



NEWS

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Kansas Senate Seeks to Defend Taxpayers

Senate passes a no-tax-increase budget, setting an example for the House.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Late Friday night, the Kansas Senate voted 23-16 to pass a no-tax-increase budget that would still add \$72 million to the already-approved \$2.77 billion education budget. The proposal also assures that no locality will increase the tax burden on families and homes.

The Kansas House, however, rejected the Senate's plan by a vote of 104-16. The House remains committed to raising taxes on families, small businesses, retailers, and all consumers through increases in the income and sales tax rates.

“The Senate has given Kansans a glimmer of hope in an otherwise dreary session focusing on tax hikes,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Kansas already has the highest per capita tax burden of all the neighboring states, and the highest per capita expenditures on education – higher than the national average! Why do the big-spenders in Topeka want to take even more of your money for a school system that is already well-funded?”**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the national average spent on education per capita was \$1,315.35 in 2001. The figure in Kansas was \$1,485.64, higher than in Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, or Oklahoma. The overall tax burden is also higher in Kansas than in neighboring states – Kansans pay \$1,770.46 per person, compared to \$1,529.92 in Missouri, and \$1,536.25 in Colorado. For a family of four, that is a yearly difference of \$962.16.

“As President Bush has shown at the federal level, tax cuts boost the economy and put people back to work,” continued Norquist. **“The economy has grown by over 5% since the tax cuts were passed, and the stock market has risen by \$4 trillion. Why would Kansas want to buck this national trend, sending jobs and investment to Colorado or Missouri?”**

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.