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Activists release legislator rankings



Nancy Thomason, founder and president of the Oklahoma Brain Tumor Foundation, speaks Tuesday at the state Capitol about a lack of support for medical patients' rights.

PHOTO BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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State Senate Republican leader Glenn Coffee got the lowest rating in the Legislature on Tuesday from a group tracking legislation that it says involves personal, financial and medical safety of Oklahomans.

Coffee's ranking was 43 percent on legislation monitored by the Oklahoma Foundation for Consumer & Patient Rights. Coffee was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

The foundation unveiled its legislative scorecard at a news conference at the state Capitol.

The lowest rating in the House of Representatives went to Rep. Trebor Worthen, R-Oklahoma City, who received 53 percent.

Worthen did not run for re-election this year, instead becoming a Republican political consultant. He declined comment, saying he hadn't reviewed the information.

Legislation that was part of the scoring system included Steffanie's Law, which would have required insurance companies to pay for routine medical expenses incurred by patients undergoing clinical trials for new treatments. Other bills in this rating included one to prohibit uninsured drivers from receiving noneconomic damages in car wrecks and another to require nursing homes to carry liability insurance.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

Lawmakers ranking high

> **Rep. Ken Luttrell**, D-Ponca City, pictured right, had the only 100 percent score.

> **House Democratic leader Danny Morgan** of Prague scored 87 percent.

> **Senate President Pro Tem Mike Morgan**, D-Stillwater, scored 90 percent.



The bottom two



> **SENATE:** Senate Republican leader **Glenn Coffee** received the lowest rating in the Legislature: 43 percent.



> **HOUSE:** The lowest House rating went to **Rep. Trebor Worthen**, R-Oklahoma City, who got a 53 percent rating.

AT A GLANCE

Parents, attorney speak

At the news conference were people who worked on some of the legislation that was part of the scorecard.

> **Monty Collings** discussed Steffanie's Law, which was named after his daughter, who died shortly after the bill passed the Senate last session. It was not considered by a committee in the House. Although his daughter died, he still is working on this legislation.

> **Nancy Thomason**, who founded the Oklahoma Brain Tumor Foundation after her young son died of a brain tumor, said 23 states have laws similar to Steffanie's Law.

> **Guy Thiessen**, a Tulsa attorney, said the House wouldn't consider a bill requiring nursing homes to carry liability insurance. He said the protection of Oklahoma's elderly should be of concern to lawmakers.

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