

2025 Kentucky General Assembly

BUSINESS ADVOCACY LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

NKY Chamber's 2025 Legislative Priorities Overview

Driving Workforce Growth for a Thriving and Sustainable Region

The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to fostering strong businesses and a thriving economy to enhance the region's quality of life. The 2025 legislative agenda reflects these priorities, focusing on inclusive workforce talent attraction and retention strategies, tax reform, economic development, infrastructure, education, health care, and energy policy. Crafted by regional business leaders with input from members and policy councils, it is a strategic guide to achieving this mission.

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 competitively. Enact legislation granting reciprocity to individuals with credentials and licenses earned in other states. Also, allow legal immigrants authorized to work in the United States to pursue professional and occupational licenses in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

ADVANCE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A thriving economy demands forward-thinking investments in infrastructure, including income-aligned housing, energy, water, sewer, broadband, cybersecurity, roads, and all modes of transportation. We commend the General Assembly's support of the Brent Spence Bridge project and strongly advocate for full funding of KY 536 and other key road projects. With the rise of electric vehicles and evolving federal regulations, it's critical that Kentucky embraces innovative strategies to build infrastructure that meets future needs.

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.

STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE RESOURCES

Support efforts to create a stronger alignment of workforce programs and resources throughout Kentucky, 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 involving the justice system and substance use challenges.

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 for the entire Commonwealth in the short and long term.

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. A focus should be placed on high-demand workforce sectors and postsecondary 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.