

2022 Key Legislative Issues



Our Top Priorities

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MODERNIZATION

- **Oppose government mandates that prevent businesses from making autonomous decisions about vaccination requirements for employees.** Employers are in the best position to determine what's best for their workforce, whether that's mandating or not mandating vaccines.
- **Support increasing incentives for attracting remote workers to Indiana to help mitigate the projected losses to its workforce over the next decade (due in large part to Baby Boomers retiring and a lower workforce participation rate).** Such state and local-based incentives should be carefully designed to provide a return on investment and include participation from local communities and employers. In addition to incentivizing remote workers to move to Indiana, lawmakers should codify language clarifying that employers of remote workers are eligible for Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) tax credits if the individuals are Indiana residents but do not work in a physical office location.
- **Support measures to promote entrepreneurship in Indiana.** Several goals could be achieved during the legislative session that could spur gains in this area, including an expansion of the venture capital investment tax credit eligibility, a focus on promoting entrepreneurship among youth (via access to grants, curriculum, etc.) and opening pathways to create start-up businesses for those who are under 18 years old and/or from underserved populations such as the formerly incarcerated and residents of rural areas.

EDUCATION / WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Support measures to enhance early childcare access and quality.** This can be done through streamlining existing state regulations (not related to health and safety) and providing incentives for providers to enhance program quality. The lack of affordable, high-quality childcare across Indiana is one of the outside factors most negatively impacting attracting and retaining workers.
- **Support strengthening college and career readiness for Indiana students.** This can be achieved with a three-pronged approach:
 1. Alleviating the business liability burden for students under 18 years old who participate in work-based learning experiences.
 2. Strengthening graduation pathway requirements and more seamlessly aligning these expectations within Indiana's high school diploma options.
 3. Creating potential for members of the business community to serve as adjunct (part-time) faculty at area K-12 schools, which allows professionals to maintain their careers while supplementing local education options – particularly in high-need subject areas.

ENERGY / ENVIRONMENT

- **Support a statewide standard that would remove certain siting barriers for renewable energy sources.** Currently, there is a patchwork of regulations that are set at the local government level. This has proven to be a hurdle for Indiana's diversifying energy portfolio and costly for both residential and business energy consumers.

TAXATION / PUBLIC FINANCE

- **Oppose any substantial change to the structure of the Indiana Tax Court as an independently operating judicial court of special jurisdiction.** The Court is designed to adjudicate tax controversies and establish and maintain a consistent body of law in the area of tax.
- **Support maintaining and enhancing our attractive tax climate.** Business personal property continues to be the tax area in which Indiana stands out most negatively. We need to find a way to reduce what is among the largest overall business property tax burdens of any state – and do so without harming our overall attractive tax structure. The Chamber supports phasing out the application of the 30% depreciation floor, which applies to all personal property assessments.

TECHNOLOGY

- **Support expansion of research and development, manufacturing, testing and deployment of electric vehicles (EVs), which represent the future of the transportation industry.** By 2025, EVs will account for 10% of all vehicle sales globally and are expected to increase to 58% by 2040, with the largest growth projected to occur in North America. Indiana's history of automobile manufacturing and supply chain participation perfectly positions the state to be on the leading front of attracting EV manufacturing, talent and investment.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

- **Support a cap on reimbursement for ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs).** The cost savings received from tying ASCs' worker's compensation reimbursement rates to Medicare will provide an amount for increased benefits without a subsequent increase in employer rates.