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14 MAY 2008

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School Choice on the Horizon for All Georgia Students

Governor enacts legislation emphasizing school choice opportunities for low-income families

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform applauds Gov. Sonny Perdue for placing his signature on HB 1133, a bill mandating the creation of the Corporate and Individual Scholarship Tax Credit Program. The bill, sponsored by school teacher Rep. David Casas (R- Gwinnett), passed through the legislature in mid-April and was signed into law on May 14th.

The legislation calls for the creation of a \$50 million tax credit program that allows corporations to receive a 100 percent tax credit for donations made to organizations that provide scholarships to children who attend private schools. Similarly, individuals may receive a 100 percent credit for donations up to \$1,000 or \$2,500 for married couples.

“With the enactment of this legislation, Gov. Perdue and the champions of this bill have just opened the door for families across the state who could not otherwise afford to send their children to private schools- simply because of cost,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “Now taxpayers and businesses within the state have the opportunity and incentive to bolster Georgia’s education system by providing choice to kids whose education options would normally be predetermined by what’s available in the public school system.”

Georgia’s Scholarship Tax Credit program is the seventh of its kind in the country, and is only second in breadth to Florida’s \$88 million program. The enactment of this legislation follows closely on the heels of last year’s Special Needs School Voucher program, through which 5,000 families have applied in the past year.

“Following the success of the Special Needs Voucher program enacted last year, this new program solidifies Georgia’s commitment to providing the best possible education to all children in the state,” continued Norquist. “Every child deserves to have the greatest opportunities available to them- and as a result of Rep. Casas’s leadership and Gov. Perdue’s signature, families can celebrate the benefits of greater school choice.”

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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