MASSACHUSETTS FISCAL ALLIANCE

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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ALEC Report Shows Massachusetts Dropped in Annual Economic Ranking

Third Year in a Row, Massachusetts Declines

Boston, MA: Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance and Citizens for Limited Taxation (CLT) issued the following statement regarding the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) releasing their 6th annual edition of "Rich States Poor States" today. Rich States Poor States is an economic outlook that uses 15 policy variables to rank each state's economic growth and may be found here: http://www.alec.org/publications/rich-states-poor-states. Massachusetts dropped 4 spots to 29th in their overall economic outlook ranking since last year, and stands at 45th for economic performance. Massachusetts has declined in its ranking since 2011, from 24th, to 25th in 2012 and this year dropping to 29th. ALEC's report also shows that Massachusetts ranks as the 49th best state for the "Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue" category, which ranks how we spend our revenue share compared to our debt burden.

"According to ALEC's ranking, Massachusetts is losing its economic competitive edge. For the third year in a row, we are doing worse than the previous year," stated Paul D. Craney, executive director of Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

"ALEC's ranking for states by their debt spending places Massachusetts as the second worst state in the country. Our irresponsible spending does little to help our state for long term sustainability. Our leaders need to ask themselves if we are making Massachusetts a better state for our children and grandchildren and based on the data, we are not," stated Craney.

Barbara Anderson, executive director of CLT, noted the combination of high debt and high taxes. **"The debt level is amazing when you consider our tax burden is also one of the highest in the nation,"** added Barbara Anderson, executive director, Citizens for Limited Taxation. **"So we tax a lot and then borrow a lot to spend more – with little accountability for much of that spending."**

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