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1889 INSTITUTE: END “QUALITY JOBS” PROGRAMS

The legislature added yet another Quality Jobs program in the last session.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (June 8, 2021) – The 1889 Institute has published “Oklahoma’s ‘Quality Jobs’ Programs,” the most recent installment of the Institute’s Corporate Welfare Directory. The paper makes it clear that the state’s tax so-called quality jobs programs are yet another unnecessary corporate welfare scheme. With the passage last session of the Oklahoma Remote Quality Jobs Incentive Act, four programs subsidize high-paying jobs while other Oklahomans, including those without health insurance, pick up the gap in the tax tab.

“Just like the aerospace engineer subsidies we’ve previously written about, these programs force other Oklahoma businesses and everyday taxpayers with lower incomes and less in benefits to fill in tax holes the programs create,” said Byron Schломach, director of the 1889 Institute and author of the report. “Oklahoma’s policy makers have fallen into the injustice of redistributing to those with higher incomes, justifying it with the idea that others can eat the crumbs from the tables of the privileged,” he said.

Schlomach acknowledges that the state’s Incentive Evaluation Commission (IEC) recommended keeping the quality jobs programs in one of its reports. “Unfortunately, the IEC has apparently conceived its mission as justifying poor policy rather than being critical of it. We find out every day that so-called experts appointed and/or paid by government are not the best arbiters of truth,” Schlomach said.

In an earlier publication, the 1889 Institute devised a series of yes/no questions for determining if a particular policy could be considered corporate welfare. According to the report, the quality jobs programs meet every corporate welfare criterion.

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About the 1889 Institute

The 1889 Institute is an Oklahoma think tank committed to independent, principled state policy fostering limited and responsible government, free enterprise and a robust civil society. The publication, “Oklahoma’s ‘Quality Jobs’ Programs” and other reports can be found on the nonprofit’s website at www.1889institute.org.