

**V** 2026  
REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE  
**AGENDA**



**FEDERAL**



TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

**ONEvoice**



**The annual OneVoice process is a regional advocacy business effort led by the Tulsa Regional Chamber. The coalition of organizations endorsing the OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda includes more than 75 city and county governments, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and education institutions.**

Representing business-driven consensus on northeast Oklahoma's top policy priorities, the 2026 OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda will guide the Chamber's advocacy efforts throughout the year. The agenda's 15 state and 15 federal priorities are the result of collaboration between more than 300 individuals from hundreds of businesses and more than 75 chambers of commerce, municipalities, counties and economic development organizations.

2026 has the potential to be a pivotal year for many of the policy priorities of the northeast Oklahoma business community. As we have seen over the last few years, action and responsiveness from our elected officials - whether at the local, state or federal level - can have enormous implications for individual companies and entire industries.

Play a part in shaping state and federal legislation by joining a task force to help create the **OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda**. The agenda is developed annually through the collaboration of more than 500 individuals representing hundreds of businesses and more than 75 chambers of commerce, municipalities, counties, and economic development organizations.

**Participation in the OneVoice task forces will be available only to employees of Chamber members that invest at the Advocate Level or above, as well as representatives from regional chambers of commerce.** Task forces will meet (virtually via Zoom) throughout the fall to generate policy positions and legislative priorities for consideration on the agenda. The top priority from each task force will automatically be added to the final OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda.

The remainder of the task forces' priorities will be deliberated and voted on by all Chamber members in attendance during the annual **OneVoice Regional Legislative Summit**.

The Summit is open to all levels of membership, so please mark your calendars and plan to participate!

For questions about your organization's membership investment level, please contact us.

**TO JOIN A TASK FORCE, CONTACT A MEMBER OF OUR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM.**



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## LEGISLATIVE BENEFACTORS



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# FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

US HOUSE



US SENATE



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES & THEIR EXPLANATION

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## ***ENSURING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY***

Driving a prosperous economy means championing the conditions that help employers grow, attract talent and compete. When the state invests in the fundamentals that strengthen our communities and support working families, businesses feel the impact through a stronger workforce, more vibrant industries and a more predictable environment to plan for the future. This commitment helps ensure northeast Oklahoma remains competitive, resilient and positioned for long-term success.

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## ***BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL TO BUSINESS***

Creating critical infrastructure starts with laying the groundwork for growth, reliability and connection across our region. When Oklahoma invests in modern transportation networks, prepared sites, strong municipal resources and dependable energy systems, businesses gain the stability and predictability they need to thrive. These investments strengthen northeast Oklahoma's competitiveness and open the door to long-term economic opportunity.

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## ***DEVELOPING AN EDUCATED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE***

Strengthening our workforce starts with ensuring Oklahomans can learn, grow and stay healthy throughout their careers. When the state invests in high-quality education, robust training pathways and accessible health and mental health supports, businesses benefit from a stronger talent pipeline and a more dependable workforce. These commitments help build a more prosperous future for employers, families and communities across northeast Oklahoma.



# ENSURING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

## Support Downtown Revitalization Efforts to Help Address Housing Shortage

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports legislative efforts such as the bipartisan Revitalizing Downtowns and Main Streets Act, which would help communities convert unused office space into affordable housing and mixed-use projects. Modeled after the successful Historic Tax Credit, the proposal creates a Qualified Office Conversion Tax Credit equal to 20 percent of qualified expenses for repurposing obsolete commercial buildings. To qualify, at least 20 percent of a project's units must be reserved for households earning no more than 80 percent of Area Median Income or meet local affordability requirements. This tool would help address Oklahoma's housing shortages by bringing new units online quickly, while also preventing further decay and spurring reinvestment in downtowns and main streets. It could immediately advance more than ten projects in downtown Tulsa, with significant impact across the region and state.



## Increase Accessible and Workforce Housing Supply

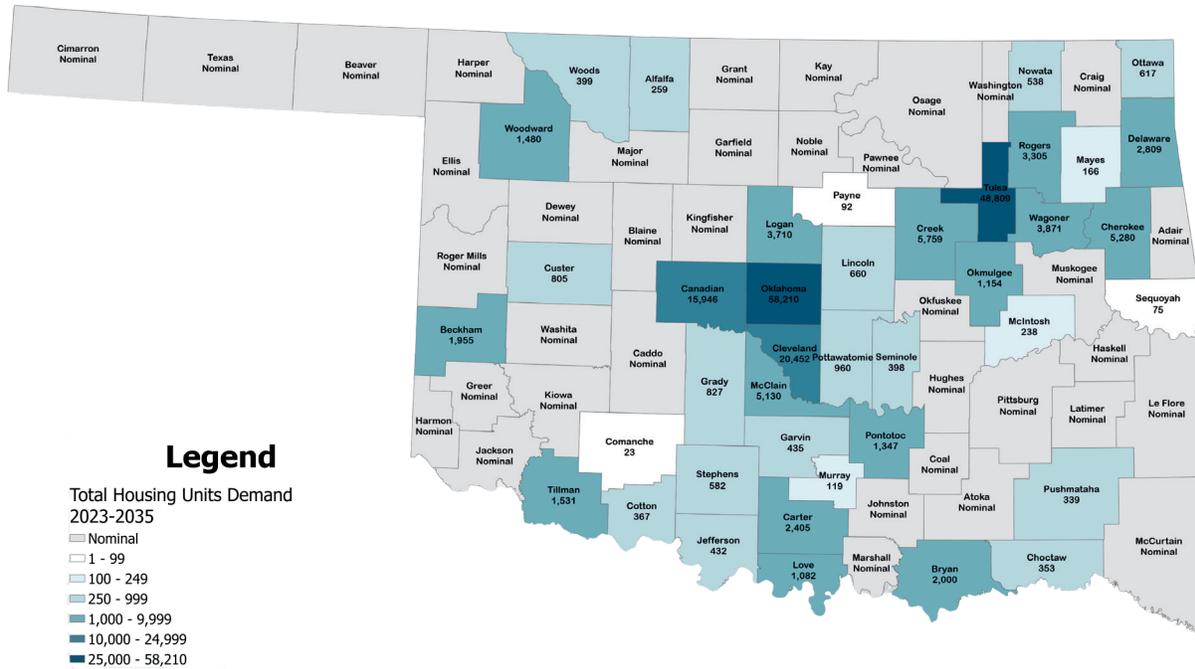
The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports federal action to expand accessible and workforce housing as a critical economic and workforce development strategy. Rising housing costs have outpaced wages at a ratio of five to one, leaving many essential workers such as teachers, health care providers, first responders and service industry professionals unable to comfortably afford available housing. This weakens labor markets, increases turnover and disrupts student learning, with unstable housing contributing to chronic absenteeism and lower graduation rates. To address these challenges, we support expanded HUD and EDA funding, more flexible housing tax credits, incentives for adaptive reuse and zoning reform and financing programs that lower costs for workforce housing development.

- In Oklahoma, only 38 of every 100 rental homes are affordable and available for extremely low-income households.
- Oklahoma needs to make **85,000 more** homes affordable for extremely low-income households.



## A ROADMAP FOR HOUSING IN OKLAHOMA

*Home Sales Market Conditions: A low inventory of homes for sale has contributed to tighter sales market conditions in the Tulsa HMA compared with both 2010 and 2020.*



*Projected cumulative demand for total housing units from 2023-2035.*

**Statewide Demand: 170,515**

**SOURCE:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research

### **Renew the American Indian Lands Tax Credit**

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition encourages the renewal of the Federal American Indian Lands Tax Credit that applies retroactively and is renewed for a multi-year period into the future. The American Indian Lands Tax Credit is a key economic development tool for Oklahoma, allowing employment tax credits when employing tribal members or their spouses and the accelerated depreciation of investments made on former reservation land. Oklahoma has the **largest percentage** of American Indian population in the country and more than two-thirds of the state qualifies for this incentive. Extending the credit and ensuring its benefits are retroactive to its expiration is critical in fostering continued business expansion of employment and investment in Oklahoma.

### **Expand Availability of Quality and Affordable Childcare**

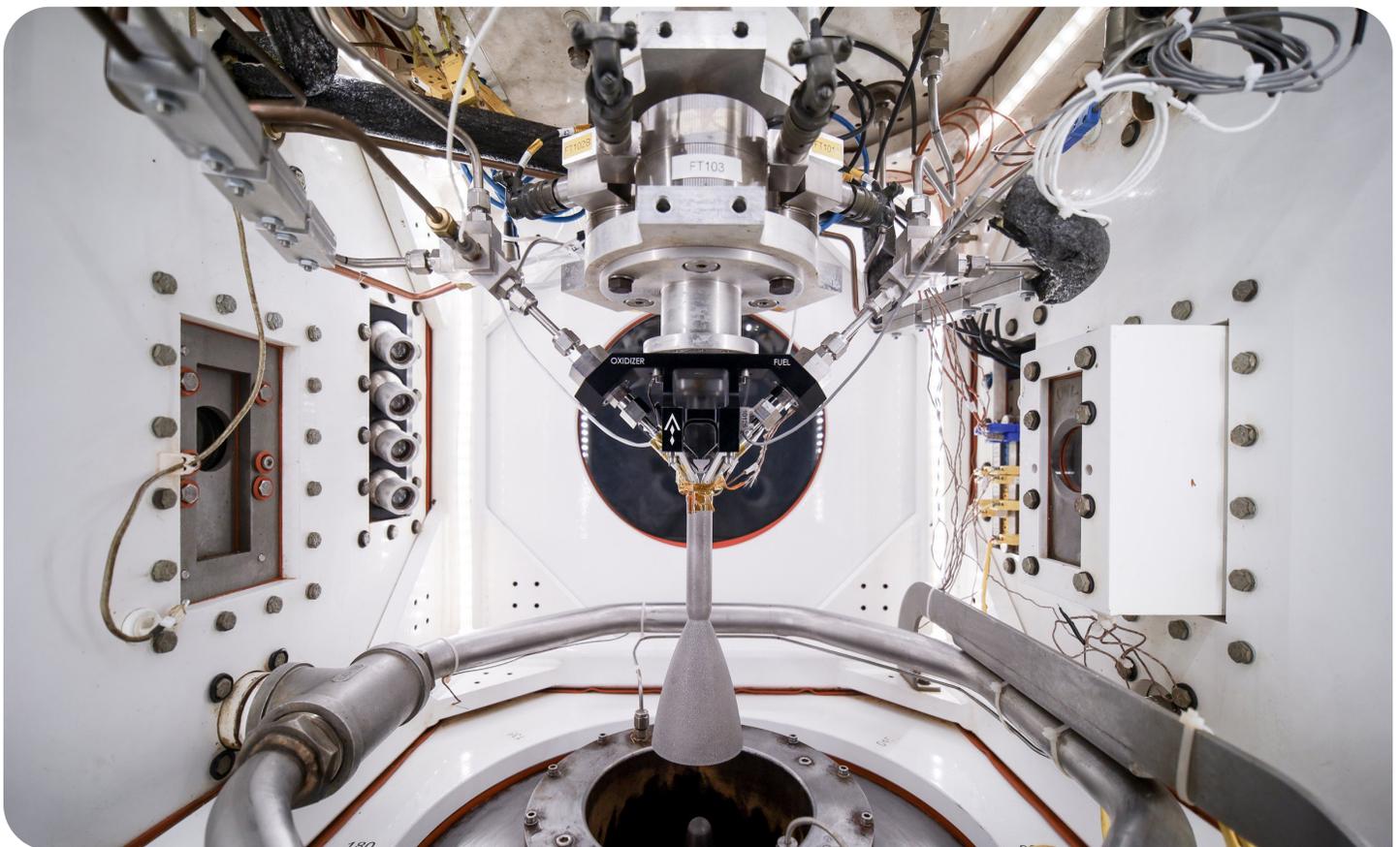
The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports the expansion of high quality and affordable childcare resources. The rising cost and scarce availability of quality childcare represents a significant constraint on Oklahoma's workforce and is a direct barrier to workforce participation. The childcare crisis costs the Oklahoma economy an estimated **\$1.2 billion annually in lost earnings**, productivity and turnover. The Coalition urges the federal government to support state programs that invest in families, such as Scholars for Excellence in Child Care, to aid in the state's expansion of childcare. The Coalition also supports increased subsidies through Federal programs such as the Child Care Development Fund to ensure workforce families can access affordable, reliable care.

# BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL TO BUSINESS

## Support the Tulsa Space Test Center

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports full federal engagement in the Tulsa Space Test Center, a critical facility advancing American leadership in space and strengthening our economy. Space is now both an operational warfighting domain and a fast-growing commercial sphere. To remain competitive and leverage new markets, spacecraft must move effectively in orbit, requiring next-generation propulsion systems. Developing these systems demands testing capacity the United States currently lacks. Oklahoma, Tulsa and private industry are investing in the Tulsa Space Test Center to help close this gap, providing infrastructure for commercial firms, research institutions and government agencies to bring new propulsion technologies to market. We ask the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to support federal funding that enhances the Center's capabilities. Strengthening this facility will position Tulsa as a premier destination for propulsion testing, drive economic growth, create high-quality jobs and secure American preeminence in space.

- "Space has become essential to the global economy, valued at over **\$600 billion** annually and projected to exceed **\$1 trillion** by 2040," noted Jim Bridenstine, former NASA Administrator and Managing Partner of The Artemis Group.
- The Tulsa Space Test Center involves a **\$20 million** investment in design, construction and commissioning, with completion expected in 2027.



**PHOTO:** Agile Space Industries



## **Preserve and Expand Federal Historic Tax Credits**

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports expanding Federal Historic Tax Credits through initiatives like the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act. For over 30 years, these credits have encouraged private investment to preserve historic buildings and revitalize city cores. We support increasing the rehabilitation tax credit and modifying eligibility rules by lowering the rehabilitation threshold from 100% to 50% of project expenses, eliminating the basis adjustment requirement while increasing the credit to 30% for certain small projects and extending the credit to include historic school buildings still in use through the School Infrastructure Modernization Act. These measures will strengthen preservation efforts, stimulate investment and maintain the historic character of communities nationwide.

## **Support Timely Implementation of Improvements to US-412 to Bring the Corridor up to Interstate Standards**

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports upgrading the US-412 corridor to interstate standards and implementing its federal designation as future Interstate 42 from I-35 in Oklahoma to I-49 in northwest Arkansas. We call on ODOT and our congressional delegation to actively pursue funding initiatives and opportunities to complete this project quickly, as it will improve safety, enhance travel time reliability, strengthen connections between the Tulsa Metropolitan Area and northwest Arkansas and elevate the region's visibility and economic development potential at the national level.



## **Accelerate Permitting of Energy and Infrastructure Projects**

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition strongly supports efforts to accelerate federal permitting for projects necessary to achieve domestic energy independence and complete infrastructure projects. Legislative and Administrative efforts should focus on ensuring concurrent and timely permitting for all federally required approvals and encourage coordination and communication with state permitting. These projects would create a boom in the U.S. domestic economy, support job creation, strengthen our trade balance and increase product security and price stability on a global scale.

## **Pursue Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

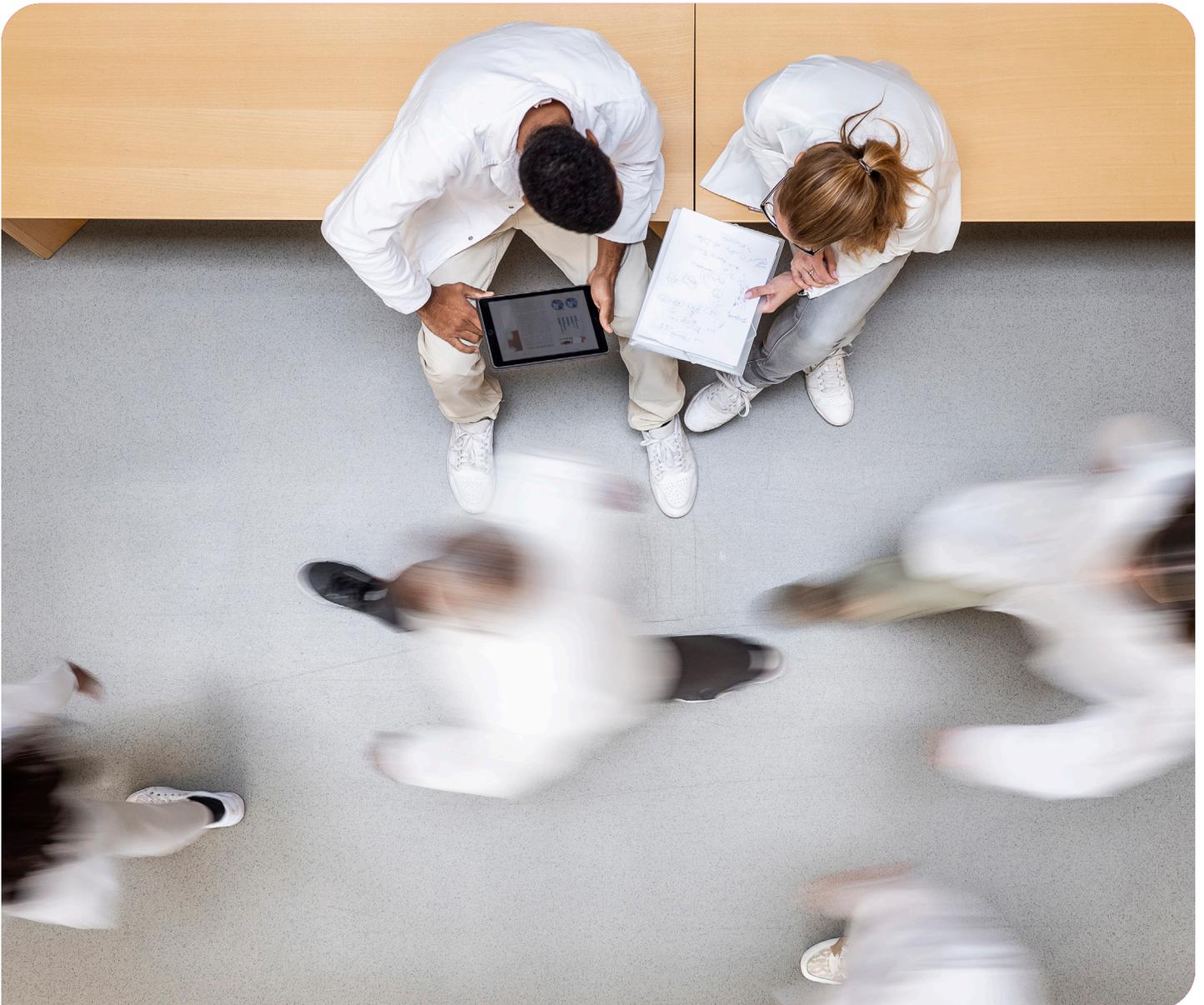
The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition urges Congress and our congressional delegation to prioritize securing appropriations and federal grants for northeast Oklahoma. To ensure that funding opportunities remain in our region, we must proactively and aggressively pursue all avenues of federal funding. These investments are critical to advancing economic development, strengthening infrastructure and enhancing the overall quality of life for the communities we serve.

# CREATING AN EDUCATED & HEALTHY WORKFORCE

## Increase Funding for Hospitals and Healthcare Entities

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition encourages federal lawmakers to engage local hospital leadership in solutions that address modifications to Medicaid made by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Tulsa region hospitals will see a **loss of \$36 million** in state fiscal year (SFY) 2029 with a **cumulative impact of \$1.64 billion** over the next ten years. Due to additional modifications made by the OBBBA, the Tulsa community is expected to see an increase in the uninsured population, further straining hospital resources to provide comprehensive care.

- Tulsa region hospitals will see a **loss of \$36 million** in state fiscal year (SFY) 2029 with a cumulative **impact of \$1.64 billion** over the next ten years because of the OBBBA.
- Out of 105 hospitals in Oklahoma, **59%** are operating with negative margins.



### Support the Permanent Extension of the ACA's Current Premium Tax Credits

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports the permanent extension of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) current premium tax credits. Today, more than **300,000 Oklahomans** receive critical tax credits to make quality, comprehensive health insurance coverage more affordable. These are hard-working Americans, such as small business owners, farmers, hourly workers, early retirees, entrepreneurs, etc., who purchase health insurance coverage on their own because they do not have access to large employer-sponsored coverage. By some estimates, more than 100,000 Oklahomans, both individuals and small business owners, will see their insurance premiums rise by almost 40% if credits lapse, driving up Oklahoma's already high uninsured rate. The impact is far-reaching and will negatively affect Oklahoma's workforce. Nationally, more than 5 million people could become uninsured if Congress does not extend these tax credits. As the uninsured rate rises, hospitals and providers are faced with growing uncompensated care, impacting their ability to serve their communities and maintain the existing healthcare workforce.

### Protect and Strengthen Healthcare Workforce

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition encourages a strong and healthy pipeline for the healthcare workforce. Healthcare across the country is facing historic workforce shortages. As Oklahoma expands our own education and training programs, enhances violence prevention efforts and addresses other clinician concerns, we urge Congress to support policies that replenish and strengthen the healthcare workforce, including increasing the number of Graduate Medical Education slots, expanding and improving loan repayment programs for nursing students and helping nursing schools recruit and retain qualified faculty and preceptors. Congress should also pass the SAVE Act, which aims to protect healthcare workers from violence by enhancing penalties for people who assault them and providing hospitals with additional security and training resources.

A graphic with the word "VOTE" in a bold, dark grey, sans-serif font. The letter "V" is partially overlaid by a green square.The text "SAVE Act" in a bold, sans-serif font. "SAVE" is in a bright green color, and "Act" is in a dark grey color.

## **Modernize Federal Immigration Policy to Attract and Retain Global Talent**

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports comprehensive federal immigration reform to strengthen America's competitiveness and meet workforce needs. Employers across all industries depend on access to international talent to fill critical skill gaps and drive innovation. Congress should modernize visa programs like H-1B, H-2B and F-1, streamline processing and ensure fair, efficient and affordable access for employers of all sizes. The Coalition also supports legislation such as the DREAM Act to provide a pathway to legal status for undocumented youth educated in U.S. schools, helping grow a skilled, future-ready workforce.



## Reform Federal Financial Aid

The OneVoice Regional Legislative Coalition supports reforming federal financial aid to align with today's workforce needs. Recent legislation will reduce access to federal aid dollars for students pursuing higher education, including for students pursuing graduate and professional degrees like healthcare. Restoring this access is essential to addressing workforce shortages and maintaining Oklahoma's talent pipeline. We support simplifying student loans by eliminating interest and replacing it with a one-time, non-compounding origination fee, paired with income-based repayment plans. Federal aid eligibility should also expand to include short-term, industry-driven training programs and loan forgiveness should prioritize graduates in high-demand fields. These reforms will improve affordability, strengthen career readiness and ensure all students have opportunities to access the education and training needed to meet Oklahoma's workforce demands.





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