



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036  
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
14 OCTOBER, 2004

CONTACT: Scott LaGanga  
Elizabeth Karas  
202-785-0266

## I-884: Bad for Students, Bad for Washington

*True or False: More water in a broken bucket will not fix the bucket.*

Washington State's education spending is hitting record highs. For the last decade, the state's per-pupil education spending has increased at almost twice the rate of inflation.

Even with consistent increases in education funding, school performance and student achievement continues to plummet.

**Initiative 884's solution: throw more money at failed programs instead of fixing the problems with Washington's education system.**

Initiative 884 would raise the sales tax by 15.4%, *forcing consumers in Washington to pay more than those in any other state.* In return, citizens in Washington receive:

- **Zero accountability.** I-884 does not define outcomes, protect against unauthorized use by the legislature, or guarantee that the tax dollars will be spent any more efficiently than before.
- **More money for worse student achievement.** I-884 will expand programs proven to fail. Ineffective programs with more money are just well-funded, ineffective programs.
- **Fewer capable teachers.** I-884 rewards teachers based on how long they have had their jobs, rather than on performance. With these pay rules, good teachers leave and bad teachers remain.

Students and consumers in Washington cannot afford to be failed again. Voters in Washington State must vote "No" on I-884.

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