The Chamber
The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

Better Business. Better Community.

www.ChamberBloomington.org
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2014 Legislative Agenda

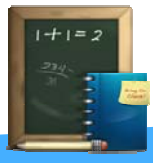
As the voice of business, The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce has identified legislative priorities that encourage economic development, innovation and strategic growth.



BUSINESS TAXATION AND REGULATION

Foster a pro-business climate to attract and retain businesses in Bloomington and Indiana

- Support the repeal of the medical device tax
- Support comprehensive tax reform efforts that lessen tax burdens on business
- Encourage regulatory reform efforts that lessen burdens on business and restore Congressional accountability in the rulemaking process
- Support a local option for exemption of personal property tax on new business machinery and equipment
- Support policies that empower businesses to attract and retain a world-class workforce



EDUCATION

Create educational opportunities to ensure an intelligent, high-skilled workforce

Preschool and K – 12 Education

- Emphasize importance of funding for early childhood education, preschool, and kindergarten
- Improve the school funding formula to focus on equitable per pupil funding and multiple student count days
- Promote the importance of STEM-related programs & career training
- Encourage development of entrepreneurship programs & vocational training for technical fields to develop a qualified workforce

Higher Education

- Encourage institutional innovation and flexibility to best meet student needs
- Encourage federal lawmakers to help close the innovation deficit by decreasing the gap in needed/actual federal investment in research



HEALTHCARE

Promote education and awareness opportunities that help local businesses manage their health care costs

- Educate members on developments of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Educate members on the plan(s) in the Federal Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace as details emerge (~Nov. 2014)
- Support continued enrollment in the Healthy Indiana Plan and continued waiver for and expansion of the plan in 2015



INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and maintain a superior state and local framework that supports the needs of business

- Prioritize ongoing construction and funding of I-69 , focusing on planning and design of Section 5
- Promote and protect Crane as a primary regional job provider
- Support policies that incentivize investment in rural telecom for gigabit connectivity
- Support development and implementation of a strategic water resource plan



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVANCEMENTS

Ensure local services are delivered with the most effective and efficient administrative structure

- Support measures to increase accountability, transparency, and effectiveness of government at the local level