

CENTRAL KENTUCKY REGIONAL POLICY GROUP

Key Federal Priorities

Healthcare Reform

The Central Kentucky Policy Group remains concerned about the negative impact of health care reform on Central Kentucky businesses and the competitiveness of the region's health care economy including hospitals, doctors, insurers and other health care providers. We urge the Kentucky federal delegation and Administration to support comprehensive reforms that enable both large and small business and their employees to have increased access to quality, affordable and dependable health care and insurance coverage.



Comprehensive Tax Reform

We support tax reform that will foster job growth, increase competitiveness, and attract investment and innovation. We support a streamlined tax system that will allocate taxpayer dollars more effectively and make it easier for businesses to create jobs regardless of size. We support lowering the corporate income tax rate, the mortgage interest deduction and remained concerned about the proposed Border Adjustment Tax (BAT) and its impact on businesses and consumers.

Comprehensive Regulatory Reform

We support commonsense regulatory reform that restores accountability, transparency and public participation in the rule making process across all federal agencies. We also urge Congress and the Administration to engage in a thorough review of existing regulations MOU's, MOA's and guidance documents across all agencies, specifically those involved in regulating commerce, to identify policies that need to be clarified, eliminated or modified to increase economic competitiveness for businesses.

Access to Capital

We support the Financial CHOICE Act that provides more accountability from Washington and Wall Street, ends bank bailouts, reduces obstacles to credit and capital, gives consumers more credit and savings options, frees small business from unnecessary regulations, creates a level playing field for banks of all sizes, and demands for greater oversight of the Federal Reserve and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

We support simplifying and enhancing student aid programs, ensuring accurate measurements of student success and reducing regulatory burdens. We support Pell Grant Program funding that fully funds the discretionary base award in FY 2018, ties to inflation and allow students to receive Pell Grants for a total of 14 full-time equivalent semesters.

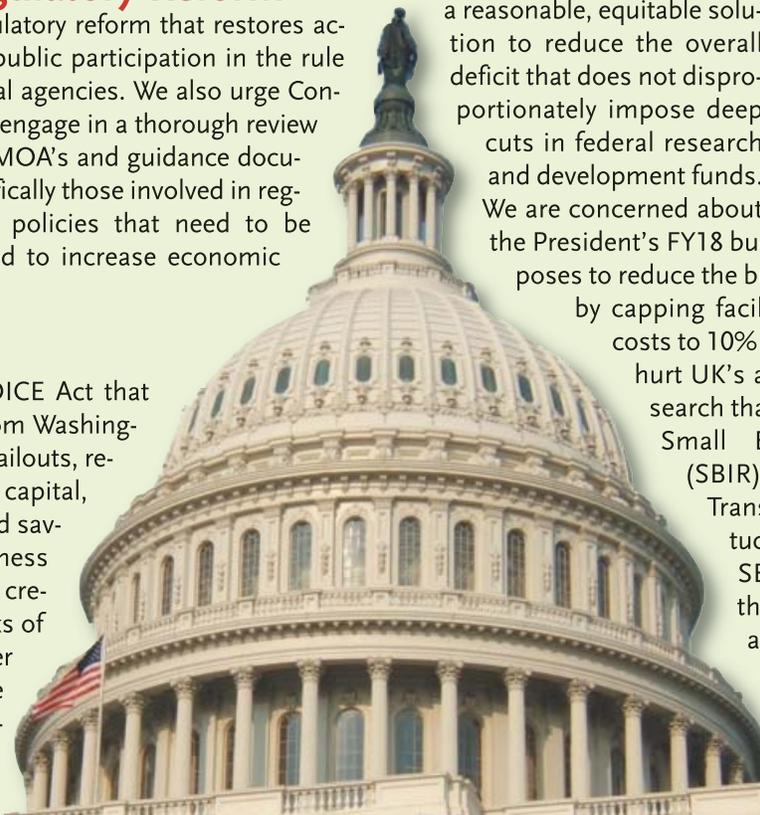
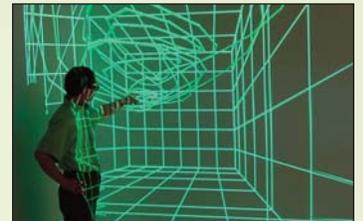


Reauthorize Perkins Career & Technical Education Act

We support maintaining program flexibility, allowing community colleges to address local needs, while strengthening CTE programs. We support enhancing student pathways that promote college and career readiness and strengthen ties between community colleges and local businesses. Reforms should reflect current practices, including: dual enrollment; work experiences; stackable postsecondary credentials.

University of KY: Federal R&D Funding

We support the development of a reasonable, equitable solution to reduce the overall deficit that does not disproportionately impose deep cuts in federal research and development funds. We are concerned about the President's FY18 budget proposal for NIH, which proposes to reduce the budget by \$7.2 billion (21%) in part by capping facilitates and administrative (F&A) costs to 10% on NIH awards. These cuts would hurt UK's ability to conduct cutting-edge research that saves lives. We also support the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant programs. Kentucky offers the most comprehensive SBIR/STTR assistance program in the nation. These grant programs are valuable components to central Kentucky's ability to attract and grow technology-oriented small businesses.



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Transportation Investments

We support long-term funding solutions that increase investments in transportation systems and infrastructure to improve economic development. We also support the inclusion of funding for necessitated utility infrastructure costs required by public improvement projects to avoid local utility customers disproportionately bearing costs associated with public improvement projects benefitting the public at large.

FAA Reauthorization

We support a long-term FAA Reauthorization bill that provides stable funding for the commercial (Blue Grass Airport) and the 3 general aviation airports vital to the local economy.



45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credits

We urge support for short line railroads through a permanent 50 percent 45G tax credit to increase their investments by upgrading and expanding capacity and a review the U.S. Surface Transportation Board's proposed regulations and ensure the preservation of a balanced regulatory system.



Curbing the Drug Epidemic

We support funding for health related anti-opioid programs including the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), the 21st Century Cures Act, justice and law enforcement related programs and veterans' anti-opioid programs. While the recent Centers for Disease Control prescribing guidelines for chronic pain represent a welcome step forward, we also encourage Congress and the Administration to continue to review the health care system and implement policy reforms to help prevent addiction.

Support Kentucky's Bourbon Industry

We support policies that allow the bourbon industry to retain its competitive advantage in the global marketplace, including supporting trade policies that open new markets and tax policies that will alleviate the tax burden on one of Kentucky's premier industries.



Horseracing Integrity Act & Market Access Program

The Central Kentucky Policy Group supports national medication standards for Thoroughbred horseracing including laboratory standards, testing requirements and penalties. These uniform standards will create a level playing field and ensure confidence, safety and integrity across the industry. We also support the USDA Market Access Program (MAP) that enables U.S. agricultural trade associations, cooperatives, state regional trade groups and small businesses to share the costs of overseas marketing and promotional activities that help build commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural products and commodities.



Protect Kentucky's Low Electricity Rates

Kentucky's low electricity rates are seriously threatened by proposed regulations on carbon emissions, electricity generating facilities that use coal, and new regulations on Kentucky's mining industry. We are very concerned the proposal to reduce carbon emissions nationally by 30 percent by 2030 will do tremendous harm to Kentucky's economy without significantly changing global carbon emissions. We urge the Kentucky delegation to continue to monitor the implementation of the proposed rule changes to section 111 (b) and 111 (d) of the Clean Air Act.



Support Workforce Investments

Although the implementation of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) is an important step forward, we encourage continued support of workforce development funding and reforms to align and improve existing programs through the local and regional partnerships between employers and educators to meet the needs of students and employers.

Support Defense Economy

We urge the Kentucky delegation to remain aware of the need to work across state and federal agencies in efforts to strategically plan for Bluegrass Station and the sustained economic development of Blue Grass Army Depot and the surrounding region after the chemical demilitarization project is complete in 2026. As a defense-industry-centric facility belonging to the Commonwealth, Bluegrass Station continues to need city, state, and federal interagency cooperation in finding solutions for national missions.