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FORMER LEGISLATORS CALL ON BROWNBACK TO VETO TAX BILL

Traditional Republicans Call on Governor to Lead

TOPEKA—Today, over 55 former legislators from across Kansas called on Governor Brownback to veto the tax bill that was passed by the Kansas House last week. The group, known as Traditional Republicans for Common Sense, made the request of Brownback following the failure of talks between House and Senate negotiators to reach a compromise on a new tax bill.

“The governor has taken us to the financial cliff and only he has the ability to stop us from going over,” said former Assistant Majority Leader and State Chair of the Republican Party Rep. Rochelle Chronister. “This is not a game. The magnitude of this bill cannot be overstated and the impact that it will have on our communities and schools will be real and unforgiving. Every Kansan will feel the fallout.”

The Kansas State General Fund (SGF) is approximately \$6 billion. The governor’s tax plan, according to the Kansas Legislative Research Department, will create a \$362.5 million deficit in 2014, climbing to \$2.739 billion by 2017. The SGF pays for, among other things, the highway patrol, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, state prisons, healthcare programs, higher education and K-12 schools. A budget cut of nearly 50 percent to the SGF, within five years, will dramatically impact these programs.

“The governor spent a long time in Washington, DC,” said Chronister. “We support tax cuts and have voted for a number of them over the years, but you have to pay for them and roll them out responsibly. The governor’s tax plan does neither. Instead, it smacks of Washington-style irresponsible spending that places us on a dangerous path, which will have future generations paying for this mistake.”

Chronister went on to say, “Again, we call on Governor Brownback to put Kansans above politics and special interests and veto this legislation. We are also asking Kansans to call Governor Brownback and tell him to veto this bill. The legislature should start fresh and craft something that we can all be proud to support - which won’t break the bank. When the stakes are this high, we owe it to Kansans to get it right.”

Governor Brownback’s office can be reached by calling, toll-free 1-877-579-6757. For more information about Traditional Republicans for Common Sense, please visit www.kscommonsense.com.

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