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State Sen. Wayne Niederhauser Named “Friend of the Taxpayer”

State Senator sponsors bill that would empower taxpayers to track government expenditures

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform today announced its decision to name Utah State Senator Wayne Niederhauser (R-Sandy) “Friend of the Taxpayer” for his dedication to increasing transparency in Utah’s government finance. Sen. Niederhauser is the chief sponsor of SB 38, which would create a single searchable website for government expenditures and would extend the disclosure requirement to localities.

Specifically, the bill would provide access to public financial information such as monies, funds, accounts, bonds, loans, revenues, and expenditures including those made under a contract with access to the actual contract. The bill furthermore provides for the creation of a Utah Transparency Advisory board, which will be tasked with making sure that private records stay private.

“Sen. Niederhauser understands that taxpayers, who ultimately fund any government operation, deserve to keep track of how government spends their hard-earned tax dollars,” continued Norquist. “I applaud Senator Niederhauser for his leadership in this effort to shed a light on government expenditures, making Utah part of a movement that is taking the country by storm.”

Spurred by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which led to the creation of www.usaspending.gov, in 2007, five states (Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota and Hawaii) passed legislation that mandates the creation of similar websites. Several other states including Texas, Missouri and South Carolina have taken executive action or are looking to do so. But this effort is not limited to federal and state-level efforts. For more information refer to www.ATR.org.

“Thomas Jefferson once said: ‘We might hope to see the finances of the Union as clear and intelligible as a merchant’s books, so that every member of Congress and every man of any mind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them,’” continued Norquist. “The Founding Fathers had the vision, and today, we have the technology to fully implement their vision. Americans for Tax Reform is thrilled to be working with lawmakers like Sen. Niederhauser and activists around the country to empower taxpayers to become fiscal watchdogs.”

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 John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

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