



## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Dear Senator,

**I am writing to ask you to take a public stand in favor of established conservative principle in the ongoing school finance reform debate in Texas – that reform must not become an excuse for a tax increase.**

Governor Rick Perry kicked the school funding reform debate into high gear by calling a special session of the legislature and offering his own proposal. Reasonable people can disagree about the shape reform should take; **but all Republicans should be able to agree that taxes should not rise.**

Gov. Perry has made revenue-neutrality a key requirement of any reform. But some in the legislature seem to be using reform as an excuse to load up on new taxes and spending.

**The massive tax increases being proposed by some would be bad for Texas, and the damage to the GOP anti-tax “brand” would be bad for the party in the state and nationally.**

Recent experience in Virginia shows the perils of losing the anti-tax message. Virginia’s Republican-controlled House failed to stop tax increase proposals from a Democrat governor. But by giving up the clear anti-tax message, the House was out-maneuvered, and a tax package was passed that was even bigger than the governor’s original proposal. Meanwhile, national media made much of a “pro-tax GOP.”

**One of the most helpful pieces of the anti-tax effort in Virginia was the public stand Senator George Allen took.** He took no position on the specifics of legislation before the legislature, but he rallied opposition to a tax increase.

**I encourage you to take a similar leadership role. The details of school finance reform are too fluid to weigh in on particulars. But the general idea that the overall tax burden on hard-working Texans should not be raised should be a core belief of any Republican.**

By adding your voice to the debate, you can help set boundaries around reform, and defend taxpayers. It is good policy and good politics. Please let me know if you can join in this effort.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist