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## Ohio House of Representatives Passes \$900 Million Income Tax Hike

*Republican controlled Senate can save the taxpayer from tax increase*

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On October 21<sup>st</sup> the Ohio House of Representatives voted to increase taxes by \$900 million over FY 2010-2011; a plan proposed by Gov. Strickland. House Bill 318 is a reversal of the final year of the 2005 tax cuts. These tax cuts were passed by Gov. Taft and the Republican legislature, providing for a 21% reduction in the income tax rate with the last rate cut taking place January 1, 2009.

Gov. Strickland decided to pursue this tax increase as a budget fix after his original plan to introduce slots for revenue failed with the Ohio Supreme Court rejecting it. His plan to raise revenue from slots was supposed to raise an estimated \$851.5 million.

**“It is disappointing that HB 318 passed the House, it amounts to a \$900 million tax increase on hardworking Ohioans. The people of Ohio don’t need to be burdened with more taxation, especially during these challenging economic times,”** said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform. **“The Governor has shown a lack of leadership in the budget process and now with this tax increase that he proposed. The state takes enough money from the taxpayers. Rather than tightening the belt and finding savings, he is looking to loot the taxpayer.”**

The House of Representatives voted 55-44 in favor of this tax increase. To see those voting for and against, see: [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/votes.cfm?ID=128\\_HB\\_318](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/votes.cfm?ID=128_HB_318) . The Senate could vote on this tax increase as soon as next week.

**“The Republicans in the Senate have the opportunity to save the taxpayers of Ohio from this income tax increase. I hope they will show leadership and reject this retroactive tax increase.”**

*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](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).*

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