



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
7 JUNE 2004

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Sen. Shafer Leads Georgia in Calling on Congress to Make Federal Tax Cuts Permanent

State legislators urge congressional action.

WASHINGTON— Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, praised Georgia Senator David J. Shafer (R-SS 48) for his aggressiveness in protecting American taxpayers. In introducing a resolution urging Congress to permanently extend the successful federal tax cuts, Sen. Shafer is using the power of Georgia's influence to shape congressional debate.

ATR's State Legislative Advisory Project was launched in 2001 in an effort to help give state legislators a louder voice in federal policymaking. In the project's first year, twenty-seven states passed resolutions urging their congressional delegations to support the Economic Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. As of May, 2004, state legislators have already introduced 160 different resolutions in 40 legislative bodies in 27 states.

Taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of ATR, praised Sen. Shafer's efforts. **“Americans for Tax Reform applauds Sen. Shafer for strengthening the voices of state legislators working to bring critical issues to the forefront of congressional debate. State legislators are intimately involved with their districts and their constituents. They should not shy away from offering valuable insight into the federal lawmaking process. Taxpayers in Georgia are lucky to have a leader like Sen. Shafer who is willing to lead the legislature in just such a direction.”**

Sen. Shafer's resolution shows Georgia's congressional delegates that their constituents expect action to protect the tax cuts. In Georgia alone, more than 2.9 million Georgia taxpayers benefited from lower tax burdens as a result of President Bush's plan that cuts taxes for every taxpayer that pays income taxes, eliminated the marriage penalty, increased the child tax credit and provided small businesses with incentives to expand.

“Taxpayers in Georgia are waiting for the tax burdens they used to suffer under to be permanently lifted,” said Norquist. **“It is the local leaders in the individual states that most closely represent the will of the people, and it is up to them to hold Congress accountable to the taxpaying citizens they represent.”**

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