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DESPITE STRONG OPPOSITION FROM BROAD, STATEWIDE COALITION, SENATE COMMITTEE PASSES HJR 70

St. Louis, MO – Today, the Senate Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee voted to pass legislation to put a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot that would create a revenue growth lid for the state. The proposed legislation, HCS HJR 70, passed the House last month, and needs to pass the full Senate before it could be placed on a statewide ballot.

The vote to pass the measure comes after a recent hearing where committee members heard from a vast array of statewide organizations who opposed the bill. Missouri groups who have voiced their concern about the impact this legislation would have on the state, and their opposition to its passage, include the Kansas City Chambers of Commerce, the Missouri Municipal League, AARP, and a wide range of education, business, faith and service-provider organizations. (A full list of groups opposing the bill can be found [here](#)).

“This proposal would result in a severe fiscal crisis in Missouri, as it did in Colorado when a similar measure was passed there,” said Amy Blouin, Executive Director of the Missouri Budget Project. “These diverse organizations from across Missouri oppose the measure because of the devastating effect it would have on our state’s ability to provide and maintain services, including transportation, education and health care needs.”

“This bill will decrease revenue to the point where the state will not be able to meet the needs of Missouri residents. It is not fiscally responsible for lawmakers to consider further limits on Missouri’s revenue when critical state services are already in dire need of funding,” Blouin said.

A similar revenue growth lid proposal was considered in 2006, but was not placed on the ballot. Missouri already has a limit on the amount of tax revenue the state can collect under the Hancock Amendment, which was passed by voters in 1980.

“This legislation would put additional permanent restrictions on Missouri’s ability to fund basic services, particularly during difficult economic times, such as the one we are now facing,” Blouin said. “The result will leave vital human services constantly competing against each other as funds continue to shrink.”

The State of Colorado, which enacted a similar government revenue lid in 1992, has since passed a Constitutional Amendment to repeal it for five years. When this proposal was last considered in Missouri, the former chairman of the Colorado House Budget Committee, Republican Brad Young, said, “The revenue growth lid was bad for Colorado and it would be

very bad for Missouri. The problems compound year after year, especially during tough times. Since states' budgets are already in tough shape, in my view, this is the wrong policy.”

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The Mission of the Missouri Budget Project is: To advance public policies that improve economic opportunities for all Missourians – particularly low and middle-income families – by providing reliable and objective research, public education and advocacy. More information is available at www.mobudget.org.