at the polls that they will continue to reject tax increases. Many Legislators from the state who have advocated tax increases in the past have been defeated,”** Norquist concluded.

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*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).*

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