

2015 Legislative Agenda



**The Greater
Bloomington
Chamber of
Commerce**

A century of better business, better community

1915-2015

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 at the federal level
- Support federal 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

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 public school funding formula to focus on increased equitable per pupil funding and fix historical inequities
- 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 and 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) and the Federal Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP)
- Support continued enrollment in the Healthy Indiana Plan and continued waiver for and expansion of the plan in 2015

INFRASTRUCTURE & JOB CREATION

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

- Prioritize ongoing construction and funding of I-69
- Encourage the passage of a fully-funded, long-term federal transportation bill
- 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