

Oklahoma teachers press lawmakers for tax plan to end strike

OKLAHOMA CITY (Reuters) - Thousands of Oklahoma teachers packed the state Capitol on Monday to press the Republican-dominated legislature to enact a capital gains tax overhaul that educators said could help end a statewide walkout now in its second week.

During a rally filled with live music and speeches, the teachers called for increased spending for an education system where inflation-adjusted funding per student dropped by 28.2 percent between 2008 and 2018, the biggest reduction of any state, according to the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

"We are asking them to fully fund the future and create sustained revenue," said Jenni Morrison, 37, a teacher from Edmond who has been at the Capitol every day since the strike began on April 2.

Public schools serving about 500,000 of the state's 700,000 students were closed on Monday. That includes Oklahoma City and Tulsa, which said they would close again on Tuesday.

[More Information](#)

Will Virginia finally do the right thing for 400,000 people desperate for health care?

Watch this, America. A state may be about to do something common sense, bipartisan and even humanitarian to take care of its people. It could still fall apart, as it has before. But Virginia's lawmakers appear to be on the verge of insuring about 400,000 low-income residents by expanding Medicaid after years of refusing to do so.

Remember, Virginia is a place where thousands of people queue up before dawn on one weekend every summer to get free treatment from volunteers who turn livestock pens into medical crash units at the Wise County Fairgrounds because people are so desperate for care.

It's a scene I visited four years ago when the Remote Area Medical clinic was the only hope for folks with bleeding gums, black lungs, oxygen tanks and broken backs to get treatment.

[When medical care means a cot in a cow pen and the mercy of volunteers]

The rural county still hosts this clinic every year and what unfolds looks like refugee camps in war-ravaged countries. At midnight before the clinic opened that year, 1,204 people were already in line. And it wouldn't have been necessary if the Commonwealth had expanded access to the federal health-care program for the poor.

[More Information](#)

What It's Like Living Without Health Insurance in America

Forced to choose between paying bills and having health coverage, many Americans are risking it and going without.

Last week, Bloomberg News told the story of three families without health insurance. We also asked readers to share their own stories as we spend the next year following people who are "risking it."

The response was overwhelming. More than 3,000 people from across the U.S. filled out our questionnaire and shared their challenges, and how their decisions have affected their health and financial well-being.

Some can't afford to insure their children. Others are seeking cheaper care abroad. Some older adults are counting down the years until they qualify for Medicare.

While these people are among the 27 million Americans who remain uncovered despite the large expansion of health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, their stories transcend politics, reflecting tough kitchen-table decisions about health care faced by many families.

[More Information](#)

Mental health crisis isn't about guns. It's about Trump & GOP gutting Medicaid: Kennedy

Donald Trump and Republicans are trying to gut Medicaid and its role covering treatment for mental illness. That's the real mental health crisis.

"A mental health problem at the highest level," President Trump said after a shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas left 26 parishioners dead. "Mental health is often a big problem underlying these tragedies," House Speaker Paul Ryan said after a gunman killed 17 students and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

If Republican leaders are talking about mental health, it's generally for one reason — to avoid talking about guns.

By any measure, the claim that mental illness is to blame for gun violence is false. The United States does not have a disproportionate number of people suffering from mental illness, but we do have a disproportionate number of guns, mass shooters and deaths by firearm. Only 3% to 5% of violent crimes are committed by mentally ill people, and they themselves are roughly 10 times more likely to be the victims of violence than the general population.

[More Information](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 1
[Easter Sunday](#)
and [April Fool's Day](#)

April 3
[Sexual Assault Awareness Day of Action](#)
[More Information](#)

April 5
[National Alcohol Screening Day](#)
[More Information](#)

April 6
[Addiction Severity Index Update OKC, OK](#)

April 7
[World Health Day](#)
[More Information](#)

April 11
[Drug Utilization Review Board Meeting OKC, OK](#)

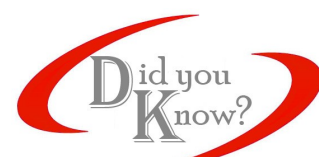
April 13
[Thomas Jefferson's Birthday](#)
[More Information](#)

April 16
[Teen Addiction Severity Index OKC, OK](#)

April 17
[Mental Health First Aid Adults Sallisaw, OK](#)

April 26
[Housing First Training OKC, OK](#)

April 27
[Mental Health First Aid Youth OKC, OK](#)



APRIL is

- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- National Minority Health Month
- Alcohol Awareness Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

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ThinkHealth was recently added to Capterra's Top Mental Health Software Products list and we need your reviews!

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Clinician Activity Training
Treatment Planning/PA's
CEU Available

[Click Here](#) to register

Its that time again!
The 25th Annual
Children's Behavioral
Health Conference!
Save the Date
The Embassy Suites Hotel
& Conference Center,
Norman, OK, May 1-3 2018
We can't wait to see you at
our booth!

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National Alliance on Mental Illness



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