



AFP-KS Truth in Taxation Testimony: Senate Bill 13

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Elizabeth Patton and I am the State Director of Americans for Prosperity Kansas. As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the nation, Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is dedicated to bringing people together to change our government and public policies for the better.

Through broad-based grassroots outreach, AFP is driving long-term solutions to the country's biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where individuals succeed by helping one another. AFP recruits and unites activists in 35 states behind a common goal of advancing policies that will help people improve their lives.

One public policy that will do exactly this is Truth in Taxation as laid out in Senate Bill 13. More than a property tax cap, Truth in Taxation legislation provides needed transparency to local government spending and tax increases.

Utah was the first state in the nation to enact Truth in Taxation in 1985, and it has been a success in terms of government transparency and accountability to residents. While Utah's Truth in Taxation legislation does not expressly cap property taxes, it requires that local officials advertise when a meeting will take place to consider a property tax increase, as well as allow for property owners to provide input. Senate Bill 13 goes an additional step and also requires the notice for the meeting on the website of the municipality for those individuals who are not subscribing to newspapers.

While Senate Bill 13 is a good starting point, we will continue to look for pieces of legislation that attempt to reform the assessment process and offers further solutions that will align with our vision for a simple, flat, fair and transparent tax system in Kansas.

It's time to empower residents to have more say over when and whether their property taxes are increased. I look forward to working with the committee and the legislature to see this legislation passed.

Elizabeth Patton
State Director
Americans for Prosperity- Kansas