



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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25 MARCH 2004

## Kansas Taxpayers Could See Their Taxes Increase

*-- The Kansas Senate Education Committee passes two school finance proposals --*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Every year, legislators in states across the nation go on a tax and spend spree. Currently, higher ‘sin taxes’ may be on their way in Kansas. A proposal to increase alcohol taxes was snuck into HB 2004, a school finance bill, after an attempt to put an alcohol tax increase into other legislation was defeated last month. HB 2004 seeks to generate \$65 million in new revenue through increasing the taxes on alcohol and changes in state tax policy.

Apart from endorsing tax increases on alcohol of up to 200%, the Senate Education Committee passed a \$127 million spending package, a smaller version of Gov. Sebelius’ tax plan, which would rely on increases in sales and income taxes.

**“Raising taxes has always been an easy way for spendthrift politicians to make up for funding gaps,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **“Of course, it is easier to reach into taxpayers’ pockets than to address the underlying fiscal problems: the structural imbalance between revenue and state spending.”**

Increasing the regressive taxes on alcohol would not only hurt consumers. Studies conducted in other states faced with similar proposals predict a significant reduction in sales of alcoholic beverages, leading to job losses in the hospitality and retail sectors. More adverse effects can be expected from tinkering with income taxes and sales taxes.

**“As in other states, in Kansas, too, runaway spending creates budget holes. Raising taxes is only a band aid, and it is counterproductive,”** continues Norquist. **“President Bush’s tax cuts at the federal level helped revive the economy and boosted the stock market by \$4 trillion. Lawmakers should think about this before they raid taxpayers’ wallets.”**

*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](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org).*