



NEWS RELEASE

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Tax expert calls for Kansas legislators to implement self-imposed spending cap

Jonathan Williams outlines policy paper on the need to put a lid on state spending

WICHITA – The Kansas chapter of the free-market organization Americans for Prosperity (AFP) Foundation and the Flint Hills Center for Public Policy welcome to Kansas fiscal policy expert Jonathan Williams. Williams is a Fiscal Policy Fellow with the Flint Hills Center and is currently Director of Tax and Fiscal Policy at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Before joining ALEC, he was an economist with the Tax Foundation.

Williams has written a policy paper, “Now More Than Ever: The Need for a Self-Imposed Spending Cap for the Legislature,” which highlights the needs for the Kansas government to implement a lid for the growth of the state general fund.

Williams’ research shows state and local governments have increased spending by nearly 300 percent in the past 50 years, not even counting inflation.

“Today, the combined spending from state and local governments in Kansas exceeds \$16 billion annually, up from \$4 billion in 1957,” Williams said. “Even when adjusted for inflation, it represents a state and local government spending growth rate of 279 percent during that period.”

Williams said putting a stop to massive spending increases will require discipline in the Legislature.

“By creating a culture within the Legislature that opposes excessive increases in spending, this ‘self-imposed spending cap’ will provide much needed self-discipline and compel the Legislature to explore innovative policy initiatives in areas of public education, Medicaid, transportation, and the state employee retirement system,” said Williams.

Americans for Prosperity Foundation supports such a spending limit for the state government, and will ask legislators next year to sign a pledge to limit state spending.

“It’s time for the Legislature to exercise some restraint by committing to hold the line on spending,” said AFPF-Kansas state director Alan Cobb. “And just as importantly, it’s time for legislators to keep that commitment.”

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Americans for Prosperity Foundation (AFPF) is the nation’s premier grassroots organization committed to advancing every individual’s right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFPF believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best safeguard to ensuring individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFPF educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth, and returning government to its constitutional limits. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org.

The Flint Hills Center for Public Policy is an independent voice for sound public policy in Kansas. As a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank, the Center provides critical information about policy options to legislators and citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at www.flinthills.org.