

COSTELLO MEDIA RELEASE

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COSTELLO COMMENDS HOUSE FOR REJECTING PAY HIKE

OKLAHOMA CITY – Labor Commissioner Mark Costello commended the House of Representatives for rejecting HJR1093 today which recommended a six percent pay increase for judges and elected officials. This action taken by the Legislature will save the courts and various state agencies an estimated \$2.7 million in salary and benefits.

Costello stated, “I commend the Legislature for taking action so quickly and rejecting the proposal by a vote of 87-1. I still would like to see a freeze on elected official’s salaries at current levels for the next 10 years. We are public servants and need to set the standard for austerity.”

Costello continues to initiate cost savings within the Oklahoma Department of Labor. To date, the agency has saved the taxpayers more than \$415,000 during 2011 by applying a business approach to streamlining agency’s processes, improving financial procedures, and increasing efficiencies. Commissioner Costello returned 15% (\$15,750) of his salary to the state and currently refuses a state car and drives to all events at his own expense. “This is the type of action taxpayers expected when they spoke in November 2010, not a backdoor pay increase for politicians in 2012,” concluded Costello.