



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**  
Joshua Harlow  
joshua@jonesprinc.com  
(405) 516-9686

**ARAWC SALUTES OKLAHOMA ELECTED LEADERS**

***Efforts Result in Competitive Options for Workers Compensation and Employee Protection***

**OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.** (September 15, 2015) – The Association for Responsible Alternatives to Workers’ Compensation, a national organization advocating for improved options for employee recovery applauds all of the elected leaders in Oklahoma for their strong commitment passing much needed reforms that include options to workers’ compensation, which are reaping huge benefits for workers in Oklahoma.

Since state workers’ compensation reforms that created the Oklahoma Option were enacted in 2013, workers’ compensation rates have fallen for three consecutive years. The Oklahoma State Chamber calculated those savings at \$368 million to the state of Oklahoma over the past three years.

“We expect to see rates continue to drop as this happens in competitive markets,” said Brenda Barwick, ARAWC spokesperson. “The Oklahoma Option companies and the state-run workers’ comp system are working competitively and innovatively to provide better products for businesses and greater protection for employees and their health.”

The Oklahoma Option protects the employee by mandating that they receive at least the same benefits as traditional workers’ compensation. What’s happened is the vast majority of workers covered by injury benefit plans are eligible for higher levels of wage replacement benefits than they would receive in workers’ compensation. By providing more employee communication and accountability in a competitive marketplace, the Option ensures injured employees receive expedited medical care for faster recovery, better medical management and treatment by the best medical doctors. It also results in fewer benefit claim disputes.

“Competitive options to worker’s compensation are both efficient and fair to workers and employers alike,” Gov. Fallin said. “Competitive options to workers’ compensation help strengthen Oklahoma’s growth and economy.”

Commissioner Doak added, “We have created an opportunity to bring new jobs from non-opt out states to our workforce, given businesses an affordable alternative to the existing administrative

workers' compensation system, and brought a new level of efficiency and care to Oklahoma's injured workers.”

Oklahoma's elected officials have once again shown that they are innovators by passing and implementing the workers' compensation Option. The benefits are clearly evident, and other states should be encouraged to follow Oklahoma's strong lead in making their workers' compensation system the best it can be, and by passing legislation on a free-market, competitive Option.

**About Association for Responsible Alternatives to Workers' Compensation**

The Association for Responsible Alternatives to Workers' Compensation is national organization formed to advocate for a system that will deliver better medical outcomes to injured workers and give employers a choice in how they will manage employee benefits. ARAWC was formed in 2014 and advocates before state legislatures to allow employees and employers to benefit from an Option, as some states already allow. For more information visit [www.arawc.org](http://www.arawc.org).

###