



The Interfaith Alliance
OF COLORADO

*One State,
Many Faiths,
Working Together*

1600 South Pearl Street

Denver, Colorado 80210

(720) 524-1100

(303) 777-0572 Fax

info@InterfaithAllianceCO.org

www.InterfaithAllianceCO.org

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Testimony to the House Transportation and Energy Committee Given by Jim Hoffmeister, Boulder Resident and member of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado Public Policy Commission

In Colorado, we have a broken fiscal system.

We of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado believe that in addition to a fiscal problem, "We have a moral problem."

This bill is about taxes. It is also about morality. Most of us do not like to pay our utility bill. However, pay it we must, if we want to have some quality of life. Most of us do not like paying taxes. It is, however, through taxation that we make the sacrifice that living in a civil society requires. It is through taxation that we share the burden of living together in a manner that not only provides order, but that sustains us all.

This bill is about the budget of our state. Budgets are moral documents. Ultimately morality is about the good and doing good. The state budget reflects the desire of the people, or lack thereof, to promote and sustain the collective good. The state budget is the plan to which we all agree through our elected representatives, for securing liberty and justice for all. It is through taxation and budgeting that we provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare.

We of The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado believe that the general welfare of our state is in decline. This declining welfare includes areas such as ~~the~~ ^{P-12} education, higher education, and health care, as well as services to those who are most economically vulnerable. These are not only economic issues, these are moral issues. These are matters of the general welfare of our state.

In these difficult economic times, it is time that we ask ourselves, what kind of state do we want to live in? It is time that we participate in making the sacrifices that are required in order that the good be realized among us, which is not only what is good for me, but what is good for all.

We of the Interfaith alliance of Colorado call on our legislators, Democrat and Republican: "Do what is right. Do what is good for all of us, collectively. We can, indeed we must make the sacrifices that are necessary in order for all of us to enjoy the blessings of liberty and to pass those blessings on to our posterity. SB 228 is a step in the right direction.