



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Taxpayer Transparency in Kansas – Track Your Tax Dollars at a Mouse Click

Rep. Kasha Kelley and Sen. Tim Huelskamp empower taxpayers as transparency legislation is signed into law as part of the state budget

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Taxpayers in Kansas will soon be able to track how their state government spends their tax dollars. Governor Kathleen Sebelius on April 23 signed into law the state budget for 2008 which provides for the creation of the website called for in Rep. Kasha Kelley’s (R-Arkansas City) Taxpayer Transparency Act in the context of an overhaul of the state’s financial management system.

The website, which will be up and running by March 1, 2008, will disclose comprehensive state revenue and expenditure information, including annual expenditures such as disbursements by state agencies from funds in the state treasury, salaries and wages including compensation paid to individual state employees, contractual services, capital outlays and commodities including amounts paid to individual vendors.

“Taxpayers should send a thank-you note to Rep. Kelley and Sen. Tim Huelskamp. Their efforts will empower Kansas taxpayers to become fiscal watchdogs.” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Taxpayers will now have an important tool to understand where their hard-earned tax dollars go, and ultimately, this will help combat fraud, waste and abuse.”**

The bill had passed the House of Representatives at an overwhelming margin of 102-20 on February 22nd, but was double-referred in the State Senate with no further action. Senator Tim Huelskamp was able to attach the bill to the senate budget in its entirety, it remained intact in the budget conference committee report, and the governor signed the budget into law.

“Kansas is the first state this year to pass and sign into law comprehensive legislation making government expenditures available for taxpayers at a mouse click,” continued Norquist. **Other states are likely to follow soon. This is sound policy, and lawmakers around the country are realizing it. Taxpayers will be best served when all levels of government are required to disclose their expenditures in a clear searchable public format. Kansas has just made a giant leap in the right direction.”**

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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