

2019 State Issues Agenda

Pension Reform

We urge support for continued efforts to reform the public employee pension systems to ensure long-term financial solvency and improve Kentucky's economic competitiveness. We support structural changes that provide equitable retirement benefits for new hires that more closely resemble those available in the private sector. We also support reforms that lessen impacts on local governments and do not cripple their ability to provide essential services.

Continued Tax Reform

We support modifications to recent tax reform efforts to improve the business climate, such as repealing unintended consequences on non-profits and repealing the mandate for unitary combined reporting. We urge continued reforms to improve Kentucky's competitiveness and improve economic growth while providing necessary revenues for critical public services. We support local control options that provide more flexibility to local governments to tailor tax policies to local conditions.

Skilled Workforce

The top concern for employers continues to be accessing a qualified and skilled workforce. We urge the Legislature to review existing workforce development funds and programs to ensure state and federal resources are being utilized effectively to meet employer and worker needs.

Opioid & Drug Abuse

We urge the Legislature to continue to address the illness of addiction by expanding prevention and treatment capacities. We encourage officials to direct state and federal funds efficiently and effectively, using evidence-based approaches. We also urge increased accountability and transparency over how funds are being utilized through outcome-based reporting and committee hearings.

Transportation Infrastructure

We urge the Legislature to find long-term solutions to ensure sufficient, sustainable and reliable funding for transportation projects critical to economic development. We support a funding distribution model that is more equitable to areas with greater road use and modernizing the method for funding to reflect changes in use.

Economic Development Incentives

We support strategic investments in incentive programs that encourage the growth of high wage jobs, long-term investment in target industry sectors, small businesses or other significant economic development projects that demonstrate a clear return on investment and would not otherwise occur without the incentive. These include the: Kentucky Business Investment program (KBI), Kentucky Enterprise Initiative Act (KEIA), Kentucky Reinvestment Act (KRA), Kentucky Investment Fund Act (KIFA), Kentucky Angel Investment programs, SBIR/STTR matching program, and workforce training programs.

Broadband Deployment

Similar to surrounding states, we support tax exemptions to incentivize expanding or upgrading broadband networks or build-out grants to aid the private sector in deployment of last mile service to underserved areas.

Legal Liability Reform

Frivolous lawsuits increase costs for healthcare consumers and providers and hurt Kentucky's ability to retain and attract physicians. We support legislation to address the escalating cost of healthcare including a Constitutional Amendment to permit the Legislature to address medical liability reform.

Ensure Affordable Energy

We support legislation that ensures the costs to support and maintain infrastructure are allocated fairly among all users. Outdated policies adopted to incentivize new technologies, such as distributed solar generation, should be re-examined.

Unemployment Insurance Reform

We support reforms to the unemployment insurance benefit structure to keep costs and benefits competitive with other states and increase workforce participation.

Clarify Arbitration Statutes

We support clarifying Kentucky's arbitration laws to ensure that private business can continue with the common practices of arbitration agreements.

