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## Taxpayers Win with Governor Pawlenty's Proposed Spending Cap

### *Constitutional Amendment Will Restrain Excessive General Fund Growth*

Washington, D.C. – Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) today commended a recent proposal by Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R) to restrain spending and make it easier to balance state budgets in Minnesota. The Governor's proposed constitutional amendment would limit the size of the general fund budget to tax revenue collected during the previous biennium budget cycle.

“Gov. Pawlenty's proposal is a terrific step toward curbing the excessive spending sprees that have plagued state balanced budget requirements and resulted in numerous proposals to raise taxes,” said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. “By simply restraining growth in government spending, lawmakers can avoid budget crises like the one they faced this year and ensure taxpayers will not be burdened with the cost of larger government.”

Over the past 15 years, Minnesota's expenditures have increased by 59.9% when indexed for inflation. The constitutional amendment to limit growth in the general fund must be passed by the state legislature and then approved as a ballot measure by Minnesota voters.

“Across Minnesota, families set budgets that account for what their current income is, not what they hope or want it to be. For some reason, politicians think they can spend at whim and always get the money they want by taking it out of taxpayers' wallets,” added Norquist. “For years, Minnesota lawmakers chose to simply raise taxes when their spending habits got out of control. Governing is not raising taxes; it is prioritizing and making tough decisions with the money you have. Gov. Pawlenty's proposal forces the tax-and-spend lawmakers in Minnesota to govern.”

“I encourage the state legislature to pass this much needed spending cap and I am hopeful that voters will approve it to ease a growing tax burden and simplify budget negotiations in future years,” stated Norquist.

*Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) 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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