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## Peachy! Gov. Perdue Signs Spending Transparency Legislation

*Taxpayer group applauds passage and signing into law of measure to create online database for government expenditures*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform applauds Gov. Sonny Perdue for signing SB 300, which mandates several important steps to increase transparency in government spending. Gov. Perdue signed the legislation in the evening of May 13th, and a formal signing ceremony was held in the morning of May 14<sup>th</sup>. SB 300 is sponsored by Sen. Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock), who chairs the Senate Taxpayer Protection Caucus.

The legislation, among other things, requires the creation of an online database for salary and travel expenses of the entire personnel in the executive branch of state government, as well as every state authority, university or college in the University System of Georgia, and every local board of education. It furthermore requires the Department of Audits and Accounts to develop and operate a searchable website for pertinent expenditure reports. Certain grant and contract expenditure information over \$20,000 in the aggregate shall be made available after January 1, 2010.

“Thanks to SB 300, taxpayers in Georgia will finally get a much better idea on how government spends their hard earned tax dollars,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “Taxpayers, who foot the bill for any expenditure government makes, have been kept in the dark for too long. Congratulations to Gov. Perdue for making the right decision in signing this bill.”

The outpour of public support, coupled with the fact that numerous states have already passed spending transparency legislation or have enacted it via executive order provided a compelling case for signing the legislation, and taxpayers appreciate the governor’s decision to empower them to track their tax dollars.

“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. “With the passage of this bill, Georgia has just taken an important step towards implementing this vision of greater accountability. It is not everything a taxpayer could possibly want in a spending transparency measure, but the governor could and should use his executive powers to strengthen the measure via executive order.”

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](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).

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