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Fact of the Day: Colorado's TABOR Does Not Ruin Schools Despite Claims by Question 4 Opposition in Maine

Maine study shows that Colorado's public education is doing well under TABOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On October 22, the Maine Heritage Policy Center released a report with facts of how Maine's public education funding without spending limitations compares to that of Colorado which has spending limitations. Opponents of Question 4 in Maine have been citing Colorado's public education after passing TABOR as a disaster, but the results of this study show differently.

In a report by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education titled "Measuring Up", it was reported that higher education in Colorado with TABOR is more affordable than attending a college or university in Maine. Maine families not only make less on average than Colorado families, but they pay about \$2000 a year more than Coloradans for a college education.

"Opponents to Question 4 in Maine cite Colorado as proof of TABOR gone bad. They say that public education in Colorado is suffering. This is pro-spending increase rhetoric," said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform. **"This study from the Maine Heritage Policy Center goes to show that you can set in place fiscal restraint, and despite the claims from the opposition to the contrary, the sky does not fall."**

Additionally, the scholastic aptitude of students pursuing a college education does not seem to be suffering under Colorado's TABOR. In 2005, 11, 558 students took the SAT in Maine and 12,803 students took the SAT in Colorado. Their scores on this test were virtually identical with an average score of 508 on the verbal portion and an average score of 520 on the math portion. To see the report, "Setting the Record Straight on TABOR and Education in Colorado" in its entirety go to: http://www.mainepolicy.org/2/media/211/Setting_the_Record_Straight_on_TABOR_and_Education_in_Colorado

"The numbers speak for themselves. The notion that throwing more money at education makes students smarter just doesn't pan out. Voters should see through the fog that the opposition is creating and vote yes on Question 4."

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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