



KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

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Nicole Corcoran, Press Secretary
785.368.8500

Governor's Column: Responsibility today key to progress tomorrow

The following is a column by Governor Kathleen Sebelius:

In the past four years, we've seen our economy recover and rebound. As we approach nearly three years of job growth, more Kansans are working and wages are growing.

This growth has allowed us to make the largest commitment to public schools in the history of our state, open the doors of health care to more Kansans, and begin to take advantage of opportunities in energy, biosciences and other new industries.

But while those horizons may be limitless, our budget is not. State government must continue to practice financial responsibility, by holding ourselves accountable, saving and spending wisely, and keeping the promises made to our citizens and to the common good.

We can and should provide incentives for businesses to create jobs in Kansas. That's why I've proposed reductions in the unemployment insurance tax, lower rates for corporate income tax, and removing the franchise tax requirement for 16,000 small businesses.

These reductions are targeted toward the specific goal of attracting new industries and creating jobs for Kansans, while still allowing us to meet our critical responsibilities to schools, health care, public safety and other key areas.

Recently, however, the Kansas House passed a tax elimination that would jeopardize these priorities and put us right back in the financial hole we've spent the last four years digging ourselves out of.

My proposals can be done while still meeting our commitment to strengthening schools, protecting public safety and caring for vulnerable Kansans. Complete elimination of the franchise tax, meanwhile, is financially irresponsible and puts us at risk of breaking our promise to all Kansans.

We can keep moving forward, but only if we continue to practice financial responsibility by maintaining a proper balance between all our obligations, and only if we keep the promises made to the people of Kansas.

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