



**LYNCHBURG REGIONAL
BUSINESS ALLIANCE**
— Chamber & Economic Development —

2021 Legislative Agenda

On behalf of the 750+ members and more than 43,000 employees that comprise the 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.

EDUCATION

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

Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant: The Alliance **supports** the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant. The Alliance **opposes** converting the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant from a benefit for all of Virginia's students to one that is needs-based.

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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Central Virginia Training Center: The Alliance **supports** efforts of a redevelopment plan for the Training Center to determine the highest and best use of the property, realistic transition of the property, and disposition of the bonds.

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

ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

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

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.

HEALTHCARE

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

Association Health Plans: The Alliance **supports** Association of Health Plans' proposals. The Alliance continues to **support** proposed benefits consortium bills.

Mandated Paid Leave Programs: The Alliance continues to **support** 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.

TAXATION

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

TRANSPORTATION

Air Service: Due to the unprecedented impact the Coronavirus pandemic has had on Virginia's commercial service airports, the Alliance **supports** the efforts of the Virginia Airport Board (VAB) and the Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) to increase funding for airport incentives, marketing and tourism programs.

Infrastructure: Building on the successes of the 2020 Session, the Alliance continues to **support** the Commonwealth's commitment to address road, rail, bridge, and other infrastructure needs. Including, the impending study conducted by JLARC on transportation infrastructure and funding.

WORKFORCE

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. The Alliance **supports** delaying the implementation of the minimum wage increase until the economy improves.

Right to Work: The Alliance **opposes** laws or regulations that undermine Virginia's Right to Work status, including Fair Share or any other initiative that compels employees to pay union dues as a requirement of employment.

DOLI Regulations: The Alliance **opposes** making the temporary COVID-19 mandatory workplace safety rules permanent.

Business Liability: The Alliance **supports** business liability protections and civil immunity for employers who take good faith efforts to follow government guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

***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 by Alliance staff, as prescribed in the Committee Policies and Procedures.*