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Check it Out Kentucky!

Secretary of State Trey Grayson makes office expenditures available to all taxpayers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform applauds the introduction of the *Check it Out Kentucky!* by Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson. The secretary announced the launch of his initiative on June 8, 2008.

Check it Out Kentucky! includes an online checkbook register, allowing Kentuckians to view all expenditures by the secretary's office on a monthly basis, including payroll totals and employee reimbursements. The information provides taxpayers will a comprehensive online record of vendors/customers, expense type, date, and exact amount paid without a threshold for disclosure. The Secretary's program can be found on his website, www.sos.ky.gov.

“On behalf of Kentucky taxpayers, I congratulate Secretary of State Grayson for taking the initiative to provide greater accountability by making expenditures available to public scrutiny. Taxpayers fund every expense made by government – they deserve to track exactly how their tax dollars are spent,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform.

In addition to the secretary's leadership on fiscal transparency in the Bluegrass State, State Rep. Jim DeCesare (R-Bowling Green) has introduced legislation that would create a searchable online database of all state expenditures over \$5,000, including grants and contracts. The current version of the bill was introduced in January, but the legislature adjourned in April without enacting the bill.

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 members of Congress and every man of any kind in the Union should be able to comprehend them, to investigate abuses, and consequently to control them,’* continued Norquist. “Secretary Grayson's initiative is an important step towards implementing greater fiscal accountability. Other agencies should follow the secretary's example, and the legislature and Gov. Beshear should move swiftly to enact Rep. DeCesare's spending transparency legislation.”

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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