

2023 Key Legislative Issues



Our Top Priorities

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MODERNIZATION

- **Support** the creation of a state workforce retention/talent matching fund. This will help mitigate the projected losses to the Hoosier workforce over the next decade and bolster local efforts to attract high-wage individuals and their families.
- **Support** establishing an infrastructure matching fund. It's important to ensure state and local governments have the necessary resources to compete for one-time funds made available by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- **Support** a notably increased appropriation for the Indiana Destination Development Corporation that puts Indiana more in line with competitor states. This is necessary for Indiana to aggressively compete to attract and retain talent, graduates and visitors.
- **Support** measures to promote entrepreneurship in Indiana. Entrepreneurship creates job opportunities, fosters innovation, increases standard of living and improves the economy.

EDUCATION / WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Support** efforts 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** targeted financial incentives that promote graduate retention and employer investment in work-based learning, employee training that results in industry-recognized credentials and overcoming systemic workforce participation barriers (i.e., childcare, housing and transportation). A majority of Indiana jobs come from small- and mid-sized businesses that need support competing for and cultivating Hoosier talent.
- **Support** strengthening college and career readiness expectations/opportunities for Indiana students. Indiana has a talent and quality worker shortage that is leaving too many positions unfilled. Two actions that would help with career prep is to automatically enroll eligible students in state's 21st Century Scholars program and create "diploma plus" funding incentives for high school graduates to earn a postsecondary credential concurrently with a diploma.

ENERGY / ENVIRONMENT

- **Support** development of a statewide energy plan. The 21st Century Energy Policy Development Task Force that was created by the Indiana General Assembly has met for the last four years and discussed many important energy topics; it's time to take action. The Indiana Chamber strongly urges the state to develop an energy plan that will enable the managed transition to reliance upon a more diverse group of energy sources, including clean coal, natural gas, nuclear, renewables, storage, biomass and North American petroleum.

HEALTH CARE

- Support expanding the scope of practice for low-level providers that would increase access to care. The Indiana Chamber urges an examination of the scope-of-practice laws that govern mid-level providers and determine whether policy changes could facilitate a safe increase in primary care practitioners.

TAXATION / PUBLIC FINANCE

- Oppose shifting local government tax burdens disproportionately from residential property to other property classes. The Tax Foundation places Indiana second in the nation for property tax structure. Property tax reform that benefits one group of taxpayers at the expense of another weakens our competitive advantage.
- Support measures to increase affordable housing in the state. One of the factors most negatively impacting talent attraction and retention efforts of employers is the cost of housing.
- Support a state and local tax deduction (SALT) cap workaround to put Indiana on par with surrounding states. Adopting elective pass-through entity level taxes to decrease or eliminate the impact of federal law restricting the SALT cap would be favorable and help maintain Indiana's attractive tax climate.

TECHNOLOGY

- Support consumer data protection. In the absence of federal action, the Indiana Chamber supports legislation that strikes a balance between consumers' data protection and business use. In today's data-driven economy, it is beneficial to codify expectations regarding the management of consumer data.