



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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National Taxpayer Advocacy Group Praises South Carolina Pledge Signers

Leadership of signers of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge called key to cutting taxes, avoiding tax hikes.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Friday, May 21, Americans for Tax Reform, the nation’s leading taxpayer advocacy group, ran a full page ad in Columbia’s *The State* newspaper, praising 65 South Carolina legislators. These legislators, all signers of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, provided crucial leadership in favor of taxpayers, according to the group.

In the wake of three years of tight budgets following the economic downturn, pressure built in countless states to raise taxes to fund new spending. Yet South Carolina avoided all tax increases, and even passed a \$54 million per year tax cut.

“South Carolina taxpayers know who their friends are,” said taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“65 legislators put their principles into writing, committing themselves to stand up against the big-spenders in Columbia and for South Carolina’s hard-working families. Gov. Sanford, Speaker David Wilkins, and Sen. John Courson led their fellow Pledge signers in keeping their Pledges and in meaningful tax cuts.”**

Since 1986, the Taxpayer Protection Pledge has been the single most important way for a candidate or official to demonstrate his or her commitment to low taxes and limited government. The Pledge is a commitment to the voters to **“oppose and vote against/veto any and all efforts to increase taxes.”** President Bush, 42 U.S. Senators, 216 Congressmen, 9 governors, and over 1260 state legislators have signed the Pledge.

“Mark Sanford set the tone for the state, and Speaker Wilkins and Sen. Courson led Pledge signers in the legislature,” continued Norquist. **“The result? While other states raised their tax burdens and made their businesses less competitive, South Carolina actually lowered the burden of government. Hard-working families will reap the benefits, as they will keep more of their earnings and as more jobs are created. South Carolinians have 66 Pledge signers to thank for this development.”**

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.