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Steve Stivers Champions Spending Transparency

State Senator Takes Lead in Seeing Transparency Legislation Through Ohio Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Center for Fiscal Accountability, a project of Americans for Tax Reform, today commended State Senator Steve Stivers for his commitment to working to pass H.B. 420, Rep. Tom Brinkman’s spending transparency bill which passed the Ohio House of Representatives unanimously earlier this year, and is expected to be taken up by the senate when the legislature returns to Columbus after the November election.

H.B. 420 would mandate the creation of a comprehensive website detailing information about state government expenditures including – but certainly not limited to – grants and contracts, require a searchable website for earmarks and provide for increased transparency in state real property tax management. Agency management standards and performance measures would also be implemented under this bill. Sen. Stivers, who is running for federal office, has told the Center for Fiscal Accountability that he plans to take a leadership role during the November legislative session rather than sitting on the sidelines as a lame duck state legislator, and to actively champion this piece of legislation.

“We are thrilled to hear that Sen. Steve Stivers is ready to take the lead on this important bill in the senate,” said Sandra Fabry, executive director of the Center for Fiscal Accountability. “This bill is too important and has too many great benefits for Ohio taxpayers to not pass it in the November session, and Sen. Stivers understands this.”

Passage of this bill would make Ohio the thirteenth state to enact spending transparency legislation in the last two years. Several governors have also created or are in the process of creating searchable websites for government expenditures per executive order, and in a number of states, state constitutional officers have taken it upon themselves to provide taxpayers with greater accountability through transparency in government spending. For more information please visit the Center for Fiscal Accountability’s website at www.fiscalaccountability.org.

“Thomas Jefferson once said: ‘We might hope to see the finances 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 Fabry. “And thanks to lawmakers like Sen. Stivers and the sponsor of H.B. 420, Rep. Tom Brinkman, Ohioans may soon get a bit closer to the vision our Founding Fathers had for government finances, and track their tax dollars at a mouse-click.”

The Center for Fiscal Accountability, a project of Americans for Tax Reform, seeks to shed a light on government expenditures, and to promote transparency, accountability, and restraint in government finance. 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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