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4 MARCH 2008

Spending Transparency Arrives in the Badger State

Taxpayer group applauds the introduction of the Government Checkbook Disclosure Act (AB862)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform applauds the introduction of the Government Checkbook Disclosure Act (AB862) sponsored by Rep. Bill Kramer (R-Waukesha), Rep. Robin Vos (R-Caledonia) and Sen. Bob Wirch (D-Kenosha).

This legislation requires the department of administration to create a website that tracks state expenditures. All expenditures over the amount of \$100, including contracts and aggregate department salaries and benefits, will be included in the web portal. The actual expenditure document (contract, check, etc.) will also be available for viewing. This legislation will extend Wisconsin's long-standing open records tradition into the area of government finance.

“I congratulate the sponsors of this legislation and thank them for their leadership in this important matter”, said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform. “Taxpayers should be able to scrutinize where their money is going.” He continues: “This legislation is a huge step in the right direction.”

Similar budget transparency projects have been launched with great success in other states, giving individual citizens easy-to-use web sites that allow them the ability to learn how the government is spending their money. At least 17 states have bills pending requiring the creation of searchable websites for government expenditures this year.

“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. Let’s hope Wisconsin lawmakers take this opportunity and support this 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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