

SCORECARD

HOW THEY VOTED

Following is a scorecard of how Edmond-area legislators voted on key issues as identified by OKWatchdog for Edmond Sun readers. OKWatchdog is a nonprofit consumer and patient advocacy group. Its mission is to inform the public and encourage grassroots efforts to improve patient safety. The opinions expressed about the legislation are formulated by OKWatchdog's board of directors. More information may be found at www.okwatchdog.org.



Raymond

Raymond Jolley is a nonprofit consumer and patient advocacy group. Its mission is to inform the public and encourage grassroots efforts to improve patient safety. The opinions expressed about the legislation are formulated by OKWatchdog's board of directors. More information may be found at www.okwatchdog.org.

HB 1483

Summary: This bill makes Oklahoma's water needs take precedence over other demands.

Vote: Passed Senate and House, awaits governor's action.

Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Our take: These necessary protections are partly in response to a lawsuit filed by Dallas and Tarrant County, Texas, seeking a permit for Oklahoma water. This bill will protect Oklahoma's water interests without denying the state the ability to provide water outside its borders. Oklahoma may serve as a water source for neighboring states, but this bill should ensure that its own needs are adequately addressed first.

HB 1603

Summary: This bill changes the state's civil justice system, including a \$400,000 "soft cap" on

noneconomic damages, restricting joint and several liability and establishing a medical malpractice indemnity fund.

Vote: Governor signed.
Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye

Our take: Although this compromise bill is a huge improvement over its previous incarnation, it's still anti-consumer and does nothing to improve health care quality, cost or transparency. Oklahoma taxpayers shouldn't be called upon to bail out negligent doctors. More attention needs to be paid to patients and policyholders' interests before real reform will come to Oklahoma.

SB 822

Summary: This bill creates an 11-member task force to review health insurance mandates.

Vote: Governor signed.
Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye

Our take: A review of mandates isn't necessarily a bad thing; however, as is often the case, the deck is stacked because of who will serve on the committee. Two words for this task force's recommendations: "Foregone conclusion."

SB 135

Summary: This bill provides requirements to become a licensed behavioral analyst.

Vote: Governor signed.
Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Rep. Marian Cooksey: Aye

Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye
Our take: Although a step in the right direction in addressing autism by increasing the number of therapy providers, this bill doesn't do anything to make their services affordable. Hopefully we're not training therapists who will leave Oklahoma.

HB 1424

Summary: This bill requires anyone who is seeking a zoning change involving multiple housing units to mail written notices to registered voters who live within a quarter-mile of the affected area.

Vote: Governor signed.
Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Our take: This bill came about after Tulsa homeowners were blindsided by an attempt to build a housing complex for the mentally ill nearby. As the bill's author, Rep. Eric Proctor, said, the law is a victory for homeowner and neighborhood rights.

SB 1138

Summary: This bill creates penalties for those who are impaired by alcohol or other substances and have children in vehicles.

Vote: Governor signed.
Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Our take: According to Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Oklahoma is the 40th state to enact child-endangerment DUI laws. If you've been drinking or

are impaired, you shouldn't drive, and you certainly shouldn't have children in the car.

HB 1021

Summary: This bill eliminates noneconomic damages for uninsured motorists.

Vote: Governor vetoed.
Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Our take: When someone is injured in a wreck that isn't their fault it has nothing to do with whether they have car insurance. If increasing the number of insured motorists is the goal, lawmakers need to make sure current laws are adequately enforced. This bill has no effect on the number of uninsured drivers.

HB 2013

Summary: This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to adopt rules for online car insurance verification and prohibits charging fees when police respond to accidents.

Vote: Governor signed.
Sen. Todd Lamb: Aye
Sen. Clark Jolley: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Rep. Ken Miller: Aye
Rep. Lewis Moore: Aye
Rep. Jason Murphey: Aye

Our take: This consumer-friendly law bans "accident taxes." Oklahomans shouldn't have to pay twice for something they've already funded through taxes.

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Jolley heads to South Korea for exchange program

Sen. Clark Jolley, R-Edmond, has been selected by the American Council of Young Political Leaders as a delegate to the Republic of Korea for a 10-day political study program beginning June 5. Jolley will join five other young political leaders from across the United States to study the South Korean political system, engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships.



Jolley

"I am honored to represent ACYPL in South Korea," Jolley said. "This will be a chance to better understand the current political and social dynamics there and help people there better understand the United States. With a significant American military presence in the region, this will be an invaluable experience to promote mutual understanding and respect for each others' political cultures."

Jolley joined other delegates in Washington, D.C., on Thursday for briefings by the U.S. Department of State and the Korean Embassy before flying to Seoul on Friday. The program will provide the delegates opportunities to travel within the country and interact with rising local and national leaders, business communities and civic groups.

Since 1966, the American Council of Young Political

Leaders has conducted bilateral exchanges in order to promote awareness and understanding of the common problems, opportunities and challenges that face the international community. Notable Oklahoma alumni include Rep. Tom Cole, Gov. Brad Henry, Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn Coffee, former Senate President Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor, U.S. District Judges Joe Heaton and Vicki Miles-LaGrange and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Robert Henry.

"I'm quite honored to be included in such a list of distinguished Oklahomans who have represented our people and culture so well," Jolley said. "From what I've been told by ACYPL's executive director, Oklahoma has consistently been a leading state in participating in these diplomatic exchanges. Our state should be proud of its contributions in not only sending delegates, but hosting foreign participants as well."

ACYPL receives partial funding from the U.S. Department of State and has been endorsed as an important source of education on key foreign policy issues for rising American and foreign political leaders.

ACYPL delegates are chosen from a competitive, bipartisan field of candidates who are between the ages of 25 and 40 and have exhibited strong leadership during their careers in public or private service. For more information, visit www.acypl.org.

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