



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Let The Sunshine In!

Sen. Randy Brogdon, sponsor of spending transparency legislation, named Friend of the Taxpayer

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform announced today its decision to name Oklahoma State Senator Randy Brogdon ‘Friend of the Taxpayer.’ Senator Brogdon is the sponsor of the ‘Taxpayer Transparency Act’, a bill that would require the Office of State Finance to create a website which would allow taxpayers to track government expenditures.

The searchable database is modeled after the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (S.2590) sponsored by U.S. Senator Tom Coburn (OK) and would among other things include relevant information on government grants, contracts, subcontracts, tax refunds, rebates or credits, and expenditures from the Constitutional Reserve Fund. The bill, which would mandate the creation of the website by January 1, 2008, passed the Oklahoma State Senate unanimously on March 1st.

“Senator Brogdon’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. Senator Brogdon is a true Friend of the Taxpayer.”**

After Sen. Tom Coburn’s leadership on the federal transparency legislation, it is no surprise that the movement is taking hold in his home state Oklahoma. As the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs has found, 72% of Oklahomans favor the creation of a spending transparency website. But the push for transparency in government spending is reaching beyond Oklahoma. 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.’”**

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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