



2020 Legislative Agenda

Legislative Statement for the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

On behalf of the 750+ members and more than 43,000 employees that comprise the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, the Government Relations Committee shall advocate for reasonable, well researched and debated legislation that is favorable to businesses; complements economic development initiatives; encourages Free Enterprise; and, continues to elevate the business competitiveness of the Lynchburg region.



STEM Academy: The Alliance **supports** a line item or per pupil funding support for the STEM Academy's expansion.

Graduate Medical Education: Graduate Medical Education encompasses a residency (at least 3 years in length) that all physicians must complete before becoming a fully licensed physician. There is a deficiency of residency positions to accommodate all medical school graduates. In Virginia, there are only about 500 residency positions for over 800 medical school graduates. There are 16 hospitals in the tobacco region that can help start residency programs; funding is needed to help.

Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant: the Alliance **opposes** converting the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant from a benefit for all of Virginia's students to only those with a particular level of financial need, as well as decreasing the dollar amount per grant recipient. The Alliance supports an increase in grant dollars per recipient.

Public/Private Higher Education Congruency: The Alliance **supports** policies in education that do not neglect private institutions of higher learning from receiving similar grant or funding opportunities.

Energy Costs: The Alliance **opposes** policies and regulations that increase energy costs for businesses.



Insurance: The Alliance **opposes** "Medicare for all" programs.

Association Health Plans: The Alliance **supports** Association of Health Plans' proposals.

Central Virginia Training Center: The Alliance **supports** efforts of a re-development plan for the Training Center to determine the highest and best use of the property, and calling for allocated funds from the Commonwealth to begin clearing the site for remediation.

Broadband: The Alliance **supports** increases in funding and investment for broadband development, and, an "all of the above" technology approach (including Fiber and Fixed Wireless technology solutions) for broadband infrastructure projects, regional collaboration between the various government entities to ensure continuity for development, as well as efforts that quicken and ease the ability to acquire public private partnerships.



Mandated Paid Leave Programs: The Alliance **supports** businesses providing their own employee benefit for Paid Leave Programs, instead of a mandated policy by the Commonwealth that increases or creates additional taxes, financial and regulatory burdens.

Minimum Wage: The Alliance is dedicated to advocating for policies and incentives that foster an environment whereby wages are prone to increase; however, the Alliance **opposes** mandates for increasing the minimum wage outright.

Right to Work: The Alliance **opposes** laws or regulations that undermine Virginia's Right to Work status.

Simplification: The Alliance **supports** proposals that simplify the tax code and reduce the cost of compliance on businesses and individuals.

Incentives: The Alliance **supports** incentives to promote business expansion and economic growth.

Independent Contractors: The Alliance **supports** the current qualifications and iteration of the Independent Contractor tax status, as well as the "Sharing" and "Gig" Economy (Uber, Lyft, GrubHub etc.).



Air Service Expansion, Lynchburg: The Alliance **supports** expanding air service for the Lynchburg region, and flexible amendment language that will allow for either just the City of Lynchburg, and or additional municipal partners, to form an Independent Airport Authority.

Rail Service, Town of Bedford: The Alliance **supports** a feasibility study for timely expansion of passenger rail to the Town of Bedford.

Policies Not Considered: Any legislative position the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance takes that is not specifically identified in this document is reviewed by the Government Relations Committee, under the direction of the Legislative Guiding Statements, and Alliance staff as prescribed in the Committee Policies and Procedures.



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