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MFRP responds to “Americans for Prosperity” support for cuts in veterans programs, Meals on Wheels, law enforcement and more

“Americans for Prosperity” announced its support today to start schools without ensuring safe school buses, the elimination of “Meals on Wheels” for thousands of Michigan’s elderly, end to state services for veterans, layoffs of state and local police and fire fighters, increases in pollution, larger class sizes in Michigan elementary and high schools, higher college tuition, end to the Michigan Promise Scholarship, increases in health insurance rates by businesses, park closures, increases in criminals on city streets and longer waits for state courts to provide decisions on adoptions, divorces or business disputes.

This is what will happen if the budget cuts proposed by the Michigan Senate – and supported by the “no tax, no government” leaders of “Americans for Prosperity” – go into effect October 1.

Since 2000, Michigan’s tax burden – the percentage of Michigan’s personal income going to state government – has decreased 23 percent. At the same time, unemployment has skyrocketed. We have proven that cutting taxes does not improve the state’s economy.

It’s time for Michigan to recognize that we need to emulate the most prosperous states in the nation – and the region – and become more attractive to young talent if Michigan is to regain its status as a high income state. Organizations such as “Prosperity for Michigan” that support additional tax cuts are also supporting cuts in pay for Michigan’s families as a recipe for attracting low-pay jobs to reduce unemployment. They are interested in “prosperity” for a few, while driving up poverty for middle class families.

The Michigan Fiscal Responsibility Project calls on Michigan lawmakers to reject the drive to make Michigan more like a third-world country, and instead develop a set of services that will build world-class communities, attract the best and brightest to our state, providing sufficient revenues as necessary to allow Michigan to remain a civilized society.

The Michigan Fiscal Responsibility Project seeks to provide factual information and thoughtful consideration of all aspects of state fiscal policy. Members are the Michigan Municipal League, Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan and Michigan Nonprofit Association. For more information, contact David Waymire at Martin Waymire Advocacy Communications at 517-485-6600.