



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Media Alert: Legislators Urged to Get Revenue Assurances *In Writing* Before Voting

Taxpayer group concerned with the haste with which the House is pushing education finance plan.

WASHINGTON – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation’s leading taxpayer advocacy group, released the following statement today from its president, Grover Norquist:

“It is very troubling that legislators are being asked to vote on Speaker Craddick’s revised school finance reform plan without being given the time to read and discuss the proposal.

“Speaker Craddick’s plan seems to be changing by the minute. He is currently assuring legislators that his new plan is revenue-neutral – that any tax increases are at least offset by other tax cuts. If this is true, taxpayers should have no problem with it.

“But few have seen the plan, and no one has been given the time to analyze the plan in detail. What is the rush?

“I urge all legislators, and especially the 41 legislators who signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge – committing to their constituents to ‘oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes’ – to receive a written assurance from the Speaker that the plan is revenue neutral. All lawmakers should have the opportunity to review the proposal, and to seek opinions from independent analysts, before being asked to cast their solemn votes.”

ATR is responding to requests from comment from concerned legislators and other Texans. The following legislators signed the Pledge committing them to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes:”

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Todd Staples (S-3) | 15. Harvey Hilderbran (H-53) | 29. Bill Zedler (H-96) |
| 2. Tommy Williams (S-4) | 16. Dianne White Delisi (H-55) | 30. Elvira Reyna (H-101) |
| 3. Chris Harris (S-9) | 17. Arlene Wohlgemuth (H-58) | 31. Bill Keffer (H-107) |
| 4. Kyle Janek (S-17) | 18. Jim Keffer (H-60) | 32. Fred Hill (H-112) |
| 5. Dan Flynn (H-2) | 19. Phil King (H-61) | 33. Will Hamett (H-114) |
| 6. Leo Berman (H-6) | 20. Ron Clark (H-62) | 34. Ken Marchant (H-115) |
| 7. Fred Brown (H-14) | 21. Myra Crownover (H-64) | 35. Frank Corte (H-122) |
| 8. Larry Taylor (H-24) | 22. Jerry Madden (H-67) | 36. Joe Nixon (H-133) |
| 9. Charlie Howard (H-26) | 23. Scott Campbell (H-72) | 37. Martha Wong (H-134) |
| 10. Glenn Hegar (H-28) | 24. Corbin Van Arsdale (H-78) | 38. Gary Elkins (H-135) |
| 11. Gene Seaman (H-32) | 25. Tom Craddick (H-82) | 39. Dwayne Bohac (H-138) |
| 12. Edmund Kuempel (H-44) | 26. Carl Isett (H-84) | 40. Robert Talton (H-144) |
| 13. Todd Baxter (H-48) | 27. John Smithee (H-86) | 41. Talmadge Heflin (H-149) |
| 14. Mike Krusee (H-52) | 28. Kent Grusendorf (H-94) | |