



NEWS

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Steadfast Senate Leaders Nominated for Friend of the Taxpayer Award

-- Four Kansas Senators stand out from the crowd in their fight against higher taxes --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Leading the most recent charge against higher taxes, four Senators in Kansas have demonstrated their commitment to taxpayers’ interests over big spenders one more time. While 26 Senators cast the right vote in the case of SB 393 - a compromise plan to fund education after refusing to accept an earlier House proposal to increase taxes by \$155 million - these four senators have a long-standing record of defending Kansas’ taxpayers.

The Senators chosen for nomination are Senator Tim Huelskamp (S-38), Senator Kay O’Connor (S-09), Senator Ed Pugh (S-01), and Senator Bob Lyon (S-03). Their leadership was instrumental in fighting back several attempts by a bipartisan coalition of House Representatives to raid taxpayers’ wallets in the past legislative session.

“The danger for Kansans to see their taxes go up was immanent,” said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **“If it wasn’t for those dedicated to the interest of their taxpayers, like Senators Huelskamp, O’Connor, Pugh, and Lyon, Kansans would see more of their hard-earned money moving into a slush fund to pay for big spenders’ interests.”**

Without a tax increase, Kansas’ per capita tax burden is already higher than in all the neighboring states. Education spending is also significantly higher than the national average.

“Raising taxes is not the solution to Kansas’ school funding problem. While the Senate acknowledged this fact and offered an alternative solution, the House stubbornly refused to look for alternatives, and hammered out one tax increase proposal after another.” Norquist continued. **“Fortunately for Kansans, with the leadership provided by these four Senators, cooler heads prevailed – and spared the state from another tax increase.”**

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 Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.