



CHILDREN'S ACTION ALLIANCE

A Voice for Arizona's Children

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TABOR: TABOR IS A PROVEN FAILURE THAT WOULD COST TAXPAYERS AND HURT ARIZONA'S FUTURE

"There is a hole in the bottom of the boat – that is the TABOR spending limit. It works for a little while, but you go out into the future and you sink the boat." ---*Colorado State Representative Brad Young, (Republican of Lamar), Chair of Joint Budget Committee*

Colorado is the only state in the nation to ever live under the deceptively named "Taxpayer's Bill of Rights", commonly known as TABOR. TABOR is a constitutional amendment which creates an arbitrary formula that reduces the effectiveness of government and leads to devastating consequences, as the residents of Colorado learned first hand. Now, there are some people who want to bring TABOR to Arizona. That's a bad idea – TABOR didn't work in Colorado and it won't work in Arizona.

- **TABOR is a proven failure.** Colorado voters recently decided to suspend TABOR. It was such a spectacular failure that the effort to suspend TABOR was led by a diverse, bi-partisan coalition of elected officials, business leaders, educators, community organizations, and faith-based groups.
- **TABOR is not a solution – it only creates more problems.** All we have to do is look at Colorado to see this is true. Under TABOR:
 - Colorado has dropped from 35th to 49th in the nation in K-12 spending as a percentage of personal income.
 - Approximately 100,000 seniors lost their property tax exemptions.
 - The state's job growth fell to 40th in the nation.
 - Colorado had to close 33 driver's license offices, leading to longer lines and more headaches.
 - Over 200 prison guards were laid off – creating unsafe conditions for guards and the citizenry.
 - Roads and streets were crumbling to the point that 39 percent of the state's transportation infrastructure was in poor condition.
 - The state dropped to last in the nation in the share of children receiving their full vaccinations.
 - Colorado had to raid firefighter and police pension funds just to make ends meet.
- **TABOR is a false promise.** TABOR supporters want you to believe you will get money back, but what they won't tell you is that you'll have to pay more in many other ways, such as: increased property taxes; higher fees for licenses, garbage collection, and building permits; higher tuition for universities and colleges; and new out of pocket costs for your children's education. Don't be fooled - TABOR has hidden costs to taxpayers.
- **Arizona doesn't need TABOR.** Arizona already has several spending restrictions and safeguards in place, including constitutional amendments that limit state and local spending, a supermajority vote requirement for the legislature to raise taxes, and numerous local tax restrictions.
- **TABOR would have jeopardized many of Arizona's recent advancements.** If Arizona had passed TABOR in 1992 (the same year that Colorado's TABOR law was passed), we would have had to eliminate many of our priorities such as building community colleges in rural areas, constructing new prisons, responsibly planning development with Growing Smarter, supporting charter schools, and building and repairing public schools throughout the state.

- **TABOR is just a gimmick.** TABOR won't cut waste or make government more efficient. TABOR will only force Arizona lawmakers to cut the most important services such as public safety, health care, and education.
- **TABOR would prevent Arizona from responding to emergencies.** Arizona's leaders need to deal with emergencies, whether it be raging summer wild fires or outbreaks of the West Nile Virus, to protect our health and safety. TABOR would take away the necessary tools to do just that.

**TABOR IS A FALSE PROMISE AND A PROVEN FAILURE.
OPPOSE TABOR AND LET'S KEEP MOVING ARIZONA FORWARD.**