

AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM DAVID BOREN

Dear Fellow Oklahomans,

I am writing to you as a concerned private citizen.

It is time we asked ourselves some basic questions: Who are we as a people? What kind of state do we want? What kind of state do we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren?

A few months ago our state government asked businessmen and women across our state a question: What will bring higher paying jobs and more investment to Oklahoma? The resounding answer was: Invest more in achieving excellence in education.

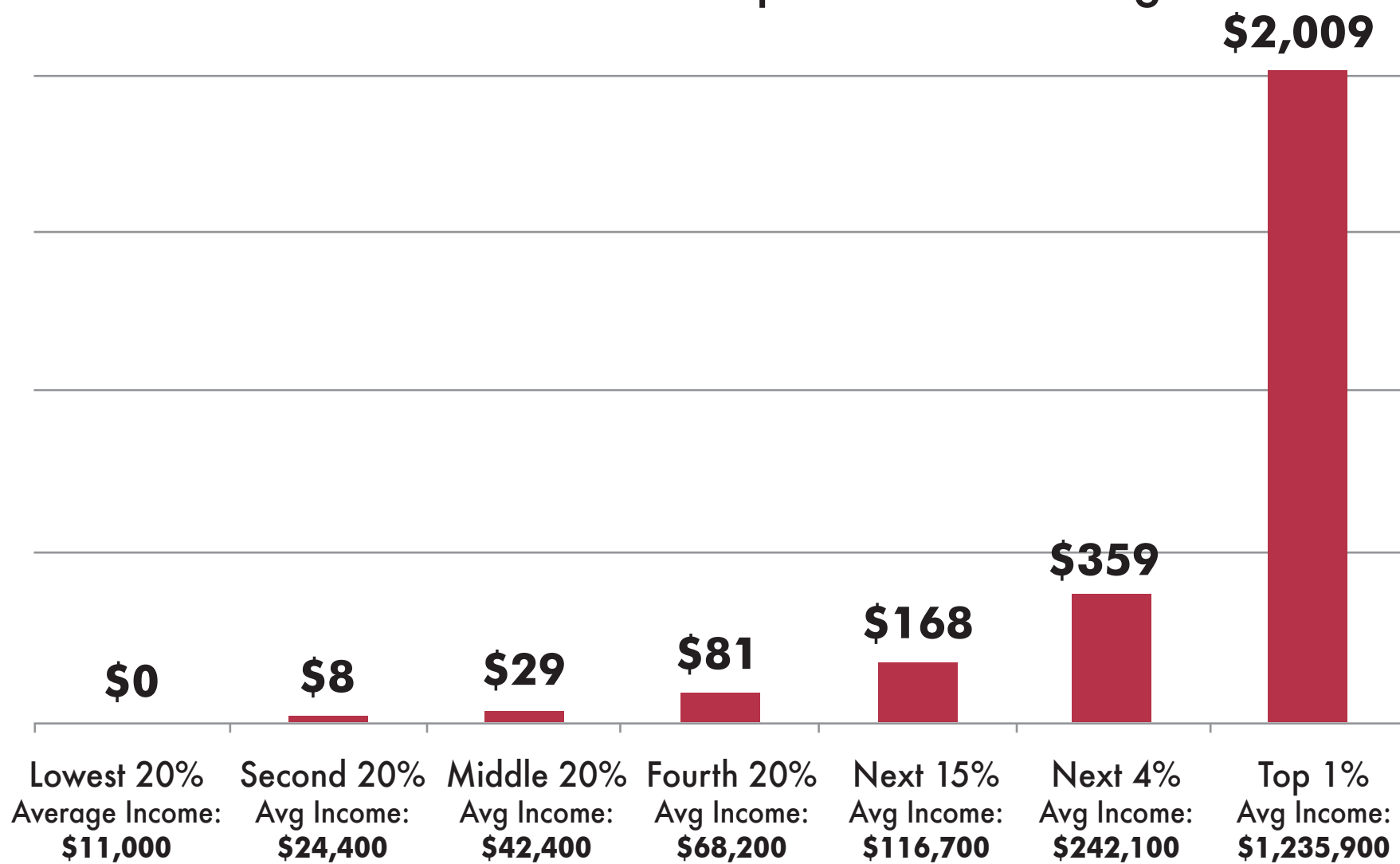
Is our state investing its resources in this critical area? The answer is **NO!** We rank near the bottom nationally in what we invest in education. We spend less on schools and colleges and universities than we did in 2008. Under the proposed budget, we will continue to invest less in education per student than any of the states that surround us – Texas, Kansas, Colorado, Arkansas, Missouri and New Mexico. This budget must be changed! We are on the wrong path.

One of the questions we need to ask ourselves is: Can we afford another tax cut when it would cut vital state services? It is not only schools and colleges that are damaged. What about bridges like the one being closed between Lexington and Purcell? What about overcrowded prisons that are ticking time bombs?

Who will get this proposed tax cut? Is it fair? Is it worth hurting education more? As the chart below demonstrates, 60% of Oklahomans would get \$2.50 or less per month!



Average Tax Cut Per Household Per Year Under the Proposed State Budget



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (www.itep.org) | February 2014

I am among those who would receive a larger financial benefit. Some of the most generous and community-minded citizens in our state fall into that category. Like me, they would rather the money go to vital services, especially those which benefit Oklahoma's children.

I am proud to be an Oklahoman. In national surveys over many years Oklahomans have been ranked at or near the top in generosity. Oklahomans are not greedy. Oklahomans are unselfish. Oklahomans believe in fairness. Oklahomans believe in giving opportunity. We are as willing as our parents and grandparents to make sacrifices to help our children and others who deserve our help. It is our turn and we as Oklahomans are ready to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

David Boren

(Paid for by David Boren personally as a private citizen)