OFFICE OF

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

No. HJR 1095

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., June 8, 2012

TIME SIGNED: 4:02 PM

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SECOND SESSION OF THE
FIFTY THIRD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1095:

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED House Joint Resolution 1095.

House Joint Resolution 1095 disapproves an Oklahoma Department of Health rule that I previously approved on February 8, 2011. This rule requires all licensed home care agencies to offer an annual, on-site influenza vaccination to all employees. HJR 1095 disapproves this provision, thereby preventing the rule from taking effect.

This regulation protects our most vulnerable population – the ill and the elderly – from a serious and preventable disease. Research indicates that vaccination rates for health care workers in all settings rarely exceed 40%. The failure of home care employees to get vaccinated puts already ill patients at risk of contracting influenza from their health care workers. While implementation of this program will create some limited expense for home care agencies, this expense is significantly less than the cost of treating influenza. There is also a cost savings realized through the improved productivity of a healthy work force. Lastly, this requirement will likely reduce legal liability for small businesses because it will reduce the likelihood of health care workers infecting their patients with influenza.

I stand by my previous decision to approve this rule because it is good public policy and beneficial to our business community and the citizens of Oklahoma.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

By Collette A Hamilton

Date/Time 6/8/12 4:23pm

RECEIVED

JUN 0 8 2012

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

4:45 p.m.