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Bus promoting small businesses makes a stop in Oklahoma City

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A nationwide bus tour is highlighting hurdles facing small businesses.

On Sept. 30, members of the Job Creators Network went face to face with business owners and Governor Mary Fallin in Oklahoma City. Job Creators Network president Alfredo Ortiz spoke with owners about solutions to common problems they face.

"About 56 million hard working Americans are dependent on the success or failure of that small business," Ortiz said.

Small businesses make up 97 percent of employers in Oklahoma. They say what is really hurting them is overtaxation and regulations. Governor Fallin said she's working to keep taxes low to put money back in their pockets to reinvest in their business.

"They may be buying another truck or adding an additional line for capacity or hiring one more head," Ortiz said.

Oklahoma is battling another issue. They are one of 20 states in federal lawsuit challenging the US Depart-

ment of Labor's new overtime rule, which doubles the salary-level threshold for employees to be exempt from overtime. Starting December 1 all employees are entitled to overtime pay if they earn less than \$913 a week, including state and local government employees.

"It is going to impact every single employer...From churches to non-profits to small businesses. It doesn't matter," Ortiz said.

Gov. Fallin says it will have a costly impact on business.

"For an employee of a small business it could mean that they're employer may take them off salary and put them on hourly and they may lose their benefits and health care," Gov. Fallin said.

She also said that people could lose their jobs.

"It's also a cost burden on the employers because their costs are going to go up and be a little more unpredictable," Gov. Fallin said.

The bus continues to 19 other states to talk to governors.

