

2024 Kentucky General Assembly

WHERE WE STAND

NKY Chamber's Legislative Priorities

Building Greater Economic and Workforce Prosperity in Kentucky

The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce supports initiatives that enhance Kentucky's ability to have a prosperous economic and workforce climate, positioning us more competitively with neighboring states. We urge the General Assembly to invest in talent growth, attraction, and retention measures and continue efforts toward a fair, simplified, pro-growth tax code and critical infrastructure investments.

DEVELOP A BOLD STRATEGY TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN IN-DEMAND WORKFORCE

Develop a comprehensive state marketing plan focused on attracting and retaining skilled talent that aligns with Kentucky's most in-demand positions, reversing population decline trends, and ensuring that Kentucky grows at a rate competitive with peer states. Enact legislation granting reciprocity to individuals with credentials and licenses earned in other state. Also allow legal immigrants who are authorized to work in the United States the ability to pursue professional and occupational licenses in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE RESOURCES

Support efforts to create a stronger alignment of workforce programs and resources throughout KY, provide greater flexibility in regional workforce programming and funding, and recognize each region's unique challenges. Maximize utilization of transitional benefit programs to address the benefits cliff that can be a barrier for low-income families and consider additional resources for job seekers faced with barriers to employment, including language education services and workforce support for individuals with histories of justice involvement and substance abuse disorders.

INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Continue building a more reliable infrastructure for childcare that improves access, affordability, and quality. We need a system that enables parents to work, children to thrive, and our local economies to grow. Investments in early childhood education will improve workforce outcomes, in both the short-term and long-term, for the entire Commonwealth.

ADVANCE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Creating more attainable housing options and investing in robust road and transportation systems are vital to a successful workforce ecosystem and an improved economy.

We applaud the work of the General Assembly for its historic investment in the Brent Spence Bridge and other projects of regional significance. We encourage full funding for the critical regional projects in the six-year road plan, such as the completion of KY 536 and investments to support ongoing state road maintenance in NKY. Additionally, we ask lawmakers to explore innovative ways to develop housing of all types across the Commonwealth and ensure local housing stock is specific to the regional needs of its workforce.

EXPAND CAREER READINESS

Continue to support Kentucky's K-12 and post-secondary education ecosystems, which are needed to deliver quality results for students and employers. Continue encouraging student experiential learning and work-based training programs while reducing barriers to meaningful opportunities. Focus should be placed on high-demand workforce sectors and post-secondary education paths.

PROMOTE BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES

Policies and practices that lead to reduced smoking rates will lower collective healthcare costs, improve workforce productivity in both the public and private sectors, and enhance statewide workforce outcomes.

Address the growing mental health care provider shortage by supporting the creation of new residency, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training programs.

CONTINUE BUILDING A COMPETITIVE AND SIMPLIFIED TAX CODE

Continue the gradual shift from income-based to consumption-based taxes while guarding against taxes levied on business-to-business services that would add another layer of costs to job creation. Support simplified pro-growth tax policies that improve the competitiveness of Kentucky businesses in the national and international markets.