



Dear Neighbor,

I want to thank you for the honor of representing you in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Two years ago, when you sent me to Oklahoma City, I promised to stand on Three Core Principles while representing you at the State Capital.

These include:

Faith - I do my very best to ensure that the decisions I make are based upon God's Word.

Family - The family unit is the basis of any healthy society, and I promise to fight for a Biblical definition of the family.

Life - The protection of human life is the highest law in our founding documents. All lives must be protected, from the unborn to the elderly.

As your representative, I have been true to these promises and have been recognized as the **Most Conservative Freshman House Member** for 2015 and 2016.

You can count on me to fight for our families and smaller government. Whether it's protecting the unborn, defending state sovereignty, voting against tax increases, protecting your right to keep and bear arms or fighting to reduce the size of bloated government, you can count on me to make the **conservative** choice - I am a Reagan Conservative.

This last session we faced a \$1.3 billion shortfall. As your representative, I contributed to numerous budget discussions where diverse viewpoints were debated. We compromised on a budget that **reduced the size of government** and provided extra funds to Medicaid so that our nursing homes and hospitals would not see devastating cuts that would have impacted the most needy.

Many people are not aware that education receives over 50% of the appropriated budget, so in a year where we had a massive budget shortfall it takes tremendous commitment to maintain education funding. Making matters worse, we experienced two revenue failures that triggered across the board cuts. Your legislature **provided K-12 schools with \$51 million of emergency appropriations to immediately help our schools.**

A passion of mine has been to find out why is it so difficult to give our teachers a pay raise. Through my research, I felt led to look at the definition of a teacher. Here is what I found:

Old Definition Prior to 2016 Legislative Session: "Teacher' means any person who is employed to serve as district superintendent, principal, supervisor, a counselor, librarian, school nurse or classroom teacher, or in any other instructional, supervisory, or administrative capacity, is defined as a teacher." (Emphasis added) Because this definition was so broad, it was almost impossible for the Legislature to direct money to classroom teacher salaries.

This past spring, the definition was changed so that teacher raises go to classroom teachers and not administrators or support staff.

New Definition: "Teacher' means any person who is employed to serve as a counselor, librarian or classroom teacher or in any other instructional capacity."

Finally, I was part of a small group of legislators who met throughout session to find creative ways to **solve the high stakes testing problem**. Many of you shared that over-testing was your number one problem and am happy to say that I responded by helping to develop and co-author legislation to lighten the states mandatory testing requirements.

Because of my passion for our young people, I have invested significant time to broaden my understanding of the complexities of education, no small task, but well worth the effort.



Angela and I are very grateful for your prayers, support and friendship. We have been faithful to **take Conservative Values, rooted in the Word of God, to the Oklahoma Legislature** and as this journey continues, I promise to stand for these same conservative values. [That is why I am asking for your vote this November.](#)

Oklahoma is an amazing place to live and I would not want to call anywhere else home. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. By working together I know we will continue to grow our state's economy and find solutions to the challenges that lie ahead.

In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Strohm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

[I will be working on detailed charts and graphs that are outside the scope of this newsletter. If you are interested, please visit my web site or follow on Facebook for more info.](#)

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(Paid for by Friends of Chuck Strohm)