



# NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Illinois Legislator Named to Taxpayers' "Hall of Shame"

*Sen. Susan Garrett violated Pledge not to raise taxes.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, has named Illinois state Senator Susan Garrett to its **"Hall of Shame"** for violating a commitment made to the taxpayers of the state.

Since 1986, officials across the country have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, a written commitment to **"oppose and vote against/veto any and all efforts to increase taxes."** Currently, President Bush, 42 U.S. Senators, 218 Congressmen, eight governors, and more than 1320 state legislators have signed the Pledge.

**"Signing the Pledge is the single most important step a candidate or incumbent can take to demonstrate his or her commitment to taxpayers' interests,"** said Grover Norquist, President of ATR. **"It is a commitment to the people of Illinois to protect their wallets against raids by the big-spenders in Springfield. Breaking the Pledge by voting to raise taxes is a betrayal of that commitment, and it reveals an official's anti-tax stand to be little more than election year grandstanding."**

On May 31, 2004, Sen. Susan Garrett voted to impose an array of business taxes included in a Senate Amendment to HB 864.

The senators who signed the pledge and honored their commitment to taxpayers in 2004 are:

- |                        |                         |                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Ray Soden (S-23)    | 4. Wendell Jones (S-27) | 7. John Jones (S-54) |
| 2. Kirk Dillard (S-24) | 5. Dave Syverson (S-34) |                      |
| 3. Chris Lauzen (S-25) | 6. Ed Petka (S-42)      |                      |

The amendment was not voted upon in the House. House Pledge signers who honored the Pledge are:

- |                                |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ralph Capparelli (H-15)     | 9. David Winters (H-68)        | 17. Joe Dunn (H-96)      |
| 2. Michael P. McAuliffe (H-20) | 10. Ron Wait (H-69)            | 18. Gary Hannig (H-98)   |
| 3. Robert S. Molaro (H-21)     | 11. Robert W. Pritchard (H-70) | 19. Julie Curry (H-101)  |
| 4. Robert Biggins (H-41)       | 12. Michael Boland (H-71)      | 20. Ron Stephens (H-102) |
| 5. Patricia Bellock (H-47)     | 13. Patrick Verschoore (H-72)  | 21. Bill Grunloh (H-108) |
| 6. Timothy L. Schmitz (H-49)   | 14. John Philip Novak (H-79)   | 22. Steve Davis (H-111)  |
| 7. Kathleen Wojcik (H-56)      | 15. Linda Chapa LaVia (H-83)   | 23. Mike Bost (H-115)    |
| 8. Jack Franks (H-63)          | 16. Richard Myers (H-94)       | 24. John Bradley (H-117) |

*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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