



**For Immediate Release**  
April 6, 2009

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## **Federal Stimulus Package is the Wrong Path for Texas**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS**— *the following statement may be attributed to Wayne Christian, President of the Texas Conservative Coalition, regarding the federal stimulus:*

“The Texas Conservative Coalition has taken a strong and consistent stand on the many pitfalls for our state of the so-called stimulus package passed by Congress with little consideration for the long-term consequences to our state budget and economy.

“While economic conditions continue to worsen nationally as evidenced by the increase in unemployment, we stand by Governor Perry’s rejection of federal Unemployment Insurance stimulus funds. We strongly object to the federal government mandating changes to Texas law just to access funds that Texans have already generated through tax payments.

“Under the stimulus package, Texas would receive \$555 million in Unemployment Insurance money from the federal government only if we change our unemployment program. The required changes represent an unprecedented expansion of Unemployment Insurance eligibility to new groups, including those searching for part-time work and people enrolled in job training programs, and would change the method by which benefits are calculated. One qualifying policy change is to allow individuals who choose to leave work under certain circumstances to qualify for unemployment benefits.

“Expanding eligibility for Unemployment Insurance would increase the cost of the program in future years, which would place permanent burdens on Texas businesses and workers, just to access one-time federal money.

“More broadly, we are still learning about many of the adverse spending and policy decisions buried in the 1,500-plus page stimulus bill, such as demands to change state law and money following directly to state agencies without legislative input. The Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) report released today illustrates just how much damage the stimulus package will have on jobs and the economy. The stimulus is most offensive because it puts government ahead of taxpayers, families, and businesses.

“Texas’ recent economic record is unparalleled in the nation. Texas created 393,300 jobs over the past two years, which is 124,300 more jobs than the President and the Congress speculate –yes, speculate – might come from the first two years of their stimulus package.

The purported benefits of the stimulus package are wishful thinking, at best. But the study released today underscores the negative impact the bloated federal spending will have on our budget and economy.

“There is a simpler, proven way to get America and Texas moving again. By keeping taxes low and by relying on proven, targeted investments in job growth, our businesses and workers in Texas can grow the economy and keep Texas the best state in the nation to live, work, and raise a family.

“Unfortunately, the stimulus takes our state and nation down the wrong path, in stark contrast to the policies that we know work. The massive increase in federal spending will require higher taxes, more debt, or both. More spending, higher taxes, and increased debt are the wrong answer to right the economy.

“With the stimulus bill, the federal government has missed the mark in boosting the economy in the short term, with possible damaging effects on our State and nation.”

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