



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

1920 L Street, NW • Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20036  
202.785.0266 • Fax 202.785.0261

WWW.ATR.ORG

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CONTACT: Chris Butler  
202-785-0266

## President Bush Defends Revolutionary Approach to Controlling Health Care Costs

*--Health Savings Accounts will transform the nature of health care spending--*

**Washington D.C.** – President Bush boldly and unapologetically defended new Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) in last night’s final debate as the best way to control health care costs and give individuals real control and portability over their health care decisions.

President Bush stated correctly that “health care costs are on the rise because consumers are not involved in the decision-making process...the actual user of health care is not the purchaser of health care. [HSAs] are the best way to make sure people are actually involved with the decision-making process on health care.”

**“HSAs are one of the signature accomplishments of the first Bush term,”** said Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist. **“People owning their own health care now needs to be coupled with owning their own home, owning their own small business, and owning their own retirement plan.”**

HSAs work by combining a health insurance plan that covers catastrophic costs with a tax-deductible, tax-deferred, tax-free savings account to be used for routine medical purchases. Any unused funds could be rolled over year-to-year and job-to-job.

**“Health insurance needs to be like car insurance,”** continued Norquist. **“You don’t tap your car insurance for routine costs like changing the oil or rotating the tires. You use it only infrequently and only in emergencies like accidents and severe breakdowns. You’ll notice no one talks about ‘car insurance inflation.’”**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at [cbutler@atr.org](mailto:cbutler@atr.org).