



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Five Senators Contradict No-New-Taxes Pledge

-- Oklahoma Senate approves tobacco tax increase --

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 Friday, the Senate voted 38-12 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. Five Senate members broke a written Pledge to their constituents when they voted for the bill.

“The people of Oklahoma can now see which legislators are good on their word” said Grover Norquist, president for Tax Reform. **“Eleven senators put their commitment to keep taxes low in writing. After Friday’s vote, we are now able to see which legislators stood by their word and which ones signed the pledge purely for political gain.”**

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 Nickles and Sen. James Inhofe), 216 Congressmen (including Rep. John Sullivan, Rep. Frank Lucas, Rep. Tom Cole, and Rep. Ernest Istook) in signing the Pledge.

“The members of the senate obviously have priorities that are not in line with the people of Oklahoma,” continued Norquist. **“Friday’s vote sacrifices the jobs of thousands of workers and disproportionately penalizes the poor in an attempt to cover up the real problem – uncontrollable spending.”**

Senate members who broke their Pledge:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Stratton Taylor (S-2) | 3. Charles R. Ford (S-25) | 5. Mike Fair (S-47) |
| 2. Jonathan Nichols (S-15) | 4. Kathleen Wilcoxson (S-45) | |

Senate members who kept their Pledge:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Jim Dunlap (S-29) | 3. Randy Brogdon (S-34) | 5. Jerry L. Smith (S-39) |
| 2. Glenn Coffee (S-30) | 4. Scott Pruitt (S-36) | 6. Cliff Aldridge (S-42) |

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.