

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2005

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Kansas needs to restore balance to taxes, spending *Cycles of increased spending followed by budget crises must end*

As the debate over the 2006 budget begins, the state has \$327 million in reserves—a healthy 8% of expenditures. Many state legislators see this as an opportunity to continue rapidly increasing spending—and taxes. However, Kansas legislators should look both to history and to other states to see that this is not a wise choice.

“Dramatic spending increases in good times and then tax increases to maintain that spending when revenues falter leads to incredible instability and an ever-rising tax burden for Kansans,” says George Pearson of The Flint Hills Center.

According to the new report, there is no meaningful institutional restriction on the growth of government spending in Kansas. Research indicates that states with strictly enforced caps on spending and taxes tended to have the smallest budget problems in this last recession.

“The spending craze of the 1990s is over,” says Pearson. “It is time for us to learn from our mistakes and fix the budget process in Kansas for good. That means combining a pro-growth tax policy of lower tax rates with constitutional protections for taxpayers.”

Read more about [Restoring Tax Balance](#) in Kansas on our web site.

For more information about the Flint Hills Center for Public Policy and their efforts to improve public policy in Kansas, please visit www.flinthills.org.

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