



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Colorado Voters Suspend TABOR**

**Madison** – Suspension of TABOR is good news for Colorado’s children and families. Colorado passed Referendum C on Tuesday suspending that state’s strict constitutional spending limits – limits that have been in place since 1992.

“It’s amazing that legislative leadership in Wisconsin is still talking about TABOR. It’s been a dismal failure in Colorado, for education there, for health care, and for the state’s infrastructure,” stated Charity Eleson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

A diverse group of individuals and organizations in Colorado supported Referendum C including business leaders, members from both major political parties, local officials, children advocacy and health care organizations, and others.

The outcry over the impacts of TABOR is based on declining performance in that state in many key areas. For example, under TABOR, Colorado has:

- Dropped to last among the 50 states on the share of low-income children covered by health insurance,
- Plummeted from 24<sup>th</sup> to 43<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in the share of children receiving their full vaccinations,
- Dropped from 35<sup>th</sup> to 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation in K-12 spending relative to income,
- Dropped from 30<sup>th</sup> to 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation in average teacher salary compared to average pay in other occupations, and
- Raised in-state tuition by 21 percent at its colleges and universities over the last four years.

TABOR has been introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature in each of the last two sessions and remains an agenda item for the spring floor period according to legislative leadership. Closely resembling Colorado on the three main characteristics; (1) it would be in the state constitution, (2) the formula involved is based on inflation and population growth, and (3) to exceed the harsh limits another referendum would have to be held.

“TABOR would have very similar consequences in Wisconsin as it has had in Colorado, and we congratulate the voters of Colorado on sending a clear signal to the leaders there that it’s time to give up on the gimmicks and time to face the real issues confronting the state”, stated John Keckhaver, Research Analyst at the Council.

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