

2019 State Legislative Agenda

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School Funding

Appropriate incrementally additional funds to meet needs now and in the future for education at all levels (K12, higher education, and career tech) to prepare and grow an educated and skilled workforce to meet the demands of a changing economy and address workforce shortages. With Oklahoma student growth projected to grow by 6% in the next decade, increased funding will promote educational outcomes.

Transportation

Support high-priority Bixby area projects in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation 8-year plan for 2024 completion that includes expanding Highway 64 from 161st to Mingo, and the addition to the 8-year plan of expanding Highway 64 from 111th to 151st to six lanes, with additional lanes for the Arkansas River bridge.

Support completion year of 2021 for US-64 and US -169 interchange improvement.

Support creation of an additional South County Arkansas River vehicle crossing.



Municipal Funding Diversification

Support legislation that removes barriers to allow municipalities to reduce costs, operate efficiently, and diversify sources of revenue available to municipalities for operating 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. *2019 OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda item

Fund Appropriation

Support efforts to reduce amount of dedicated funds in order to increase pool of appropriated fund available to the legislature.

Broaden and Protect Health Coverage

Broaden and protect health care coverage by capturing all available state and federal funds for the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. *2019 OneVoice Regional Agenda item

Worker's Compensation Administration

Support efficiencies within the Oklahoma Administrative Workers' Compensation Act that create cost-effective administrative policies that will continue to lower premiums, decrease case timelines, and provide appropriate benefits to injured workers.

Economic Development 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.

Improve state incentives for high-growth startup, early-stage and small companies through amending existing programs. This could include increasing access to the Small Employer Quality Jobs Program by easing the program's unattainable out-of-state sales requirement. State incentives should support a continuum of growth for companies from inception to established small business. *Adapted from 2019 OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda

Specifically, we recommend maintaining Quality Jobs Programs, the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, Small Business Incubator Tenant Credit, and the Oklahoma Seed Capital Fund.

Support promotion and improvement in marketing of economic development incentives by making adjustments to marketing plans and budgets to increase employer education on incentive programs.

2019 Federal Legislative Agenda

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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 and H-2B visas; and improving H-1B fairness for small and medium employers by lowering application fees, eliminating the lottery-selection process in favor of a needs-based system. Oppose further state legislation related to immigration reform.

Support Federal Infrastructure Investment

Support a comprehensive federal infrastructure funding package, and fully fund authorized federal transportation programs. The economic success of our region and country relies upon the strength of our transportation infrastructure **Adapted from 2019 OneVoice Regional Transportation Task Force item*

Reform Federal Financial Aid

Support the reform of federal financial aid eligibility to improve access to higher education for all Americans. This should include:

- a) Increasing funding and access for the Pell Grant program;
- b) Improve FAFSA outreach and education;
- c) Allow short-term, industry-driven training programs to qualify for federal financial aid and Pell Grants;
- d) Expand student loan forgiveness programs, particularly for graduates in high-demand occupations with workforce shortages;
- e) Simplify and streamline the financial aid application process;
- f) Maintain federal student loan forgiveness programs, increase income-payment plan options, and decrease cost of attendance loan allowances.

**Adapted from 2019 OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda*

Small Employer Health Care Concerns

Support health care reforms at the state and federal level which will enable small businesses to keep health insurance premium costs down and increase the number of insured employees.

Minimize the regulatory burden on small and medium employers under the Affordable Care Act and support efforts to reduce these employers' cost of providing health care. This should include eliminating 1094 and 1095 reporting requirements by employers. **Adapted from 2019 OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda*

Social Security

Support efforts to form bipartisan group to analyze Social Security adjustments and future viability.

Support Funding for Critical Economic Development Programs

Strongly support (or oppose efforts to cut) targeted economic development funding for programs that have proven to be effective and beneficial to the Tulsa Region. These include the Economic Development