



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Ten Legislators Break Their Pledge to Constituents

-- Tobacco tax increase goes to the Senate Friday --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Gov. Brad Henry (D) has proposed a plan to increase taxes by \$140 million dollars. The proposal would go to a vote of the people on the November ballot.

On Thursday, the House voted 66-33 to put a 55 cent-per-pack tax increase on the November ballot. The new taxes would go into increased healthcare spending, including a corporate welfare proposal to subsidize businesses that provide healthcare. Ten House members broke a written Pledge to their constituents when they voted for the bill.

“The people of Oklahoma got an excellent chance to see which of their legislators they can trust,” said Grover Norquist, president for Tax Reform. **“21 representatives ruled out tax increases as a matter of principle, and put their commitment in writing. Now we see who meant it, and who was just trying to fool the voters.”**

The Taxpayer Protection Pledge is a written commitment made by an official to his or her constituents to **“oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.”** In Oklahoma, Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin, 11 state senators, and 21 state representatives have signed the Pledge. They join President Bush, 42 U.S. Senators (including Sen. Don Nickels and Sen. James Inhofe), 216 Congressmen (including Rep. John Sullivan, Rep. Frank Lucas, Rep. Tom Cole, and Rep. Ernest Istook) in signing the Pledge.

“Tax votes can be embarrassingly revealing,” continued Norquist. **“Oklahoma’s House voted to put at risk retailers and the jobs of thousands of workers in order to raise funds for their favorite spending projects. And ten representatives broke their commitment to their constituents, revealing themselves to be political opportunists. The people of Oklahoma deserve better from their government.”**

House members who broke their Pledge:

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Joe J. Hutchison (H-5) | 5. Doug Miller (H-46) | 9. Odilia Dank (H-85) |
| 2. Sue Tibbs (H-23) | 6. Fred Perry (H-69) | 10. Robert D. Worthen (H-87) |
| 3. Wayne Pettigrew (H-39) | 7. Dennis Adkins (H-75) | |
| 4. Thad Balkman (H-45) | 8. Leonard E. Sullivan (H-82) | |

House members who kept their Pledge:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mike Wilt (H-11) | 5. Joan Greenwood (H-54) | 9. John G. Nance (H-90) |
| 2. Todd Hiatt (H-29) | 6. Ron Kirby (H-64) | 10. Kevin Calvey (H-94) |
| 3. Jim Newport (H-37) | 7. Ron Peterson (H-80) | 11. Lance Cargill (H-96) |
| 4. Carolyn S. Coleman (H-53) | 8. Bill Graves (H-84) | |

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.