Be one of the hundreds of Chamber members and OneVoice partners who discuss and craft the OneVoice agenda by joining an exploratory task force. Then finalize the agenda at the OneVoice Summit this fall — or do both. We also encourage you to join the government affairs division at the Chamber’s events for business advocacy; keeping in touch with our officials and staying informed on current issues.

Email rachaelsmith@tulsachamber.com for information about the OneVoice task forces and how to get involved.

Every city has mental health problems. We prefer to have mental health progress.

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS STAFF

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TASK FORCES

Business & Environmental Resources
Development, Economy & Taxes
Education
Energy
Health Care Advocacy
Workforce & HR
Regional Tourism
Small Business & Entrepreneurship
Transportation & Infrastructure

ADVOCATE WITH US

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TEN YEARS: ONEVOICE

Ten years ago, the OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda was created out of a desire to unify the region and increase our influence at the State Capitol and in Washington, DC. It was rooted in a simple thought: when we join together to speak with one clear voice, the power and validity of our message increases. Fast-forward a decade, and the OneVoice process has grown to include regional business and more than 70 area chambers, cities, counties, school districts, higher education institutions and economic development organizations.

At no time in the history of northeastern Oklahoma have the voices of so many entities been assembled behind one legislative agenda, and no previous legislative agenda has advocated for more issues aimed at ensuring Oklahoma has the tools it needs to compete for jobs; residents have the health care and education they need to be successful members of the workforce; and that Oklahoma’s infrastructure is safe and conducive to live and do business.

By creating a tradition of cooperation, the OneVoice Coalition and the OneVoice Agenda have transformed the Tulsa region from a series of fractured groups and cities, to a true metropolitan region where local officials and organizations think globally, know how to use relationships to maximize their resources and craft policy that more profoundly benefits their constituents. 2016 was not an easy year in Oklahoma politics. We struggled to meet the basic needs of our state as elected officials grappled with a $1.3 billion budget shortfall.

Despite the struggles in 2016, we did celebrate some real successes, and significant steps were taken to modernize Oklahoma’s antiquated adult beverage laws; reform our broken criminal justice system; protect local retailers through equal enforcement and collection of taxes; simplify high school graduation requirements; and enable tourism-based improvement districts to strengthen Oklahoma’s third-largest industry.

The OneVoice agenda also celebrated victories on the federal level with the passage of multi-year surface transportation reauthorizations, elimination of the oil export ban and reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

We thank our elected officials for their work on these and other issues that advance regional economic prosperity. It takes a great deal of dedication and sacrifice to serve in an elected capacity, and we appreciate all of our leaders and respect the challenging decisions they face on a daily basis.

We know that 2017 will be equally as challenging as the year we just finished. It will require even greater effort to bring these larger solutions to fruition. The time to begin working to address existing and new challenges – with meaningful, long-term solutions – is now. We are grateful and excited you’ll join us in that effort. Your 10 years of dedication played a crucial role in demonstrating the Tulsa region’s unified voice on legislation, ensuring our regional prosperity for years to come.

PHIL ALBERT
Chair, Tulsa Regional Chamber
President, Polico Structural, LLC

DAN SULLIVAN
Vice Chair, Government Affairs
CEO, Grand River Dam Authority

MICHAEL NEAL, CCE, CCD
President and CEO
Tulsa Regional Chamber

Letter from our leadership
OneVoice Legislative Agenda | Tulsa Regional Chamber
OneVoice Legislative Agenda | Tulsa Regional Chamber

2016 ONEVOICE COALITION*

Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce
Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce
Bixby Public School District
Broken Arrow Economic Development Corp.
Broken Arrow Public School District
Catoosa Chamber of Commerce
City of Bixby
City of Broken Arrow
City of Catoosa
City of Claremore
City of Collinsville
City of Glenpool
City of Jenks
City of Mannford
City of Okmulgee
City of Owasso
City of Sand Springs
City of Sapulpa
City of Skiatook
City of Tulsa
City of Tulsa
Claremore Chamber of Commerce
Claremore Industrial Development Authority
Coalition of Tulsa Area Governments
Collinsville Chamber of Commerce
Creek County
Glenpool Chamber of Commerce
Greenwood Chamber of Commerce
Indian Nations Council of Governments
Indo-American Chamber of Commerce
Jenks Chamber of Commerce
Jenks Public School District
Langston University
Liberty Public-School District
Mannford Chamber of Commerce
Metro Tulsa Hotel & Lodging Association
Muskogee Chamber of Commerce
Northeastern State University
Oklahoma Area Development Corp.
Oklahoma Public School District
OSU – Center for Health Sciences
OSU in Tulsa
Owasso Chamber of Commerce
Owasso Public School District
Part of Catoosa
Part of Muskogee
Part of Sapulpa
Port of Muskogee
Rogers County
Rogers County Industrial Development Authority
Rogers State University
Sand Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
Sand Springs Public School District
Sapulpa Chamber of Commerce
Skiatook Chamber of Commerce
SW Tulsa Chamber of Commerce
Tahlequah Chamber of Commerce
Tahlequah Public School District
Tulsa Community Collect
Tulsa County
Tulsa Hispanic Chamber
Tulsa Public School District
Tulsa Regional Chamber
Tulsa Small Business Connection
Tulsa Tech
Tulsa’s Future
Tulsa’s Young Professionals
University of Oklahoma – Tulsa

The 2017 endorsements were announced on Feb 9. Visit Tulsachamber.com to stay up to date on legislative advocacy news, engagement opportunities and political directory information throughout the year.

STAY INFORMED
THE ONEVOICE COALITION SUPPORTS:

EDUCATED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE
The greatest challenge to Oklahoma’s businesses is finding talented workers. Oklahoma’s workforce gap damages our businesses’ ability to grow and threatens to force companies to look elsewhere for relocation and expansion. Healthy workers are productive workers, and no economy can thrive without them.

STATE PRIORITIES:
» Address the Teacher Shortage - Page 9
» Expand Insure Oklahoma - Page 10
» Restore Education Funding - Page 11
» Behavioral Health Services - Page 12
» Health Care Workforce Expansion - Page 13
» Oppose School Vouchers - Page 14

FEDERAL PRIORITIES:
» Graduate Medical Education - Page 24
» Higher Education Act Reauthorization - Page 25
» Long-term Insure Oklahoma Waiver Reauthorization - Page 26
» Mental Health Reform - Page 27

ENSURING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY
Ensuring Oklahoma has the tools to compete for jobs with other states is crucial to ensuring a prosperous economy. The world of economic development is ever-changing: while tax rates and economic incentives still play an important role, we must also ensure we are maximizing our workforce availability, creating an attractive destination for young talent and ensuring all government entities – federal, state, counties and cities – are able to work together effectively.

STATE PRIORITIES:
» Economic Incentives - Page 15
» Criminal Justice Reform - Page 16
» Municipal Funding Diversification - Page 17
» Improved Business Climate for Oil and Gas Production - Page 18
» Fund OCAST - Page 19
» Self-Determination in Facility Firewall Policies - Page 20
» Support Regional Air Quality Efforts - Page 21

FEDERAL PRIORITIES:
» Accelerate Permitting of Energy Projects - Page 28
» Collection of Online Sales/Use Taxes - Page 29
» Position Tulsa for F-35 Operations - Page 30
» Restraint in Labor Regulation Changes - Page 31
» Restrict Federal Rulemaking Authority - Page 32
» Federal Immigration Reform - Page 33
» Federal Historic Tax Credits - Page 34
» Support Legislation Delaying Implementation of EPA Ozone Standard - Page 35

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL TO BUSINESS
The health of our transportation network is key to our efforts to recruit and retain jobs in Oklahoma. Site selectors, who review prospective locations for client businesses, regularly identify safe, efficient transportation systems as a top factor they look for in identifying possible locations.

STATE PRIORITIES:
» Defend Existing Road Funding and Dedicate Motor Vehicle Fees - Page 22
» Gilcrease Expressway - Page 23

FEDERAL PRIORITIES:
» Arkansas River Corridor Development - Page 36
» McCellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System - Page 37
» Tulsa’s Levee System - Page 38
DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VISIT TULSACHAMBER.COM/EVENTS OR EMAIL EVENTS@TULSACHAMBER.COM TO REGISTER AND CONFIRM DATES.

### 2017 LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

**LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING BREAKFAST**
- **Feb. 10, 2017 | 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**
  - Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
  - Join more than 300 business and community leaders to hear firsthand the latest happenings at the State Capitol throughout the course of Oklahoma legislative session.

**ONEVOICE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION**
- **Feb. 21, 2017 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**
  - Aloft Hotel Oklahoma City
  - The kick-off to OneVoice Day at the Capitol, this event provides members a unique experience to meet state elected officials in a casual setting and discuss the region’s top legislative priorities.

**ONEVOICE DAY AT THE CAPITOL**
- **Feb. 22, 2017 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
  - Oklahoma State Capitol
  - The OneVoice Day at the Capitol is the Chamber’s largest advocacy event and includes issue briefings, lunch and lobbying, with the added benefit of personal interaction with legislators and state officials.

**LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING BREAKFAST**
- **March 10, 2017 | 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**
  - Doubletree By Hilton Warren Place

**MONTHLY CAPITOL LUNCHEON**
- **March 22, 2017 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
  - Oklahoma State Capitol
  - The Chamber’s Capitol Luncheon Series provides members with an opportunity to hear firsthand what is happening at the State Capitol and build personal relationships with our regional delegation.

**MONTHLY CAPITOL LUNCHEON**
- **April 19, 2017 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
  - Oklahoma State Capitol

**MONTHLY CAPITOL LUNCHEON**
- **May 18, 2017 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
  - Oklahoma State Capitol

**MONTHLY CAPITOL LUNCHEON**
- **June 19, 2017 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
  - Oklahoma State Capitol

**ONEVOICE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION**
- **June 2, 2017 | 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**
  - Location TBD

**ONEVOICE DAY AT THE CAPITOL**
- **June 7 – June 9, 2017 | Washington, D.C.**
  - This three-day event with the Tulsa Regional Chamber, regional partners and surrounding governmental entities provides attendees with a direct connection to Oklahoma’s federal delegation and plays a crucial role in developing a positive business climate for the Tulsa region and northeast Oklahoma.

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**TREASURY MANAGEMENT WITH LOCAL, PERSONAL SERVICE**

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- Fraud Detection & Deterrent
- Payment & Collection Services
- Cash Flow Management
- Account Reconciliation
- Business Accounts

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arvest.com

**TULSA REGIONAL WASHINGTON D.C. FLY IN**

June 7 – June 5, 2017 | Washington, D.C.

Dates, times and locations are subject to change. Visit tulsachamber.com/events or email events@tulsachamber.com to register and confirm dates.
1 State Department of Education.
3 Matthew D. Hendricks, University of Tulsa; “An empirical analysis of teacher salaries and labor market outcomes in Oklahoma.”
5 National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences; “Estimated average annual salary of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools by subject-matter field, selected years, 1969-70 through 2014-15.”

Oklahoma’s teacher shortage has been developing for years and is arguably one of the most significant threats to the future of the state’s workforce. As fewer graduates choose a career in education, and teachers continue to leave the profession every year, it becomes harder to provide our students with talented, passionate teachers to educate and inspire them.

The latest numbers are staggering. More than 1,500 teaching positions were eliminated this school year and 600 positions the year before. The 2016-17 school year opened with 543 statewide vacancies, and 730 emergency teaching certifications were issued through Sept. 1, 2016, putting an increasing number of teachers in the classroom without proper subject-matter training. 1 In a 2016 survey of districts, half of administrators planned to compensate by increasing class sizes or adding more emergency-certified teachers, and a third planned to offer fewer courses. 2

The causes of this crisis are well-documented, and the need for a sustained, long-term solution is clear. Oklahoma’s average teacher salary, adjusted for inflation, has decreased since 2006 from $36,000 to $34,000 in 2015 for a fifth-year teacher.3 Both in and out of the pay issue, morale is key. In statewide focus groups, teachers indicated that reasons for their low morale include under appreciation of the profession, lack of staffing, inflexibility, over-testing of students and, indeed, pay.4 Additional professional development must be a component of addressing morale. Oklahoma must also explore incentivizing training and eliminating barriers for new teachers, especially in high-need areas like special education and English language learning.

ADDRESS THE TEACHER SHORTAGE

Improve the ability of Oklahoma’s Pre-K-12 public schools to attract and retain effective career teachers through policies designed to increase the state’s pool of qualified teachers and improve teachers’ job satisfaction. This should include ensuring competitive teacher pay; incentivizing education for aspiring teachers; eliminating barriers for alternative certification, special education and returning retired teachers; ensuring low-student-teacher ratios; and supporting professional development. Oklahoma’s ability to fill its growing teacher shortage with quality, effective teachers is crucial to the college and career success of its students and the sustainability of its workforce.

EDUCATED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE | STATE PRIORITIES

BY THE NUMBERS

1,530 Teaching positions eliminated 2016-17 school year
1,351 Support staff positions eliminated 2016-17 school year
543 Teaching vacancies as of Aug. 1
53 Percent of schools reporting difficulty in hiring teachers since last year
50 Percent of schools expecting increased class sizes
8.1 Percent rise of student-teacher ratios statewide, 2009-14

REGIONAL TEACHER SALARIES 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Teacher Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>$44,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>$48,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>$47,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>$48,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>$49,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>$50,576</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching positions eliminated</td>
<td>1,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support staff positions eliminated</td>
<td>1,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Percent rise of student-teacher ratios statewide, 2009-14</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPAND INSURE OKLAHOMA

Expand Insure Oklahoma to reduce the number of uninsured Oklahomans through any available funds. This will improve the health of Oklahoma's workforce, strengthen behavioral health services and create sustainable jobs in rural and urban areas — all of which are paramount to an economically viable Oklahoma.

Oklahoma’s health problem is an economic problem. Modernizing the state’s health care system must be a priority if Oklahoma is to be competitive nationally for jobs and private investment. Consistently rated as among the unhealthiest states in the nation, Oklahoma’s health problem is well known nationally, and is a significant barrier to new and existing businesses, workforce attraction and quality of life for all Oklahomans.

At the root of the problem is lack of access and affordability in health care — the two areas that pushed Oklahoma’s decline from 37 to 50 in the Commonwealth Fund’s national health scorecard in the last two years.1 In fact, Oklahoma’s 15 percent uninsured rate is fifteenth-highest in the nation, and 578,336 Oklahomans were without health insurance as of 2014.2 This prevents access to primary care, treatment of conditions that limit Oklahomans’ ability to work and contributes to uncompensated care costs that are shifted largely to insurance ratepayers — estimated at $577 million annually.3

Last year’s Medicaid Rebalancing Act would have moved 175,000 uninsured residents onto the state’s health insurance exchange.4 However, a report 1

The consequences of eroded education funding are real. Simply put, Oklahoma's educational institutions do not have the resources they need to keep pace with industry workforce needs — nor meet the state’s goals of reading sufficiency, high graduation standards, and college completion. Although the new sales tax for education will provide some new resources, sustained legislative commitment is needed to reverse funding trends that have forced schools, colleges and universities to cut courses, raise tuition and rely on fewer educators to teach more students.

Common education enrollment has grown 9.2 percent since 2008,5 but state funding has decreased 14.4 percent, adjusted for inflation. Per pupil, that represents a 26.9 percent decline, by far the largest of any state since 2008. The non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities noted that while most states increased per-pupil spending in 2016 as recovery from the 2008-09 recession continued, Oklahoma stood out by cutting income taxes while revenue shortfalls further eroded education funding.6 In addition to growing class sizes and shrinkage and faculty offerings,7 the results have included a switch to four-day school weeks in 139 districts.8 Funding reductions have also hurt higher education and CareerTech, which both took double-digit percentage cuts in the FY 2017 state budget. However, small universities have been the hardest hit in terms of per-pupil funding. Excluding OU and OSU, the Tulsa area lost 327 higher education staff positions and 405 academic programs this year — plus as much as $152 million in economic impact from all recent state cuts.9

OKLAHOMA’S HEALTH, IN A NUTSHELL

5. Tulsa Regional Chamber economic analysis.
8. Oklahoma’s rank in per-pupil cuts for K-12

Percent change in the state formula funding9 per student, inflation adjusted, fiscal years 2008-2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OKLA</td>
<td>-26.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALABAMA</td>
<td>-14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KENTUCKY</td>
<td>-13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KANSAS</td>
<td>-13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARIZONA</td>
<td>-12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTAH</td>
<td>-11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WISCONSIN</td>
<td>-10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>-9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST VIRGINIA</td>
<td>-9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISSISSIPPI</td>
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1. Oklahoma State Department of Education; “FY15-16 Oklahoma Public School Statewide Enrollment Totals” and “FY17-18 Oklahoma Public School Statewide Enrollment Totals”.
4. Oklahoma State School Boards Association; “2016 Teacher Shortage Survey.”
5. Oklahoma State Department of Education; “FY15-16 Oklahoma Public School Statewide Enrollment Totals” and “FY17-18 Oklahoma Public School Statewide Enrollment Totals”.
7. Oklahoma School Health Association; “2016 Teacher Shortage Survey.”
9. State Department of Education.
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Expand behavioral health and substance abuse services that improve workforce efficiency; boost public safety; create efficiencies in state spending and help additional Oklahomans suffering from behavioral health issues. This should include increasing funding for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; expanding mental health and drug courts to decrease unnecessary incarcerations; preparing judicial districts to enact the Labor Commissioner Mark Costello Act, with adequate funding for new assisted outpatient treatment; and expanding the use of assisted outpatient treatment by broadening the definition of who can petition courts to seek an order for outpatient treatment. Oklahoma faces the second-highest rate of serious adult mental illness in the nation, but spends less on treating these people per capita than all but six states. This unacceptable disparity leads to too many Oklahomans going untreated, contributing to higher criminal recidivism rates, eroding Oklahoma’s workforce, threatening the wellbeing of its families and ultimately costing taxpayers.

Although often a misunderstood and stigmatized issue, millions of Americans suffer from a form of mental illness severe enough to impact daily life, with examples as diverse as depression, addictive behavior, and schizophrenia. Nearly a quarter of Oklahomans have a mental illness, and 11.9 percent have a substance abuse disorder. Although 190,000 Oklahomans received treatment for these issues through the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMH SAS) in 2014, it is estimated that only 4 of 10 Oklahomans receive the treatment they need, including 6 of 10 Oklahoma children. The latter has especially concerning implications for workforce development as research indicates children with mental illness have poorer educational outcomes.

The financial consequences of allowing this trend to continue are too great to ignore, and the state’s prison system is a prime example. Many sufferers of mental illness and substance abuse end up in prison, where it costs an average of $23,000 a year to house them. On the other hand, costs for treatment are only $2,850, drug court $5,000, and mental health court $5,400, making every dollar invested in mental health a net positive for taxpayers.

1 This unacceptable disparity leads to too many Oklahomans going untreated, contributing to higher criminal recidivism rates, eroding Oklahoma’s workforce, threatening the wellbeing of its families and ultimately costing taxpayers.

2 Oklahoma faces one of the most serious primary care provider shortages in the nation. The situation threatens the health of individuals as well as local economies, particularly in rural areas.

The state has 198 physicians per 100,000 residents—sixth-worst in the nation. Nearly 60 percent of Oklahomans live in areas designated by the Health Resources and Service Administration as a primary care Health Professional Shortage Area, nearly double the national rate of 32 percent. In a 2015 analysis from a national physician recruitment firm, Oklahoma ranked last in the nation for physician access. The shortage extends to nursing as well. This is an economic concern as much as a health one. Physicians support a number of high-paying jobs, such as nurses and pharmacists, and the economic impact of a single primary care physician is estimated at $2.2 million, including $90,449 in tax revenue.

Addressing this need will require training Oklahoma providers in Oklahoma and maximizing the reach of existing professionals. More than half of family medicine residency graduates nationwide practice in or near the community that trains them, but the numbers are often even higher in Oklahoma. At OSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, 80 percent of students who complete their residency remain in Oklahoma. The Physician Manpower Training Commission has seen tremendous success in retaining physicians, as well. As for existing professionals, the state should continue its momentum in expanding telemedicine as an alternative or supplement to primary care providers on the ground in rural areas.

5 Oklahoma’s rank for physicians per capita
6 Oklahoma counties in federally-designated primary care shortage areas
7 Percent of Physician Manpower Training Commission graduates who remain in Oklahoma
8 Economic impact of one physician
9 State Priorities | Educated and Healthy Workforce
10 Health Care Workforce Expansion
11 Address current and future health care workforce needs in urban and rural Oklahoma through the following means: 1) Use all available state and federal resources to support and expand Teaching Health Center related programs, including expanding the Oklahoma Hospital Residency Training Act to include community-based training. 2) Support the Physician Manpower Training Commission, which is uniquely situated to serve as a valuable resource on provider workforce issues. 3) Support reforms that will allow Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants with appropriate levels of training and experience to practice to the full extent of their license without the physical presence of a supervising physician. 4) Support efforts to expand the availability, funding and utilization of telehealth services in a manner that enhances locally-provided health care services.

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HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

#2

Oklahoma’s Projected Primary Care Physicians Need

Percent of new nursing jobs going unfilled

Oklahoma’s rank for physicians per capita

Oklahoma counties in federally-designated primary care shortage areas

Percent of Physician Manpower Training Commission graduates who remain in Oklahoma

Economic impact of one physician

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE EXPANSION

Address current and future health care workforce needs in urban and rural Oklahoma through the following means: 1) Use all available state and federal resources to support and expand Teaching Health Center related programs, including expanding the Oklahoma Hospital Residency Training Act to include community-based training. 2) Support the Physician Manpower Training Commission, which is uniquely situated to serve as a valuable resource on provider workforce issues. 3) Support reforms that will allow Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants with appropriate levels of training and experience to practice to the full extent of their license without the physical presence of a supervising physician. 4) Support efforts to expand the availability, funding and utilization of telehealth services in a manner that enhances locally-provided health care services.

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Health Care Workforce Expansion

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HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE EXPANSION

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HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE EXPANSION

Address current and future health care workforce needs in urban and rural Oklahoma through the following means: 1) Use all available state and federal resources to support and expand Teaching Health Center related programs, including expanding the Oklahoma Hospital Residency Training Act to include community-based training. 2) Support the Physician Manpower Training Commission, which is uniquely situated to serve as a valuable resource on provider workforce issues. 3) Support reforms that will allow Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants with appropriate levels of training and experience to practice to the full extent of their license without the physical presence of a supervising physician. 4) Support efforts to expand the availability, funding and utilization of telehealth services in a manner that enhances locally-provided health care services.

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Oklahoma Education Coalition; “How Much Could ESAs/Vouchers Cost Your School District?”

Proponents diverting as much as $2 billion from public Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) would last year’s attempted school voucher program, school resources and classroom sizes. Challenges in teacher recruitment and retention, schools and teachers already face, and exacerbate in 2017 would significantly add to the burden backbone of Oklahoma’s communities and the state—692,670 as of 2015-16. They are the backbone of Oklahoma’s communities and the foundation of our talent pipeline. Given their funding needs and Oklahoma’s ongoing budget crisis, it is clear that implementing vouchers in 2017 would significantly add to the burden schools and teachers already face, and exacerbate challenges in teacher recruitment and retention, school resources and classroom sizes.

Last year’s attempted school voucher program, Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs), would have diverted as much as $2 billion from public schools over the next 14 years.3 Proponents argued schools would have been left with a portion of the funding associated with a departing student, but administrators and educators noted their budgets would have still been reduced with no significant change in the cost of performing school functions. Additionally, the redirected funding would have been taken outside transparency and accountability requirements.

Proponents argue vouchers increase school choice, but this is problematic for two reasons. First, Oklahoma already has school choice: the state’s family-friendly transfer laws readily allow inter-district and school transfers. Moreover, in the case of last year’s two ESA proposals, a lower-earning family’s stipend of $3,900 or $4,400 would have fallen far short of covering the cost of private school tuition—meaning only families who could already afford or nearly afford private school would benefit.

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2015-16

Oklahoma Public School Enrollment

As per-pupil spending on Oklahoma’s public school students reaches new lows,4 programs diverting public school funding to private schools seem counterintuitive. Often the activity hubs of neighborhoods and small towns, public schools serve the vast majority of school children in the state—492,670 as of 2015-16. They are the backbone of Oklahoma’s communities and the foundation of our talent pipeline. Given their funding needs and Oklahoma’s ongoing budget crisis, it is clear that implementing vouchers in 2017 would significantly add to the burden schools and teachers already face, and exacerbate challenges in teacher recruitment and retention, school resources and classroom sizes.

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In 2015, the state legislature followed the recommendation of a report by the Pew Charitable Trust and mandated that all economic incentives be reviewed for their effectiveness by a state-appointed committee. This Incentive Evaluation Commission set forth a schedule to review the programs over the next four years, and evaluate whether each one is operating effectively. We applauded an impartial review of these programs, and maintain our strong support of five key programs under review by the Commission during the first year. These programs impact key industries in Oklahoma—from manufacturing, to aerospace, to rehabilitation and development, to tourism—and are responsible for driving our economy forward.

Consider one program, the Five Year Ad Valorem Exemption for Manufacturers, which gives a property tax exemption for up to 5 years for certain new or expanding manufacturers. The ad valorem exemption has contributed to substantial new investment spending on structures and equipment within the state. Each $1 in ad valorem tax exemption supports an average of $225 in new output in the state economy.5 Manufacturers alone maintained a total of $2.39 billion in total assets tied to active exemptions in 2013.

Another example of the economic impact of these tax incentive programs is evident with the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, which provides a tiered tax credit of 10 percent to 20 percent for qualified rehabilitation expenditures for certain historic structures. According to a report by PlaceEconomics, this credit has attracted over $415 million in rehabilitation expenditures with total project investment reaching $520 million.6 These projects have generated 3,232 direct jobs and 3,514 indirect and induced jobs.

Examples like these make clear that economic incentives create jobs, attract businesses, stimulate development, and are essential to the growing economy of Oklahoma.

1 National Center for Education Statistics; “Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2013-14 (Fiscal Year 2014).”
2 Oklahoma State Department of Education; “FY15-16 Oklahoma Public School Statewide Enrollment Totals.”
3 Oklahoma Education Coalition; “How Much Could ESAs/Vouchers Cost Your School District?”
4 Oklahoma State Department of Education; “Five Year Ad Valorem Exemption from Education Tax; Aerospace Engineer Tax Credit; Quality Events Program, and Film Enhancement Rebate.”

Under Review This Year
Five Year Ad Valorem Exemption
Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit
Aerospace Engineer Tax Credit
Quality Events Program
Film Enhancements Rebate

Economic Incentives
Support tax credits, exemptions and incentives that provide an economic return to the state of Oklahoma, maintain our competitiveness in business attraction and retention, and increase capital investment. Several programs proposed for review in the first year of the Oklahoma Incentive Evaluation Commission are critical to our state’s competitiveness and should be protected, including: Five Year Ad Valorem Exemption, Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, Aerospace Engineer Tax Credit, Quality Events Program, and Film Enhancement Rebate.

1 State Chamber of Oklahoma Research Foundation; “Economic Assessment of the Oklahoma Manufacturer’s Ad Valorem Tax Exemption.”
2 Tulsa Foundation for Architecture; “Economic Impact of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.”
4 State Chamber of Oklahoma Research Foundation; “Assessment of the Oklahoma Manufacturer’s Ad Valorem Tax Exemption.”
5 Oklahoma State Department of Education; “Five Year Ad Valorem Exemption from Education Tax; Aerospace Engineer Tax Credit; Quality Events Program, and Film Enhancement Rebate.”
6 Tulsa Foundation for Architecture; “Economic Impact of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.”

1 Economic Incentives
ECONOMY | STATE PRIORITIES

Ensuring a Prosperous Economy

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Support sentencing reforms and rehabilitation programs that enable nonviolent offenders to reenter the workforce faster and reduce the financial strain on Oklahoma’s criminal justice system. Overly-punitive measures for drug users and other nonviolent offenders have given Oklahoma one of the nation’s highest incarceration rates, contributing to workforce shortages, harming economic growth and overburdening taxpayers. A stronger focus on rehabilitation would reduce recidivism, lessen the burden on prisons and safety net programs and enable more ex-offenders to meaningfully contribute to Oklahoma’s economy.

Oklahoma has spent decades being tough on crime without being smart on crime, leasing on a criminal justice system that has emphasized punishment over rehabilitation. Despite modest reforms, Oklahoma continues incarcerating residents at a rate far higher than the national average with extraordinary costs to taxpayers and the workforce.

The state’s prison population increased by 485 percent between 1990 and 2014, far outpacing its overall population growth of 28 percent. As sentencing stiffened, the average time served by offenders in Oklahoma grew by 83 percent, or 17 months, translating to an additional $25,636 spent per prisoner. Despite all of this, Oklahoma’s violent crime rate remains high, 11 percent above the national average, and workforce shortages continue. 8.5 percent of Oklahomans have a felony conviction that all but prevents from finding work, though many are nonviolent offenders.

Post reforms have increased sentencing options and treatment avenues, but too many nonviolent offenders are still pushed through the prison system without the treatment. Restitution assistance would help break the generational cycle of crime and poverty. Mental health and substance abuse challenges are among the leading causes of recidivism nationwide, and Oklahoma’s prisoners have these in abundance. Numerous studies show treatment for these issues can reduce recidivism. That’s especially meaningful in Oklahoma, where nearly a quarter of released offenders are incarcerated again within a year. Rehabilitation is also far cheaper, as drug and mental health courts costs about $5,000 while incarceration exceeds $20,000.

MUNICIPAL FUNDING DIVERSIFICATION

Support legislation to preserve and diversify sources of revenue available to municipalities and reduce the volatility associated with a single source for revenue. Key initiatives include diversifying revenue for funding public safety agencies, streets and other infrastructure improvements; and preserving and strengthening cities’ authority to promote economic development activities within their borders.

Oklahoma is one of only 17 states that provide municipalities with one primary source of revenue, and the only state in the nation that requires municipalities to rely almost solely on sales tax revenue to fund operations. Sales tax is highly volatile, meaning that in a poor economy, the ability to provide core services is even more difficult.

Restricting revenue to sales tax also creates an overemphasis on growing retail sales—often to the detriment of other economic development initiatives. With a reliance on sales tax, cities are forced into pursuing retail development over high-paying, high-skilled jobs. At a time when Oklahoma is working to attract so many high-skilled jobs as possible, the efforts of businesses, cities, and the state should be in coordination on this goal.

Allowing increased access to diverse revenue streams is of vital importance to the long-term health and prosperity of Oklahoma’s businesses and communities.
IMPROVED BUSINESS CLIMATE FOR OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION

Oklahoma’s combination of abundant energy resources and an entrepreneurial people has resulted in some of the lowest energy costs in the nation. To preserve and maintain our position as a leading oil and gas producing state, and to protect the important economic impact of oil and gas production to all Oklahomans, we support efforts to open all geologic formations in Oklahoma to horizontal drilling. We support an Oklahoma energy policy that provides a clear regulatory environment and oppose unnecessary and burdensome regulations.

Allowing development in these areas would have several benefits. These areas have been producing record-breaking wells not only for Oklahoma, but for the entire mid-continent region of the country. The returns on these wells causes exploration and production companies to devote resources to the areas, further boosting investment in the state and growth of our economy. Additionally, areas of development in the northern part of the state do not produce even a fraction of the wastewater that occurs with drilling elsewhere, and the produced water can also be more easily recycled because of its composition.

We support an expansion of current law on horizontal drilling to apply to all areas of the state—not just those defined as shale—which would allow for clearer, statewide regulations and would allow the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma to take advantage of current technology and high returns on investment on production in these areas.

The Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology has supported locally driven innovation aimed at diversifying and expanding the state’s economy through science and technology for nearly 30 years. This work has been invaluable for small businesses and entrepreneurs who benefit from OCAST-funded research projects, partnerships with key groups, assistance finding federal funding among other programs and services. In turn, all Oklahomans benefit from new and retained high-paying jobs, improved workforce retention capabilities and an enhanced statewide presence for Oklahoma products and talented local innovators.

Every state dollar invested in OCAST has a 21-to-1 return on investment thanks to new private investments and improved access to federal funds that assist small businesses. In 2015, the agency helped Claremore-based HydroHoist expand its product line and grow its investment in the Tulsa region. Aided by programs such as the Oklahoma Applied Research Support, Oklahoma Intern Partnerships and Oklahoma SBIR Collaborative Resource, OCAST has developed a proven track record in facilitating meaningful private investment and small business growth.

The agency has been hit hard by recent state budget cuts, going from a total state allocation of $15.9 million in fiscal year 2016 to $14.1 million in fiscal year 2017—a 11.65 percent reduction. Over five years, state budget cuts have resulted in a miss of potential impact of more than $600 million based on historic returns.

FUND OCAST (OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

Maintain OCAST’s annual budget at its Fiscal Year 2017 level. The state has lost more than $600 million in potential public and private investment as a result of reduced funding for OCAST over the last five years. This funding assists Oklahoma in four vital areas: (1) research and development funding for businesses & universities, (2) two- and four-year college internship opportunities, (3) manufacturing support, and (4) early-stage funding for start-up businesses. This funding allows Oklahoma communities to attract and retain high-quality STEM businesses and critical college talent, which will encourage growth and expansion in these target industries.

1 State Chamber of Oklahoma, “Economic Impact of the Oil and Gas Industry on Oklahoma,” September 2016.
1 State Chamber of Oklahoma, “Economic Impact of the Oil and Gas Industry on Oklahoma.” September 2016.
3 Oklahoma State Budget, fiscal year 2017.
2016 OCAST Impact Report.
2 Oklahoma State Budget, fiscal year 2017.
OCAST data.
**SELF-DETERMINATION IN FACILITY FIREARM POLICIES**

While acknowledging the rights granted by the Second Amendment, protect the current law giving venue owners, event operators, and recreational facilities the authority to control firearm policies on property they manage. Removing this control would endanger Oklahoma's ability to attract events that bring thousands of visitors and millions of dollars into our economy each year. Many events, especially in youth and collegiate sports, have non-negotiable firearm policies and removing the controls under current law would limit facility operators' ability to ensure the safety of their events, increase the cost of providing security, and could subject them to additional liability.

### Benfit to the Tulsa Region in 2017 that Could Be Lost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Economic Benefit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Big 12 Wrestling</td>
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<td>NCAA Basketball</td>
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<td>U.S. Youth Soccer Association</td>
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We support the rights granted by the Second Amendment and also support the right of businesses and venue owners to make decisions regarding their facilities. Recent proposals to allow the open or concealed carry of firearms to public events, however, would remove this authority from venue owners and event operators, and would deal a crippling blow to our state's economy, limiting high-impact events from coming to our state.

Upholding and expanding gun rights in Oklahoma does not have to come at the expense of Oklahoma's tourism and events industry, which contributes more than $7 billion annually to the state economy.

Our region works hard to attract events like college athletic competitions, horse shows, concerts, and festivals. Many of these events, including the College World Series, and Big XII and NCAA tournaments, require as part of their contract that weapons be prohibited during the tenure of the event. Oklahoma has the potential to lose such contracts—and the revenue generated by these events—if current law on the issue is changed.

In 2017 alone, a change from current law could cause the loss of more than $17 million to the Tulsa region. These high-economic impact events are important to our region, and we support upholding current laws that will allow their contracts to continue.

Under the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established an outdoor air regulation system called the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is a gas that occurs naturally and also forms due to chemical reactions from power plants, industrial facilities, motor vehicles and other sources. Sunlight and hot weather accelerate its formation. In 2015, the EPA further tightened the NAAQS ozone standard to 70 parts per billion (ppb).

The new, more stringent standards will cause many areas of the country to fall into non-attainment, and Tulsa has nearly reached the current standard several times. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, “Industry analysis projects... an estimated 958 counties falling into non-attainment under the 70 ppb standard. Counties and areas classified as nonattainment can suffer stringent penalties, including: EPA overriding states on permitting decisions; new facilities and major modifications having to install the most effective emission reduction technologies without consideration of cost; and federally supported highway and transportation projects being suspended.”

These penalties would be detrimental to the economic development of our region, and could halt essential road and bridge improvement projects, energy development, and the expansion of new and existing businesses in the state. The Tulsa region is making great progress in air quality, and it is therefore critical that we continue to prioritize attainment of NAAQS air standards through the most appropriate and cost-effective reduction strategies.

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1 VisitTulsa; Estimate provided for economic impact of certain 2017 events. Generated October 2016.
BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL TO BUSINESS | STATE PRIORITIES

DEFEND EXISTING ROAD FUNDING AND DEDICATE MOTOR VEHICLE FEES

Defend all existing road funding; prevent any diversion of monies; and support increased funding for transportation by developing an adequate, comprehensive funding strategy and financing plan to broaden the sources of funds and increase the total amount going to transportation statewide to support the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s Eight Year Plan, the County Improvement for Roads and Bridges Five Year Plan, the municipal Street and Alley Fund and the construction and operation of Oklahoma’s planned weigh stations. Support moving the remaining 25 percent of motor vehicle fees, which currently go into the state general revenue fund, to transportation priority areas which may include state highways, city and county roads and bridges, and public transit. Support the following regional high-priority projects: widening of I-44 from I-244 east to the Will Rogers Turnpike; widening I-44 from the Arkansas River west to I-244 (Red Fork Expressway); expansion of U.S. 169 to six lanes north to State Highway 20; realignment of Highway 20 from U.S. 169 to Claremore; construction of a four-lane Port Road on Highway 266 from U.S. 169 to the Port of Catoosa, and from the Port of Catoosa to I-44; and expansion of US-75 to six lanes from State Highway 11 to State Highway 67.

The health of our transportation network is key to our efforts to recruit and retain jobs in Oklahoma. Businesses regularly identify safe and efficient transportation systems as a top factor in identifying possible locations. Furthermore, our existing companies rely on the local road system to safely import and export goods and ensure their employees can travel safely and quickly to and from work.

Unfortunately, for more than 30 years, transportation funding in Oklahoma was stagnant, resulting in a steady decline and deterioration of our infrastructure. The long-term consequences of this are still apparent. According to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oklahoma has consistently ranked as one of the worst states in the nation for structurally deficient bridges since the year 2000, and the Department currently has more than $11 billion in backlogged repaired and maintenance projects.

Through the creation of the ODOT Eight Year Plan, an increased reinvestment in our state’s roads, bridges and highway system began. However, the progress of the Eight Year Plan is greatly threatened by budget cuts to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. We must strategically increase investment in our crumbling state highway and county road systems if we wish to attract and retain businesses, and prioritize the safety of all who travel on Oklahoma roads and bridges.

Support is critical for efforts to repair, upgrade, and enhance Oklahoma’s transportation infrastructure, especially high-priority projects that are crucial to economic development in the Tulsa region.

GILCREASE EXPRESSWAY

Support the completion of the Gilcrease Expressway from I-44 to US-412/Edison as a part of the Oklahoma Driving Forward Initiative through a funding partnership with the City of Tulsa, Tulsa County, INCOG, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority and tribal governments to expedite this long overdue transportation project.

The original Tulsa region expressway master plan more than 50 years ago called for the construction of the Gilcrease Expressway. Currently the outer loop on the city’s northwest side is the only portion of the planned system which remains incomplete. Completing this leg of the Expressway is vital to providing access and connections for businesses and activity in the region, supporting economic growth, relieving traffic congestion problems and improving public safety.

Completion of the expressway will provide growth for the City of Tulsa to the northwest, and improve connection from manufacturing centers in Sand Springs, Sapulpa and west Tulsa to the Port of Catoosa. Additionally, it will provide improved access for shipping into and out of the Port of Catoosa and other ports along the McClellan-Kerr Navigation System. It would also relieve capacity and congestion problems on existing Arkansas River bridges at I-244 and I-44, and downtown Tulsa’s Inter-Dispersal Loop.

Various options for completion of the Expressway have been analyzed over the years, but a partnership has recently developed between the City of Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. Critical to its success is connecting Highway 412 to I-44, crossing the Arkansas River and tying in to both Highway 412 and I-44 without this connection, the Gilcrease Expressway will continue to be underutilized and fail to meet its full potential for traffic safety and economic development.
EDUCATED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE | FEDERAL PRIORITIES

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Through long-term funding authorization, fully fund existing HRSA Teaching Health Center programs at $150,000 per resident and allocate additional resources to double the number of funded THC residency positions nationwide. This will allow for training more homegrown physicians, strengthening the most effective tool for improving Oklahoma’s physician shortage.

Oklahoma’s best opportunity to improve its physician shortage is to train its own physicians in the areas that need them the most — and that means declining medical education (GME). All aspiring physicians must complete a period of hands-on, supervised GME training, or residency, to obtain a full medical license after graduation from medical school. Statistics show most physicians stay within a short distance of their residency program, or at least remain in the type of community in which they trained.¹ so residencies are especially important for rural and disadvantaged communities, which struggle the most to attract and retain doctors.

The federal Teaching Health Center (THC) GME program has been a remarkable tool for these communities, supporting hundreds of residencies a year nationwide — including $4.9 million in funding for Tulsa-area residencies in 2015 and 2016.² Funded since 2011, but subject to uncertainty beyond 2015, the program pays direct and indirect training expenses for community-based primary care residency programs in facilities such as nationally-recognized medical centers and rural health clinics, which serve the most disadvantaged residents in rural and poor communities.³ Although THC funding accounts for only 0.3 percent of federal GME spending, its impact is invaluable for these facilities, which operate on remarkably slim margins. The loss of THC funding is likely to result in the cancelation of two-thirds of existing THC-supported residency programs nationwide, according to one survey.⁴

More traditional GME funding is funneled through hospital-based residency programs, but such programs — DGME and IME — are subject to funding caps that have limited their use in Oklahoma.

The Higher Education Act (HEA) is the chief piece of federal legislation affecting higher education, and plays a significant role for local institutions by setting federal expectations and outlining federal funding. The act was originally signed in 1965 under the Lyndon Johnson administration and has been reauthorized periodically. However, long periods without timely reauthorization in more recent years have led to a system of education requirements and funding that don’t reflect the current state of America’s certification landscape.

The Higher Education Act was last reauthorized in 2008, and has operated on temporary extensions since 2013. The act addressed requirements for federal loan eligibility and discharge, increased student privacy protections, increased the maximum amount of Pell Grant awards, capped loan repayment based upon discretionary income, and made several other technical changes to the student loan programs. For the first time, institutions were required to be more transparent about costs.

HEA reauthorization remains critical, given the importance of graduating more students from college in order to meet the increasing demand for higher skills in their employees. Oklahoma students are increasingly taking five years or longer to complete a Bachelor’s Degree, which costs them and the state more money. Reauthorization is expected to address federal support for competency-based education, over-reach cost information provided to students and require more counseling for federal loan students. All of this will assist students in choosing the most appropriate college for their career goals, be fully prepared for the total cost and make wise decisions about their majors.

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4. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, “Active Grants for HRSA Program(s): Affordable Care Act Teaching Health Center (THC) Graduate Medical Education (GME) Financial Assistance Program (FAP)”.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Support the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) and fully fund federal mandates.

Signed by President Johnson in 1965, the Higher Education Act was intended “to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education.” Its goal was to increase higher education opportunities for low- and middle-income families and assist less developed colleges. Its most recent reauthorization was in 2008.
LONG-TERM INSURE OKLAHOMA WAIVER REAUTHORIZATION

Encourage flexibility in negotiations to grant a long-term reauthorization of Oklahoma’s Section 1115 waiver for Insure Oklahoma. Uncertainty about the long-term future of Insure Oklahoma has hurt enrollment and resulted in the exclusion of thousands of Oklahomans who would be eligible for coverage even under current requirements.

Approved by the Legislature and funded through a vote of the people in 2004, Insure Oklahoma has been a standout among the nation’s state-based efforts to provide free-market health care solutions, offering both employer-sponsored and individual health insurance plans to qualifying small companies and low-earning individuals. This uniquely Oklahoma premium assistance program has made tremendous inroads in helping small and medium businesses and working Oklahomans afford insurance, but it has not received full support from the federal Medicaid agency, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS issues waivers that allow states to maintain a degree of flexibility in designing their health care programs while making state programs eligible to receive federal Medicaid funding. Because Insure Oklahoma has been deemed to fall short of federal expectations for expanding Medicaid eligibility to more low- and middle-income residents, Insure Oklahoma’s waiver has not been granted a long-term extension. This has led to uncertainty about the future of the program, unmet participation capacity and a significant missed opportunity to ensure Oklahomans’ access to a healthy, productive workforce in a state that already ranks among the worst in health indicators. As the state works to build upon Insure Oklahoma as a uniquely Oklahoma solution, Oklahoma’s businesses have access to a healthy, productive workforce in a state that already ranks among the worst in health indicators. As the state works to build upon Insure Oklahoma as a uniquely Oklahoma solution for health care, it is important for the federal government to grant a degree of flexibility in ensuring this program’s long-term survival and allowing its full potential to be realized. Only a long-term waiver extension would accomplish this.

Insure Oklahoma operates under a Section 1115 waiver. The federal Medicaid agency lists the following criteria for waiver eligibility: 1

- Increase and strengthen overall coverage of low-income individuals in the state
- Increase access to, stabilize, and strengthen providers and provider networks available to serve Medicaid and low-income populations in the state
- Improve health outcomes for Medicaid and other low-income populations through solutions to transform service delivery networks
- Increase the efficiency and quality of care for Medicaid and other low-income populations through solutions to transform service delivery networks

WHAT IS INSURE OKLAHOMA?

Insure Oklahoma is a homegrown, uniquely-Oklahoma solution to health care — a public-private insurance program whereby small and medium businesses, qualified employers, their qualified spouses and other Oklahomans can obtain health insurance coverage at a more affordable rate. The program offers both employer-sponsored and individual plans.

Mental Health Reform

Support large-scale reform of the national mental health system that elevates the national priority for mental health issues. This includes increasing funding for evidence-based strategies and services; incentivizing assisted outpatient treatment; permitting integration of mental health and substance treatment records with medical records; ensuring complete enactment of the mental health parity law in Medicaid and Medicare; and enhancing behavioral health workforce training.

Federal legislators can play a key role in highlighting behavioral health issues within national discourse, both by supporting key legislation and by advocating publicly for reforms that improve public safety and workforce strength nationwide. Few states would benefit from such work more than Oklahoma, which has one of the nation’s highest rates of adult mental illness and substance abuse — but change is clearly needed everywhere. In fact, 1 in 5 Americans, more than 40 million individuals, has a mental health condition, and more than half do not receive treatment.

Helpful legislation was being considered in 2016, including H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act; and S. 2680, The Mental Health Reform Act of 2016. These bills call for HIPPA education; transparency and parity reports; funding for innovative; evidence-based programs; strengthened mental health care for children; improved telemedicine for mental health; funding for the National Chlidl Traumatic Stress Initiative; and early-intervention and prevention programs around youth suicide. Past legislation has also sought to expand access, provide crisis care and integrate physical and mental health. 2

Additional needed reforms center on the theme of integrating physical and mental health treatment. Although physical and mental health have historically been viewed separately, more modern thinking holds that the two paradigms are intricately linked and should be viewed as equal aspects of ensuring an individual’s overall health. A key part of this effort must be to enforce treatment parity, or ensuring behavioral health treatment is funded at the same level as an equivalent physical health procedure through Medicaid and Medicare.

1. Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Statistics and Data. www.ok.gov/odmhsas/Additional_Information/Statistics_and_Data
ENSURING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY | FEDERAL PRIORITIES

ACCELERATE PERMITTING OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Support efforts to accelerate federal permitting for projects necessary to achieve domestic energy independence. Legislative and Administrative efforts should focus on ensuring concurrent permitting for all federally required approvals, approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline, streamlining the process for FERC approval of Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals and interstate pipelines, and permitting of U.S. Petrochemical projects that make fertilizer, polyethylene and other natural gas derived products. 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.

Our nation’s complex federal permit approval process is wrought with bureaucratic overlap and unnecessary delays. The uncertainty caused by such an inefficient system hinders investment in major projects that would benefit our nation and inhibit job creation and economic growth. The obstacles of federal permitting are a hindrance to our nation’s energy independence and infrastructure companies.

We support these efforts, and encourage Congress and the Administration to continue implementing common-sense reforms that promote better coordination across agencies, set deadlines for permitting decisions, increase transparency, and reduce litigation delays.

COLLECTION OF ONLINE SALES/USE TAXES

Support passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act or other federal legislation which will ensure that the sales and use taxes already owed from online purchases are fairly and effectively reported, collected, and remitted.

Under our nation’s current system of sales taxation, not all retail sales are treated equally. While brick-and-mortar retailers must remit sales and use taxes, many remote sellers — such as internet and catalog vendors — are exempt from such requirements. This creates a tremendously unfair competitive advantage for online retailers over their main street brick-and-mortar counterparts, which are often small businesses.

Continued growth in online shopping and Internet sales further compounds the problem. Estimates indicate that as much as $225 million is lost annually to unreported and uncollected sales and use tax for online purchases in Oklahoma. This loss forces cities and our state to limit core services at a time when we can least afford it.

The Supreme Court’s 1991 decision in Quill Corp. v. North Dakota prohibits collection from online-only corporations without further congressional action. Therefore, reform must come at the federal level. To address this growing issue, “e-fairness” bills like the Marketplace Fairness Act and Remote Transaction Parity Act have been proposed. These initiatives would provide states the right to collect sales and use taxes already owed from online-only businesses, either through personalized state statutes or a multi-state agreement. This would eliminate the present system’s inequality in taxing only local retailers.

Allowing states to establish a uniform, efficient tool for collecting consumption taxes already owed would eliminate a great disparity between community-based retailers and their online competitors. It would be a common-sense solution in enforcing the tax laws already in place and ensuring local businesses aren’t placed at a competitive disadvantage.

IMPACT OF STALLED ENERGY PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects delayed</th>
<th>States impacted</th>
<th>Economic value</th>
<th>U.S. jobs not created</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>351</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>$1 TRILLION</td>
<td>1.9 MILLION</td>
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</tbody>
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UNCOLLECTED ONLINE SALES/USE TAX

How it Hurts Oklahoma

Oklahoma spends more than $2.9 billion online.

- Oklahoma spends more than $2.9 billion online.
- Oklahoma alone, stalled projects would have created 14,800 jobs from initial investment and 8,600 jobs in the first year of operation.

The Oklahoma Tax Commission estimates that Oklahoma could receive $25 million in additional tax revenue if the Fairness Legislation is passed. Funding that is critical as we face a significant budget shortfall.

ONLINE SALES TAX REFORM: THE BENEFIT TO OKLAHOMA

E-fairness legislation to reform the collection of online sales tax would provide a dramatic benefit to our state. By the year 2022, the economic benefit to Oklahoma would be substantial:

- $7.5 billion in additional GDP
- 21,348 new jobs

2 Oklahoma Municipal League; “Marketplace E-Fairness Update.”
3 The University of Tennessee; “State and Local Government Sales Tax Revenue Losses from Electronic Commerce.” April 13, 2009.
POSITIONING TULSA'S 138TH FIGHTER WING FOR THE FUTURE

Support the Tulsa Air National Guard Base in positioning the 138th Fighter Wing for selection as an operating location for the next generation fighter aircraft, the F-35 Lightning II. With an economic impact of more than $530 million to the community, the base supports more than 1,200 citizen soldiers and plays a key role in the defense of this nation and the continued vibrancy of the Tulsa region's economy. The Tulsa basing of the F-35 could increase base employment by another five percent.

UPDATE

Although the 138th Fighter Wing was not selected for basing of the F-35 during the most recent round of decisions announced, the Tulsa Air National Guard will continue laying the groundwork for future rounds of F-35 selection.

The Oklahoma Air National Guard’s 138th Fighter Wing based in Tulsa is considered one of the premier combat units in the Air Force with a proven combat record second to none. The unit’s roots can be traced to World War II from the formation of Oklahoma’s first flying units in 1941 to D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge—a foundation that our airmen can take pride in. They have built on this foundation by their participation in the Vietnam War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, the war in Afghanistan and almost every other major conflict the Air Force has been involved in. For six decades, our citizen airmen have shown their dedication to operational excellence and service to our country. Currently, the wing’s primary aircraft authorized stands at 21 F-16C Fighting Falcons and being supported by approximately 400 full-time personnel and up to 1,200 citizen airmen when conducting monthly unit-training drills. The unit has conducted 11 combat deployments since converting to the fourth-generation F-16C.

The economic impact of the Oklahoma National Guard to our region is crucial and would be further expanded if selected for future missions such as the F-35 Lightning II. According to Major General Robbie Asher, Oklahoma’s Adjutant General, the 138th Fighter Wing’s current mission, operating and supporting the F-16C Fighting Falcon has an annual payroll of almost $85 million and has an economic impact for the Tulsa region of more than $538 million. Tulsa Air National Guard maintains a close relationship with the community and the ties are mutually beneficial. The 138th FW benefits from Tulsa’s rich aerospace industry, and the exchange of skills necessary to maintain high-performance fighter aircraft and civilian aviation complement each other and give our region an attractive competitive edge to new business development.

RESTRAIN IN LABOR REGULATION CHANGES

Moderate changes in labor regulations to ensure fairness for both employer and employee and minimize harmful effects on job creation. Rulings and interpretations by the Department of Labor and NLRB targeting overtime pay, independent contractors and joint employment status would reduce employers’ hiring capacities; disproportionally harm small businesses, the hospitality industry and the nonprofit sector; increase legal liabilities; and threaten business models that have worked for decades, such as franchising and the legitimate use of independent contractors. These changes represent drastic departures from previous norms and should be reversed, pared down or implemented more gradually while protecting existing business models.

Labor regulations under President Barack Obama’s administration represented some of the most anti-business rulemaking in recent decades, imposing significant challenges on both employers and employees while threatening economic growth across sectors. Part of an unprecedented expansion of executive-branch rulemaking, these regulations should be reconsidered under a new presidential administration, with more thorough consideration given to the perspective of the business community.

Headlining the U.S. Department of Labor’s regulation policy in 2016 was the change in the salary threshold below which overtime must be paid to employees annually—doubling it from $23,660 to $47,476, with the prospect of further increases in the near future. This across-the-board increase ignored vast differences in costs of living between states, and would disproportionally impact lower-cost states like Oklahoma. Although the previous threshold was arguably outdated, a sudden increase of this magnitude limits employers’ ability to hire new workers and places undue administrative burden on small businesses, the hospitality industry and nonprofits—the latter being forced to cut vital charitable services. Moreover, more employees will be forced to track their time and will be unable to work flexible schedules demanded by many, especially younger workers.

Also disruptive is the National Labor Relations Board’s new definition of joint employment, which places the tried-and-true business models of contracting and franchising in jeopardy. The NLRB’s new standard states that a company is directly responsible for independent companies doing contracting and franchising in jeopardy. The NLRB’s new standard states that a company is directly responsible for independent companies doing contracting and franchising in jeopardy. The NLRB’s new standard states that a company is directly responsible for independent companies doing contracting and franchising in jeopardy. The NLRB’s new standard states that a company is directly responsible for independent companies doing contracting and franchising in jeopardy. The NLRB’s new standard states that a company is directly responsible for independent companies doing contracting and franchising in jeopardy. The NLRB’s new standard states that a company is directly responsible for independent companies doing contracting and franchising in jeopardy. The NLRB’s new standard states that a company is directly responsible for independent companies...
RESTRICT FEDERAL RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Encourage and support members of Congress to restrict federal rulemaking authority by requiring a standardized, comprehensive, and cumulative cost/benefit analysis of the total economic impact of rules, including the effect on jobs, electricity rates and reliability, gasoline prices, energy-intensive manufacturing, small businesses, housing market, power plant closures, agriculture, and state and local governments. The regulating entity should perform the cost/benefit analysis along a standard process which should then be reviewed by at least one independent agency.

In 1936, the number of pages in the Federal Register was about 2,600. Today, the Federal Register is over 60,000 pages long. What has caused this massive explosion in the publication? Rules and regulations.

The regulatory burden placed on individuals and businesses by the federal government has exponentially increased, and the consequences are damaging. Last year alone, federal regulators issued more than 3,378 new rules, costing individuals and businesses billions of dollars a year and countless hours of paperwork.

In fact, a study by the Competitive Enterprise Institute revealed the cost of complying with federal regulations has reached a staggering $1.8 trillion total, or about $15,000 per household annually. This is not the only economic impact felt from an increased regulatory burden. One study found that if regulation had been held constant at its levels in 1980, the U.S. economy would be about 25 percent larger than it is now.

To remedy this trend in increasing federal regulation, Congress must require a standardized and comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of the total economic impact of rules. Without a cost/benefit analysis reviewed by at least one independent agency, the federal government will continue to pass rules and regulations as a way to sidestep Congress’ constitutional authority to make policy. Sensible solutions to stop this agency overreach must be implemented by the legislative branch in order to avoid dire consequences on businesses, individuals, and our economy as a whole.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION REFORM

Support comprehensive immigration reform that enables the U.S. to attract the best and brightest talent from around the world. Steps should be taken to secure borders and establish reasonable, affordable and efficient visa policies that empower American businesses to hire essential workers and remove barriers for top talent to work in the U.S. Immediate steps should be taken to address workforce shortages in specialty and technology occupations, including increasing the cap on H-1B visas; and improving H-1B fairness for small and medium employers by lowering application fees and eliminating the lottery-selection process in favor of a needs-based system. Oppose further state legislation related to immigration reform.

America’s immigration system is broken, and there is little doubt it fails to serve the interests of the economy, businesses or society as a whole. As it stands, America’s immigration system puts the nation at a competitive disadvantage in an increasingly global economy, hurting the ability of American businesses to recruit and retain the best and brightest talent from across the world.

Comprehensive changes to immigration policy must be developed to secure our borders, respond to the labor needs of the economy and address the issues of the 11 million undocumented immigrants already living and working in the U.S. We need an immigration system with laws that are easy to enforce, make sense, and work. Such a system should:

- Promote national security interests by continuing to focus on securing our borders while pursuing other immigration reform initiatives.
- Reform the H-1B program to promote fairness for applicants. The H-1B program was created to help American employers fill skill gaps that cannot be filled by local talent. However, a New York Times investigation, for example, found that a limited number of large companies are abusing the system by flooding it with applications, with 20 outsourcing companies ultimately taking about 40 percent of the available visas.
- Ease the current cap on H-1B visas to address ongoing workforce shortages in technology and specialty fields and attract more of the world’s top talent.
- Support a workable, reliable national employee verification system. While the federal E-Verify program has been improved dramatically, streamlining and full funding are needed.

2 Mercatus Center; “The Cumulative Cost of Regulations.” April 26, 2016.
5 Days
To fill the yearly H-1B visa allotment for high-skilled workers
6% Annual green cards going to workers who are selected for job skills they will perform in the U.S.
7.5% Companies that voluntarily participate in the E-Verify employment verification system, showing a need for an easy-to-use, mandatory employment verification system
10 Years it can take for a green card to become available
464 Jobs supported by every 100 lesser-skilled seasonal workers admitted in H-2B status
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FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

Maintain federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits for the restoration of historic buildings. These credits have for 30 years been an important catalyst for incentivizing private investment to preserve our nation’s historically-significant buildings and revitalize the historic cores of American cities. The existing 20 percent income tax credit for certified historic structures and 10 percent credit for certain non-certified historic structures should be preserved.

BENEFITS OF THE FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT OVER 40 YEARS

$109 BILLION
In private investment leveraged

2.41
Million jobs created

41,250
Buildings rehabilitated

Creating in 1976, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is aimed at supporting rehabilitation of our nation’s historic properties. In addition, the credit is largely aimed at economic development in many rural areas and older communities. The program is administered by the National Park Service, working collaboratively with states. There are two credits available: a 20 percent credit for certified historic structures and a 10 percent credit for non-certified, non-residential historic structures.

In recent years, the Historic Tax Credit has been proposed for elimination or cuts due to fiscal concerns at the federal level. However, the tax credit is an effective use of federal dollars by achieving its intended purpose and spurring private economic investment. Every $1 of historic tax credits generates a minimum of $4 of private sector investment. In fact, since its inception, $21 billion in historic tax credits have generated more than $26.6 billion in federal tax revenue associated with these rehabilitation projects. As an additional benefit, 75 percent of the economic benefits of these projects stay on the ground, in state and local economies.

In Oklahoma, our state historic tax credit directly mirrors the federal tax credit. According to a report prepared for the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, it has attracted over $415 million in rehabilitation expenditures in Oklahoma, with total project investment reaching $520 million. These projects have generated 3,232 direct jobs and 3,314 indirect and induced jobs in our state—demonstrating the powerful economic impact of this credit.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION DELAYING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EPA 2015 OZONE STANDARD

The Tulsa region’s challenges to avoid the economic burden of non-attainment have resulted in substantial ground-level ozone improvement over the past 25 years. However, even though continued air improvement is foreseeable, the implementation schedule for the EPA’s 2015 ozone standard could cause non-attainment for Tulsa and many metropolitan areas across the nation. EPA regulatory implementation schedules are bound by an outdated law which no longer provides adequate time for air quality improvements to occur before overlapping regulation and non-attainment may occur.

Undeniably, good air quality is fundamental to healthy communities and to economic development. However, the EPA’s unmotivated schedule for implementing the October 2015 ozone NAAQS may cause non-attainment status and the far-reaching economic burden we have long sought to avoid.

Under the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established an outdoor air regulation system called the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. In 2015, the EPA tightened the NAAQS ozone standard to 70 parts per billion (ppb). The new, more stringent standards will cause many areas of the country to fail into non-attainment, and Tulsa has nearly reached the current standard several times.

One main problem with the new standard is the implementation timeline. The standards are unrealistic, and do not provide adequate time for air quality improvements to occur before non-attainment status may be reached.

The EPA estimates in its Regulatory Impact Analysis that the cost of implementing these standards will stand at under $1.5 billion annually, but other estimates range between $2.9 and $5.9 billion annually. In addition, some studies have estimated that the new NAAQS standards will lower the GDP by a staggering $1.78 trillion over the next 25 years.

Legislation to provide states with more time and flexibility to implement the new NAAQS standard would go a long way toward improving the situation by extending certain implementation deadlines, including extending the nonattainment timeframe. The strict standard of 2020, as it currently stands, puts an incredible burden on businesses, especially those in the energy and manufacturing industries. Companies that are forced to focus on meeting these rigid standards are not able to focus on creating jobs and expanding their operations.

1 National Trust for Historic Preservation; “The Federal Historic Tax Credit: Transforming Communities.” June 2016.

OneVoice Legislative Agenda | Tulsa Regional Chamber
**Building Infrastructure Critical to Business | Federal Priorities**

**Arkansas River Corridor Development**

Support efforts to expedite the implementation of the Arkansas River Corridor Project for river infrastructure improvements. Allow federal match credit to be accrued for state and local expenditures in order to advance construction activity while preserving the Tulsa region’s access to future federal funding for this federally authorized project.

As one of Tulsa’s greatest natural resources, the Arkansas River stands as an untapped economic development tool with the potential to advance our communities and catalyze growth across the entire region. The framework for this development was laid out in the Arkansas River Corridor Master Plan, completed in 2004, and identifies both infrastructure improvements and the development of usable public spaces along the Arkansas River corridor.

Progress on the plan was solidified with the overwhelming passage of Vision Tulsa in 2016, demonstrating the desire of the community to invest in the Arkansas River. Under the Vision Tulsa package, the existing Zink Dam will be modified and a new low-water dam in South Tulsa/Jenks will be constructed, along with development of trails and recreation areas. However, critical components of the Arkansas River corridor plan, especially the Sand Springs dam and shore stabilization efforts, remain undone. Federal matching funds are necessary to complete these critical sections, which will impact the success of the full corridor.

**Arkansas River Corridor Development**

- Proposed Dam Improvements
- Study Area
- The Study Area is a preliminary project boundary that will be adjusted once the effects of the project are better understood.

**McClennen-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System**

Increase Congressional appropriations to address the approximately $180 million in maintenance backlog of MKARNS—50 percent of which are deemed critical—potentially leading to a shutdown of the waterway over the next 5 years, and the White River Entrance Channel Cut-off problem caused by the tendency of the White and Arkansas Rivers to merge together. Provide the necessary appropriations to deepen the MKARNS to its 12 foot authorized depth, thereby increasing barge productivity by 30 percent.

The McClennen-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System was authorized by Congress in 1946 to provide a 300-foot wide channel to the Tulsa Port of Catoosa. Since its inception, it has become a vital shipping channel for Tulsa, linking area businesses to customers around the world.

In order to realize the growth anticipated over the next decade, the 40-year-old McClennen-Kerr waterway must be provided with much-needed maintenance. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have identified an existing critical maintenance backlog of approximately $180 million. The Tulsa and Little Rock districts of the Corps alone have identified 20 key maintenance needs within their boundaries that have a 50 percent probability of failure within the next five years. A failure of just one of these issues will affect or shut down the entire navigational system at a cost of $3 million per day.

At the end of 2016, Congress passed the “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.” This water resources development bill authorizes critical infrastructure across the nation and is a major step forward for the ports and waterways of our state. WIIN gives the Corps the authority to establish public-private funding partnerships that would address the project maintenance backlog, which is critically needed. Nevertheless, funding must still be appropriated, and we continue to support this as a top federal priority for the region.

**McClennen-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS)**

- 2,500 Jobs created by 14 industries at the Port of Muskogee
- $300 Million Economic impact of the nearly 72 companies at the Port of Catoosa
- $68 Million Saved by moving freight by barge on Oklahoma waterways
- 720 Semi trucks replaced by one tow boat through MKARNS

**MCCLELLAN-KERR ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM (MKARNS)**

2 Tulsa Port of Catoosa, “About.” www.tulsaport.com/about/
3 Arkansas-Oklahoma Port Operators Association.
4 Tulsa Port of Catoosa; “About.” www.tulsaport.com/about/
5 Tulsa Port of Catoosa, “About.” www.tulsaport.com/about/
7 Tulsa Port of Catoosa; “About.” www.tulsaport.com/about/
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TULSA’S LEVEE SYSTEM

Support addressing the critical infrastructure needs with Tulsa’s aging levee system, which the Corps of Engineers has designated as one of the 5 percent highest-risk levee systems in the country. If one fails, it would be catastrophic for homeowners, two nationally strategic oil refineries, multiple industries currently protected by the levee system, and have devastating environmental impacts for our region.

The Tulsa-West Tulsa Levee System was constructed in 1945, under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Tulsa County’s levee districts span over 26 miles, combined, and protect more than 6,500 acres of property and 10,000 lives. The infrastructure surrounding the levees relies on their protection in the event of high waters. If a levee were to fail, it would cause more than $1.7 billion in property damage for homeowners, two oil refineries, and multiple industries.\(^1\) It would also have devastating environmental impacts for our region.

Unfortunately, the Corps of Engineers has determined that our levee system is one of the most high risk in the nation, largely due to aging infrastructure and because the design of the system limits its ability to meet Federal Levee Safety Program standards. According to Tulsa County, total preliminary cost estimates for rehabilitation of the system is $34 million.\(^1\)

At the end of 2016, Congress passed the “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act.” This water resources development bill authorizes critical infrastructure across the nation and is a positive step forward for addressing the risks posed by the levees.

WIIN addresses this urgent need by authorizing the Corps to develop a plan for modifying the Tulsa and West Tulsa Levee System. The Corps must provide recommendations for repairing the original levee system to address deficiencies, and funding is prioritized for addressing the highest risk parts of the system under the Levee Safety Action Classification tool developed by the Corps.

\(^1\) Tulsacounty.org, “Tulsa County Levee Districts,” Accessed October 14, 2016.