

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 2074.

Senate Bill 2074 represents a step in the wrong direction. By rewriting the formula for prescription drug reimbursement, the state is further inserting itself into the marketplace to pick winners and losers.

Just as concerning, this policy functions as a hidden tax, one that will ultimately be passed on to Oklahoma families, employers, and small businesses through higher premiums and increased healthcare costs. As evidenced by the number of veto requests from major Oklahoma employers, including ONG, OneOK, American Fidelity, American Airlines, Koch Industries, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma, Hobby Lobby, the State Chamber of Commerce and the OKC Chamber of Commerce. In addition, if this legislation became law it would cost the Oklahoma Health Care Authority more than \$11 million dollars. What may appear as targeted relief for one segment of the healthcare system will, in practice, increase financial pressure across the entire system.

While the intent to support rural healthcare is commendable, this approach does not address the root issues. Instead, it imposes a one-size-fits-all solution to an already complex system. We need all stakeholders to come to the table and negotiate a solution that supports rural healthcare while preserving market flexibility and protecting Oklahoma families and businesses from increased costs.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 2074.