



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Let The Sunshine In!

Rep. Kasha Kelley, sponsor of spending transparency legislation, named Friend of the Taxpayer

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform announced today its decision to name Kansas State Representative Kasha Kelley (R-Arkansas) ‘Friend of the Taxpayer.’ Representative Kelley is the sponsor of the ‘Taxpayer Transparency Act’, a bill that would require the secretary of administration to create a website which would allow taxpayers to track government expenditures and revenues.

The website, which under the bill would be up and running by March 1, 2008, would disclose state and local 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 outlay and commodities including amounts paid to individual vendors.

“Representative Kelley’s Taxpayer Transparency Act is an important step in the right direction,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Taxpayers will be given an important tool to understand where their hard-earned tax dollars go, and ultimately, this will help combat fraud, waste and abuse. Representative Kelley is a true Friend of the Taxpayer.”**

The bill passed the House of Representatives at an overwhelming margin of 102-20 on February 22nd, but it is now facing scrutiny in the State Senate. The push for transparency in government spending is reaching beyond Kansas. In a number of states, similar measures to the Taxpayer Transparency Act have been introduced. For more information on state efforts to bring transparency into the budget process, please visit www.atr.org.

“This is an important movement for the American taxpayer, with a potential of bringing about substantial savings,” continued Norquist. **“Opacity in the budget process often leaves taxpayers frustrated, and can create the perception of possible abuse of the system. More public scrutiny will help eliminate impropriety in dealing with taxpayer dollars – be it perceived or real impropriety. As Governor Perry, who is spearheading transparency efforts in Texas, has made clear: ‘If the taxpayers are picking up the bill, they ought to be able to look at every item on the receipt.’ On behalf of Kansas taxpayers, I urge the senate to let the sunshine in, and to pass the Taxpayer Transparency Act.”**

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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