

The Small Business Advocacy Council (SBAC) is laser-focused on formulating and fighting to pass policies that support small businesses and local communities. The SBAC's 2023 agenda includes legislation that will support small businesses struggling to hire and retain employees and stabilize the costs of health insurance. The SBAC is also advocating for bills that will increase transparency and level the playing field for small businesses vying for government contracts. Our agenda includes the following legislation:

**CHILD CARE  
 TAX CREDIT  
 SB 1444 &  
 HB 3950**

Small businesses are struggling to hire and retain employees. This is one of the most pressing concerns for small businesses in Illinois. An Illinois childcare tax credit will support small businesses while bringing people struggling with the costs of childcare back into the workforce. SB 1444 & HB 3950 establishes a \$700 per child tax credit for families in Illinois for joint filers that earn less than \$75,000 and single tax filers that earn less than \$50,000. Credit phases out at \$25,000 over the income threshold.

**HEALTH  
 INSURANCE  
 SB 1912**

The health insurance premiums of small businesses are skyrocketing. Many small businesses are having difficulty affording the cost of health insurance and premium increases are impacting the ability of small businesses to hire and retain talent. SB 1912 will protect small businesses unable to control the costs of increasing health insurance premiums while leveling the playing field for the small business community. SB 1912 will give the Illinois Department of Insurance the authority to take a more active role in reviewing and approving rate increases for small businesses. This legislation will help prevent small businesses from being hit with excessive premium increases while ensuring information is provided to the public that explains the reason insurance premiums continue to increase.

**PROCUREMENT  
 BIDDING  
 REFORM  
 SB 2192**

Small businesses play a critical role in Illinois' economy. Helping small businesses receive their fair share of state procurement contracts is important for job creation and the success of the state's small businesses. SB2192 would require the chief procurement officer for each state agency that rejects four consecutive bids from a small business to provide that business with a written explanation of the reasons the four bids were rejected. The explanation would be submitted within the same quarter that the fourth bid was rejected.

**TRANSPARENCY  
 BILL  
 HB 2368**

Each year Illinois awards government contracts to businesses. These contracts cover everything from construction projects to professional services. Small businesses that drive our economy often have difficulty competing for these government contracts. The same is true for minority and women-owned businesses. House Bill 2368 will increase transparency among agencies that award government contracts. This will help the public assess whether state agencies are meeting their goals and how tax dollars are being spent on government contracts.

**REDUCE  
 VACANCIES IN  
 LOCAL  
 COMMUNITIES**

Commercial properties that remain vacant for unreasonable periods of time negatively impact local economies and public safety. Prolonged vacancies can devastate neighborhood business districts. Property owners in Cook County can seek a reduction in their property taxes when their properties are fully or partially vacant. Reducing vacancies in neighborhood business districts will support and revitalize neighborhood business districts throughout Cook County. Let's transform vacant properties into thriving small businesses.