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### Tax collections and budgets are already at historic lows.

• We have yet to restore cuts made during the recession to education and other critical services. This year's budget is \$572 million below five year ago after inflation. Now we are facing a \$188 million shortfall.

• Oklahomans are suffering because of state budget cuts. We have too few foster families for neglected and abused kids, students crammed into overcrowded classrooms, understaffed and unsafe prisons, rising tuition and fees, and more. The Share of Personal Income Oklahomans are Paying in State Taxes is Near a 30-Year Low



# Tax cuts proposed by Oklahoma lawmakers would do little to nothing for average Oklahomans.



Average Tax Cut Per Household From reducing top income tax rate to 5 percent

• Middle-income families would get just \$29 per year.

• Two out of every five Oklahoma families would get no tax cut.

• One-fourth of the tax cut would go to a few Oklahomans already making more than \$1 million per year.

Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (www.itep.org) | Oklahoma Policy Institute (www.okpolicy.org) | February 2014

## Slashing the income tax is not a path to prosperity.

#### Oklahoma already does better than most states with no income tax.

#### Unemployment Rate, December 2013

South Dakota	3.6%
Wyoming	4.4%
New Hampshire	5.1%
Oklahoma	5.4%
Texas	6.0%
Florida	6.2%
Alaska	6.4%
Washington	6.6%
Tennessee	7.8%
Nevada	8.8%

• States without the income tax have higher property tax and sales tax. This shifts the tax load onto seniors, farmers, and low- and middle-income families.

• Families and businesses need the investments made possible by the income tax. "If our ability to educate and train employees for a 21st century economy is damaged through lack of funding, if we can't maintain our roads and bridges, strong health care system, robust research and technology infrastructure, safe streets, etc., then the benefits of a reduction in the income tax rates may be limited." - Chris Benge, former Republican House Speaker and VP of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, now Gov. Fallin's Secretary of State

## **Oklahomans Agree...**

Do you support tax cuts that will leave Oklahoma with \$125 million less to fund services such as education, public safety, and health care?



Tax cut boosters offer the false promise of a free lunch — that we can cut taxes without paying for it with other tax increases or cuts to services. These are empty political promises that defy common sense.

## What You Can Do:

- Contact Lawmakers
- Engage Your Community
- Join the Grassroots Movement



Find out more at www.togetherok.org or e-mail us at info@togetherok.org.