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To: RGPPCRGPPC@rgppc.org
Date: 6/22/2016 8:41:12 AM
Subject: RGPPC Policy & Press



REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | June 22, 2016

Taxes and Budget

Baker files interim spending plan as budget talks continue ([AP](#)) – v. Charlie Baker has filed a temporary budget to keep state government running through the end of next month while lawmakers work to come up with a final spending plan. In a letter to the House and Senate, the Republican governor urged passage of the interim \$5.3 billion budget by next Tuesday to ensure the state continues to meet its obligations when the new fiscal year begins July 1.

Energy and Environment

Obama-appointed judge strikes down federal fracking rule ([The Hill](#)) – A federal judge appointed by President Barack Obama struck down the administration's regulation on hydraulic fracturing on federal lands on Tuesday, ruling that the Interior Department does not have congressional authority to regulate fracking. The decision is a major loss for the administration, which worked for years to update its oil and natural gas drilling regulations to account for dramatic increases and innovations in fracking. Judge Scott Skavdahl of the District Court of Wyoming agreed with the arguments of industry groups and a handful of western states that said Congress has expressly forbidden Interior from getting into fracking with a 2005 law, with few exceptions. "Congress has not delegated to the Department of Interior the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing," Skavdahl wrote in his opinion published late Tuesday. "The [Bureau of Land Management's] effort to do so through the Fracking Rule is in excess of its statutory authority and contrary to law."

Transportation and Infrastructure

(South Dakota) Uber coming to Sioux Falls ([AP](#)) – Uber has filed paperwork to become the ride-hailing services in South Dakota's largest city, Sioux Falls. A subsidiary of the transportation network company submitted an application to the Sioux Falls licensing office last week, along with a \$1,500 annual license fee. Last November City Council members approved rules to enable ride-hailing services such as Uber to operate in the city, despite grumbling from taxicab and limousine drivers. In March, Governor Dennis Daugaard signed a bill into law allowing drivers with services such as Uber to operate without commercial license plates and driver's licenses.

Economic Development

Japan's largest steel manufacturer to expand in Indiana, create 70 new jobs ([FOX 59](#)) - Gov. Mike Pence joined officials from Shelbyville for a major jobs announcement Tuesday. "High quality wire is essential to producing nuts, bolts and other fasteners used in cars and trucks to ensure the highest levels of safety," Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation president Hideoki Kimura said. "We chose Indiana and the Shelbyville community for this investment because of the central location, established manufacturing industry and the skilled workforce available." The company plans to start hiring for administrative, customer service and sales positions in January 2017.

Oklahoma receives \$200,000 to expand apprenticeships ([The Shawnee News-Star](#)) - Oklahoma will receive \$200,000 as part of a workforce grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to expand and create apprenticeships. This grant will allow Oklahoma to better integrate apprenticeship into its education and workforce systems; engage industry and other partners to expand apprenticeship to new sectors and new populations at scale; conduct outreach and work with employers to start new programs; promote greater inclusion and diversity in apprenticeship; and implement state incentives and system reforms. "Apprenticeships offer a practical avenue to gain an industry-recognized skill while getting paid," said Natalie Shirley, Secretary of Education and Workforce Development. "In Oklahoma, we're seeing an increase in interest in apprenticeship opportunities in fields such as manufacturing, health care and information technology."

Op-Ed by Gov. Gary Herbert: Utah's strong economy positions state for investments in long-term prosperity ([The Deseret News](#)) – When I became governor six years ago, our nation was in the midst of the largest economic recession since the Great Depression. Unemployment was high and job growth was low. To jump-start our economy, I set the ambitious goal for Utah to become the best performing economy in America. As always, Utahns stepped

up to the challenge. Today, Utah is the home to the nation's best-performing economy. Businesses have created over 219,000 new jobs and our unemployment level is one of the lowest in the country. That performance led to our state winning the equivalent of the economic national championship, the top ranking by Forbes as "Best State for Business and Careers" for the fifth time in six years.

Education

Gov. Snyder signs \$617M Detroit schools bailout ([AP](#)) – Michigan's governor signed a \$617 million bailout and restructuring plan Tuesday for Detroit's public school system, just two years after the Republican agreed to help end the city's bankruptcy. The financially strapped Detroit Public Schools has been managed by the state for seven years, during which time it has continued to face plummeting enrollment, deficits and, more recently, teacher sick-out protests. The district now has roughly 46,000 students. Under the new law signed by Gov. Rick Snyder, the district will be split in two on July 1 and control of the new district will be returned to a school board to be elected in November. A commission of state appointees will oversee that district's finances, similar to how it now reviews the city's post-bankruptcy budgeting.

Christie: Give all school districts same amount of aid, provide some towns property tax relief ([NJ.com](#)) - In a proposal that would drastically overhaul New Jersey's school funding system, Gov. Chris Christie on Tuesday outlined a plan which would give every school district the exact same amount of state aid per student. Christie, in a speech at Hillsborough High School, introduced the "Fairness Formula," which would provide \$6,599 per student for each district, a proposal he said would significantly reduce aid to urban districts while lowering property taxes in many suburban towns. The plan, which Christie is proposing as an amendment to the state constitution, would give 75 percent of school districts an increase in state aid, allowing them to ease the property tax burden on local residents, he said.

Gov. Daugaard to support tech school ballot measure ([The Argus Leader](#)) - Gov. Dennis Daugaard will speak next week in support of a ballot measure that would effectively let tech schools split from K-12 school districts and form their own governing boards. The governor would comment on the amendment at a press conference next Tuesday, according to his Chief of Staff Tony Venhuizen. Advocates of Amendment R say it will allow the institutes the flexibility they need to respond to the state's workforce demands. To promote the amendment, industry leaders are launching a campaign called "R for Jobs – Vote Yes on Amendment R." Technical institutes already have the ability to separate from their school districts, but Amendment R would allow them to do so without falling under the Board of Regents' purview. The goal of the "R for Jobs" campaign is to educate voters on the impact of the amendment.

Healthcare

Kindred Acquires Arkansas Home Health Operations ([Home Healthcare News](#)) - The nation's largest home health care provider has entered an agreement to acquire the in-home health care operations from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) for approximately \$39 million. Kindred Healthcare (NYSE: KND) will acquire the licenses to provide home health, hospice and personal care services throughout the state of Arkansas in the deal, which was agreed upon following a state bidding process. Kindred will acquire ADH's 74 home health locations that currently serve 69 counties in the state, seven offices that provide hospice services to 42 counties and the agency's personal care services business that provides assistance for activities of daily living. "This is a success for the state of Arkansas," Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas, said in a statement. "We are not in the business of competing with the private sector. The Arkansas Department of Health provided an important service while it was necessary, and now private sector companies can fill this need. I am pleased that Kindred Healthcare will continue the excellent work of the ADH In-Home Services program."

(Indiana) Gov.'s task force releases guidelines aimed at combating prescription drug abuse ([WISH TV](#)) - Governor Mike Pence's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment, and Prevention is endorsing a new set of opioid and controlled substance prescribing guidelines for emergency departments. Gov. Mike Pence's office announced the new guidelines Tuesday, which were developed by the Indiana Hospital Association, the Indiana State Medical Association. "Our Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment, and Prevention today takes yet another meaningful stride forward in Indiana's fight against prescription drug abuse as we roll out new guidelines aimed at curbing overprescribed addictive opioids," Gov. Pence said in a press release. "While communities across the Hoosier state and the nation work to address a prescription opioid and heroin epidemic, my administration remains vigilant in addressing the scourge of drug abuse that has brought heartbreak for far too many Hoosier families."

Assisted outpatient treatment gets green light from Governor Fallin ([KOKH](#)) - House Bill 1697, which the Governor held a ceremonial signing for today offers a powerful tool for families. It provides a clear legal pathway if a person suffering with mental illness isn't following their treatment plan. There might then be court order to take their medication and if they don't, they could be hospitalized. "When you have family member that you love but is suffering from mental health illness, this is one of the ways that you can get them help and be able to protect your family," Governor Mary Fallin said. There is a checklist to qualify for assisted outpatient treatment.

GOP unveils plan to replace ObamaCare ([The Hill](#)) - House Republicans on Wednesday released their long-awaited replacement plan for ObamaCare, drawing a contrast with Democrats and setting off a new round of fighting over healthcare policy. The plan repeals ObamaCare and includes a range of standard Republican policy ideas, such as providing a tax credit to help people afford coverage, making Medicare more market-based, and capping Medicaid payments. The Republican plan,

spearheaded by Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), envisions a simpler system than ObamaCare with limited financial assistance and federal spending on healthcare. It allows for less generous “catastrophic” health plans, as opposed to ObamaCare plans, which must cover an array of required elements. “Increasing health coverage is a worthwhile goal, but the law has increased health care costs, reduced access to providers, and restricted patients’ ability to choose the coverage that best suits themselves and their families,” the plan states.