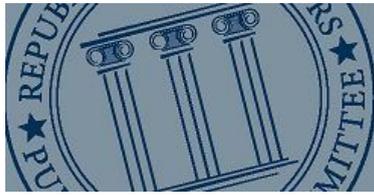


From: RGPPC <RGPPC@rgppc.org>  
To: RGPPCRGPPC@rgppc.org  
Date: 6/29/2016 8:56:24 AM  
Subject: RGPPC Policy & Press

---



## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | June 29, 2016

#### Energy and Environment

Senate spending bill blocks international climate funding ([The Hill](#)) – A spending bill approved by a Senate panel on Tuesday would block American money from going to an international climate change fund, a key Obama administration project. The Senate's \$52.08 billion State Department and foreign operations bill, released on Tuesday, prohibits the federal government from making contributions to the international Green Climate Fund (GCF), a program established to help developing countries cope with climate change. The Obama administration has pledged \$3 billion for the climate fund by 2020, and in March the United States made its first payment of \$500 million into the program. Funding the GCF is a major goal for international climate change negotiators, including those within the administration. The March payment came despite Republican opposition to the Green Climate Fund. The party last year ignored President Obama's funding request for the program and sought to block funding for it unless the Senate got a vote on the Paris climate deal.

#### Transportation and Infrastructure

Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Polito create initiative to reduce car accidents ([WWLP](#)) – A multi-campaign strategy launched by Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito will help address common issues that lead to accidents on the road. Polito told 22News that a series of education and enforcement campaigns will help alleviate many reasons why car accidents occur. "We've asked parents and community leaders and people to be more aware about decision making before they get behind the wheel," Polito explained. Things like designating a sober driver, staying off your phone and wearing a seat belt can help prevent accidents.

#### Economic Development

Transpoint Intermodal LLC breaks ground on \$13.5M Indiana facility ([NBC 33](#)) – A Mexico-based logistics company broke ground on its \$13.5 million cargo transfer facility on Fort Wayne's southeast side. Transpoint Intermodal LLC's first US hub will create up to 64 new jobs by the end of 2019, leaders said. "Here in Indiana, we know that roads mean jobs, and that is especially true for our growing logistics industry," Governor Mike Pence said. "Global companies like Transpoint Intermodal are choosing Indiana for job creation because of our state's central location, our continued investments in infrastructure, and our efforts to create a pro-growth business climate. Across the state, logistics firms are creating quality jobs for Hoosiers while serving customers across the world because Indiana is a state that works."

Nebraska workforce tops one million for first time ([The Nebraska Radio Network](#)) - Gov. Pete Ricketts announces the Nebraska workforce has reached a milestone. "If you go back and look at 2015, for the first time ever, Nebraska had on average a million non-farm jobs," according to Ricketts. "I'll say that again, last year Nebraska averaged across the course of the year a million non-farm jobs. That's the first time that has ever happened in our state." The Nebraska Department of Labor reports the non-farm job count for last year actually topped one million, at 1,006,283. The sector which encompasses trade, transportation, and utilities is the largest private employer, with 206,724 workers. Education and health services ranks second with 149,353 workers. The third largest sector is professional and business services at 117,234 workers. The fastest growth last year occurred within the educational and health services sector, with 131,190 employees in health care and social assistance, which added nearly one thousand jobs last year. In all, Nebraska added more than 13,000 jobs in 2015.

#### Education

(Kentucky) KCTCS offers free dual credit class ([WBKO](#)) – A Kentucky community college announces a dual credit scholarship for high school juniors. Beginning this fall the Kentucky Community and Technical College System will offer a free dual credit class to high school juniors allowing them to earn both high school and college credit hours. The program for juniors aligns with Governor Matt Bevin's new dual credit initiative which provides them the opportunity to take two college courses through the new Kentucky dual credit scholarship. Bevin's goal is for graduates to leave high school with a minimum of nine college credit hours. Providing dual credit opportunities to Kentucky high school students can reduce the cost and time required to get a college degree.

Snyder signs education budget with private school aid ([The Detroit News](#)) – Gov. Rick Snyder on Monday lauded the \$16.14 billion education budget bill he signed into law, but acknowledged \$2.5 million in new aid for private schools in the fiscal year 2017 spending plans faces legal concerns. The education budget is 2 percent larger than the version Snyder signed last year despite revenue projection reductions in May that forced the governor and legislators to scale back some initial spending proposals for K-12 schools, community colleges and universities. “This is an unprecedented investment in our future, in our kids,” Snyder said in a signing ceremony at Geisler Middle School in Commerce Township, where he was joined by students, educators and state legislators.

Governor Dugaard supports 'Amendment R' regarding tech schools ([KSFY](#)) - South Dakotans will see 'Amendment R' on the ballot this fall. If passed, the four tech schools in South Dakota would become their own entities -- allowing the local school boards currently governing them to separate from them. Governor Dugaard made it clear Tuesday afternoon at Southeast Tech that he is in support of 'Amendment R' and the positive impact it could have on tech schools in South Dakota. Where most states established their technical institutes as separate entities 30 years ago, South Dakota has not. The state's four tech schools are part of the local school district they are located in and the State Department of Education. "It would give the Legislature authority to segregate the governing of tech schools away from the K through 12 system or away from the university system and have the governance of the tech schools at the state level -- which exists today but is mixed in with the K through 12 system," said Governor Dugaard.

#### Healthcare

First baby with Zika-related birth defect is born in Florida ([The Miami Herald](#)) - Health officials confirmed Florida's first baby born with a Zika-related birth defect on Tuesday as the number of people infected with the virus this year climbed to 227 cases statewide. The baby is at least the fifth child born in the United States with microcephaly, which causes abnormally small heads and incomplete brain development, as a result of the Zika virus. The mother, a citizen of Haiti, acquired the disease outside of the United States and traveled to Florida to deliver her baby, the health department said. There have been no locally transmitted cases in the United States, though at least four other infants have been born with birth defects to mothers who acquired Zika while traveling outside the country, including cases in Hawaii and New Jersey. Following Tuesday's announcement, Florida Gov. Rick Scott called on the CDC to host a discussion with medical professionals statewide on precautions for new and expecting mothers.

(Tennessee) Department Of Human Services Launches New “Smart Steps” Child Care Payment Assistance Program ([The Chattanooga](#)) – The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) announced the launch of a new child care payment assistance program called, Smart Steps, designed to address the needs of parents who are working or pursuing postsecondary educational goals leading to self-sufficiency. “We are very excited to launch Smart Steps child care payment assistance for parents working or pursuing educational goals in Tennessee,” DHS Commissioner Dr. Raquel Hatter said. “This program is a game changer in supporting the well-being and resilience of families by providing access to affordable quality child care. Participating children will also be enrolled in the Imagination Library. This new category of child care assistance is in alignment with the department's 2G for Tennessee initiative and Governor Haslam's Drive to 55.”

US Medical Schools Expand Training To Curb Painkiller Abuse ([AP](#)) - At first, the woman tried to hide her painkiller problem. She told the doctor that she still had pain from her past pregnancy, and that she just wanted a refill on her pain medication. After a few questions, though, she admitted that a friend had sold her some OxyContin, and that she'd stolen pills from another friend. The interaction was all staged, with the patient played by an actor and the doctor played by a medical student last month. The exercise was part of a daylong boot camp at the University of Massachusetts Medical School designed to help physicians in training identify and fight opioid abuse. Medical schools nationwide are rethinking their training on opioids amid rising overdose deaths. Schools are taking action after critics said they had inadvertently contributed to addiction problems. Federal health experts say that physicians have been prescribing addictive opioid painkillers too often, and that poor training is frequently to blame.

Senate Democrats block Zika agreement ahead of recess ([The Hill](#)) - Senate Democrats on Tuesday blocked a deal providing funding for the fight against the Zika virus, virtually guaranteeing that Congress won't get legislation to President Obama's desk this month. In a 52-48 vote, the Senate fell eight votes short of moving past a procedural hurdle against the House-Senate conference report on a military and veterans spending bill, which includes \$1.1 billion to fund the Zika virus research. Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.) broke with his party and backed moving forward with the deal. GOP Sens. James Lankford (R-Okla.), Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) voted against the Zika deal. McConnell's "no" vote allows him to bring the measure back up for another vote. The vote leaves the current fight over the Zika virus at a standstill with days left before the July 4th recess.