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Date: 8/3/2016 8:47:03 AM  
Subject: RGPPC Policy & Press

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## REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy & Press | August 3, 2016

#### Recommended Reads

Voter ID laws help protect elections: Gov. McCrory ([USA Today](#))- Three liberal Democrat judges who overturned North Carolina's voter ID law previously upheld in court got it wrong, undermining the integrity of our elections while maligning our state. Photo IDs are required to purchase Sudafed, cash a check, board an airplane and even vote at the most recent Democratic convention. North Carolina implemented this common-sense measure to maintain the integrity of honest and fair elections, and joins more than 30 other states that require an ID to vote. Claiming that requiring a photo ID to vote is a denial of constitutional rights based on race is an insult to the ninth-largest state in the nation. Citing limited cases of recorded voter fraud begs the question: If your house has never been broken into, do you still lock the door? The obvious answer is yes, and these false arguments defy reality. These politically motivated attacks may make good headlines. However, we will appeal this erroneous ruling and continue to stand up for common-sense laws that protect the integrity of one person-one vote.

Alabama's immigration lawsuit dismissed ([Montgomery Advertiser](#))- Alabama's lawsuit against the U.S. government concerning the possible relocation of Syrian refugees to Alabama was dismissed July 29 in federal court. In his opinion, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge John Ott granted the federal government's March 8 motion to dismiss the lawsuit, because Alabama's claim was too vague and "fails to state a claim for which relief may be granted." The lawsuit alleged that the federal government did not comply with the Refugee Act of 1980, which states that the federal government must consult with state governments "no less than quarterly" about potential refugee relocation. After the lawsuit was announced, Gov. Robert Bentley said the lack of consultation failed to prepare Alabama for a possible influx of refugees. In a statement, Bentley expressed disappointment in the court's dismissal of the lawsuit. In the statement, Bentley also said his problem was with the government and not refugees.

Thirteen states sue over EPA methane rule ([The Hill](#))- More than a dozen states have sued the Obama administration over a new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule to limit methane emissions at oil and natural gas sites. West Virginia, along with governments and agencies representing 12 other states, filed suit against the EPA on Tuesday, looking to block methane standards the agency released in May. The EPA rule is part of an Obama administration effort to reduce methane emissions by up to 45 percent by 2025. The regulation limits leaks or flaring at new or modified drilling wells around the country. States joining West Virginia's lawsuit include Alabama, Arizona, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Wisconsin. The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet and North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality signed on as well. North Dakota filed its own lawsuit against the methane rule in July.

#### Economic Development

Hollywood spending tops \$2 billion in Georgia, governor's office says ([Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#))- Georgia reached a new record in Hollywood spending in the past year thanks in no small part to summer blockbusters such as "Captain America: Civil War" and popular television series like "The Walking Dead." Gov. Nathan Deal's office said Tuesday that total film spending in the state topped the \$2 billion mark for the first time ever in the 2016 fiscal year that ended July 31. Total filming and other movie and television production expenditures were up nearly 19 percent compared to budget year 2015 and more than seven times the figure Hollywood spent in Georgia in 2008. "Georgia's film industry provides a significant impact on our state's economy, employing thousands of Georgians while developing infrastructure and boosting small businesses," Deal said in a news release. "The film industry has created a home in Georgia, and I am committed to retaining this relationship by constructing a strong, film-ready workforce that will continue to help the industry thrive."

(Georgia) Cork-headquartered Voxpro announce 500 new jobs in US ([Irish Examiner](#))- Cork-headquartered global business outsourcing firm Voxpro has continued its rapid global expansion with the announcement of 500 new jobs in the United States, writes Peter O'Dwyer, Irish Examiner Business Reporter. The company is to invest \$4m (€3.57m) in a new center of excellence in Athens, Georgia which will employ 500 staff by 2020. The announcement was also welcomed by

Georgia Governor who said the State “offers a wealth of resources for an innovative company like Voxpro to grow its business. “Georgia’s top-ranked business climate and highly skilled workforce is critical to attracting international business. We established a strong relationship with Voxpro leadership in Ireland and look forward to the company’s continued investment in Georgia.”

Governor Larry Hogan Announces Youth Apprenticeship Pilot Program Employers ([Press Release Rocket](#))- Governor Larry Hogan today announced that 12 Maryland businesses have been approved as eligible employers designated to provide apprenticeship opportunities to the youth in Frederick and Washington Counties. The businesses submitted applications to the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council to participate in the State’s Apprenticeship Maryland Pilot Program and are poised to accept apprentices this fall. The program requires that eligible employers hire Apprenticeship Maryland participants to enter into high-skill, high-growth STEM related industries such as healthcare, biotechnology, information technology, construction and design, banking and finance, and advanced manufacturing. Frederick and Washington Counties were selected to administer this pilot program which provides high school juniors and seniors with academic and occupational skills leading to both a high school diploma and a State Skill Certificate.

#### Healthcare

Gov. Scott: Florida Remains ‘Safe State’ Amid Zika Battle ([CBS Miami](#))- Florida political leaders said controlling the spread of the Zika virus is doable amid advisories warning travelers to avoid visiting the state. Gov. Rick Scott, at the start of a state Cabinet meeting Tuesday, said it’s important to get the message out that Florida – anticipating a record 110 million to 115 million visitors this year – remains “a safe state.” Late Tuesday afternoon, the Florida Department of Health announced they were investigating a new non-travel related infection in Miami-Dade County. That’s now 15 recorded cases of people being infected by mosquito bites in Florida, with the virus believed to have been transmitted in Miami’s Wynwood arts district.

(Indiana) State won’t appeal order blocking abortion law ([Indiana Lawyer](#))- A federal judge’s order blocking a divisive and restrictive abortion law signed this year by Gov. Mike Pence will not be appealed, Indiana Lawyer has learned. The decision not to appeal at this time effectively punts a decision on a possible future appeal to new state office-holders to be elected in November. “After reviewing the case with our clients and discussing the case procedurally with the plaintiffs, the State has no need to pursue an interlocutory appeal at this point since all the State’s legal rights are preserved,” said Bryan Corbin, spokesman for Attorney General Greg Zoeller. “Instead, the case will proceed on the merits to the final judgment stage, with additional briefing before the same U.S. District Court. The parties will work on proposing a joint case management plan setting forth deadlines for future actions in the case. If there were a final judgment in favor of the plaintiffs, then the State would likely appeal that.”

Iowa Department of Public Health releases new Zika guidelines ([KMA Land](#))- As the threat for locally-transmitted Zika Virus continues to grow in a small area of Florida, Iowa officials are warning citizens to be vigilant when it comes to the disease. The Iowa Department of Public Health issued an updated alert Monday, warning those who are pregnant or thinking about getting pregnant to exercise caution when traveling to Zika-prone areas. Governor Terry Branstad says while locally-transmitted Zika is primarily a concern for more southern states, Iowans need to pay attention to the threat. Branstad says public health officials are continuing to address the problem, both locally and nationally. “We do need to take the Zika Virus seriously,” said Branstad. “They are working in states like Florida where they have had outbreaks. I know the governor and the state are taking their responsibility very seriously. Our department of public health is keeping us informed, and we don’t think there is a direct threat from mosquitoes in Iowa today.”

Ohio to launch new health care initiative ([My Dayton Daily News](#))- The Governor’s Office of Health Transformation will launch a statewide initiative next year designed to improve the quality of primary care with enhanced payments for physicians, while at the same time reducing the cost of care by promoting a more efficient delivery model. The state has partnered with downtown Dayton-based CareSource and four other Medicaid managed care organizations, along with the four largest commercial health plans and a limited number of primary care practices across the state to implement the new Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC) program. When the program is fully implemented in 2018, participating primary care doctors will receive monthly bonus payments of about \$4 per patient, on average, according to Greg Moody, director of the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation, who said the state has budgeted \$60 million in additional Medicaid payments alone in 2018. Moody credited the new CPC program to the leadership of Gov. John Kasich, who in 2011 charged the Office of Health Care Transformation with bringing together payers, providers and other health care stakeholders to set clear expectations for better health outcomes and improve overall health system performance.

#### Good Government

Baker administration scraps hundreds of state regulations in overhaul ([New Boston Post](#))- The Charlie Baker administration is eliminating nearly 15 percent of Massachusetts state regulations and amending at least another 40 percent in a top-to-bottom overhaul aimed at making state government more efficient and business-friendly. The move comes a little more than a year after Baker issued a directive to all state agencies, requiring them to undertake a review of their regulations, with instructions that none should exceed federal requirements. Most of the state’s 1,721 regulations have been reviewed at this point. Out of that total, 249 or 14.5 percent of the total, have already been scrapped or are headed for the regulatory waste bin. Another 726, or 42.2 percent, have already been or are in the process of being amended in some way. State

authorities decided to retain another 561 regulations, equal to about a third of the total. And another 185 regulations are still being reviewed, according to the most recent figures, which were current as of last Friday.

#### Veteran Initiatives

**Florida Now Accepting Active Duty Military Experience When Granting Construction Licensure ([Lexology](#))**- Earlier this year, Governor Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 184, which includes important updates to Chapter 489 and added section 489.1131, Florida Statutes, regarding certain experience requirements and allowances for active members of the military to achieve construction licensure in Florida. As of July 1, 2016, an honorably discharged veteran may use his or her active military experience to satisfy the experience component for initial construction licensure. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) must provide a method by which honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure and they must provide a veteran-specific application. The military experience, training and education received and completed during service in the United States Armed Forces counts toward the experience if it is substantially similar to that which is required for licensure.

**(New Jersey) VIDEO: Homeless Veterans Can Now Receive Public Assistance ([SNJ Today](#))**- New Jersey veterans will now receive priority status for affordable public housing. On Monday, Governor Chris Christie signed a bill that requires the State Division of Housing and Community Resources to consult with the State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide preferential status to vets who qualify for public housing assistance. The hope is that the new law can help get homeless veterans off the street. The measure was unanimously approved by both houses of the state legislature.

**Oklahoma joins hiring program for Army personnel, veterans ([Stars and Stripes](#))**- The Oklahoma Department of Corrections became the first state agency Tuesday to join a hiring program for U.S. Army active duty personnel and veterans. The PaYS hiring program provides soldiers, recruits and members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps a guaranteed interview for potential employment during their time in the Army and after discharging. Although 47 private-sector Oklahoma businesses are program partners, the Corrections Department is the first state agency to use it. Gov. Mary Fallin said 30 percent of Oklahoma's correctional officer positions are vacant and that having an opportunity to employ military personnel will be a way of getting more correctional officers into state prisons. "We want to make sure that our Department of Corrections employees are safe, that our public is safe," Fallin said. "We also have an obligation to keep our inmates safe. "We want to do everything we can to help our veterans be very successful," the governor said.

**New Trail Crew Program to Benefit Wyoming Veterans ([University of Wyoming News](#))**- A new Wyoming Veterans Trail Crew (WyVTC) will begin in 2017 as part of the Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC), which is housed within the University of Wyoming. In partnership with Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources, and Serve Wyoming, WCC has developed funding to create the WyVTC along with four other crews. Gov. Matt Mead last week announced the funding. WCC functions through partnerships with several entities in Wyoming. During the veterans' service in the program, crews travel throughout the state working on trail design, construction and maintenance. They will live and work outside in all weather conditions. The WyVTC will operate throughout the summer and fall. Participants will be provided a living stipend each month and a \$2,887 Education Award at the completion of service. Both the stipend and award receive support from Serve Wyoming -- a governor-appointed commission for AmeriCorps -- through the Corporation for National and Community Service.