

TOP 3 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Healthcare: *Association Health Plans* – Supporting the establishment of benefit consortium bills which offer affordable and accessible healthcare plan options for both employers and employees, such as through SB 195 (Sen. Mason) and HB 884 (Del. Byron).

Status: Passed, process of implementation begins July 1, 2022.

Education: *Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant* – The Alliance continues to strongly support the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant, increased per student award amount, and expansion to include on-line education and those focusing in health profession at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Status: Passed, residential students (1st Yr) \$4,500, (2nd Yr) \$5,000. On-line in-state students are half the residential student award. Graduate health profession student awards are equal to residential student awards.

Economic Development: *Central Virginia Training Center* – the Alliance is a key strategic partner and vocal advocate of the CVTC Master Redevelopment plan. State Senator Steve Newman submitted a \$25 million budget amendment to defease the remaining bonds on the Training Center site. The Alliance fully supports its inclusion in the 2022-2024 Biennium Budget.

Status: Passed, \$25 million included in the budget to defease remaining bonds on CVTC!

2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA WINS

Economic Development: *Incentives* – The Alliance supported several initiatives to promote business expansion and economic growth, including HB 186 (Del. Campbell), HB 269 (Del. Byron), HB 324 (Del. Williams Graves), SB 685 (Sen. Mason), and a huge win with SB 28 (Sen. Marsden). These bills include funds to support a program through the VEDP's Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, major business facility job tax credits, shipping and logistics headquarters grant program, and the investment of \$150 million into the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Fund.

Energy & Infrastructure: *Broadband* – The Alliance supported action for local broadband development, such as HB 1265 (Del. Subramanyam), to direct the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop a plan to address broadband affordability and equity.

Healthcare: *Mandated Paid Leave Programs* – The Alliance is opposed to any mandated Paid Leave Program, such as SB 1 (Sen. Boysko), which was carried over to the 2023 General Assembly session. The Alliance does support businesses providing their own employee benefits, such as Private Family Leave Insurance, HB 1156 (Del. Byron) and SB 15 (Sen. Favola).

Workforce: *Right-To-Work* – The Alliance opposes laws or regulations that undermine Virginia's "Right-To-Work" status, such as HB 1220 (Del. Clark), which was stricken from the docket by unanimous vote in the House Rules Committee.

DOLI Regulations – The Alliance supported the repeal of the permanent COVID-19 mandatory workplace safety rules.

CONTINUED ON THE BACK...

2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA LOSS

Workforce: Minimum Wage – The Alliance supports the repeal of minimum wage mandates which would allow businesses to recruit, retain, and incentivize employees appropriate to their industry and labor market. Legislation, such as SB 173 (Sen. Peake), to pause or repeal the mandated increase of the minimum wage failed to pass during the 2022 Session. We believe the market should drive growth and appropriate compensation for employees.

2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA THROUGH THE BUDGET PROCESS

Several public policy issues the Alliance advocated for this year were addressed through the budget process. These include:

Transportation: Issues such as expanded air service, rail service, VDOT SMART SCALE weighting. VDOT funding was increased by \$686.4 million NGF FY 2023 and \$864.7 million in NGF in FY 2024 reflecting the revised December CTF forecast, and the increased formula funding anticipated under the IILA.

Taxation: Almost \$4 billion in tax relief to Virginians, including the elimination of the 1.5% state's share of the grocery tax, almost doubling of the state standard deduction to \$8,000 for single filers and \$16,000 for joint filers, additional tax rebate of \$250 for single filers and \$500 for joint filers.

Mental Health: Funding in the budget for a Regional Crisis Center that will serve Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell counties and the City of Lynchburg. This will serve to remedy issues like long waits in emergency departments and relieving law enforcement from monitoring temporary detention orders (TDOs).

Education: Historic increases in K-12 funding, including \$3.2 billion in direct aid, 10% increase in teacher pay, \$1.25 billion towards school construction. Included in the 2023-2024 Biennium budget was \$100 million to fund Laboratory Schools.

Energy Costs: The Alliance continues to oppose policies and regulations that increase energy costs for businesses. The Governor's budget amendment for a three-month Gas Tax Holiday passed the House of Delegates but failed in the State Senate.

HAVE AN ADVOCACY RELATED QUESTION?

Contact Barry Butler, the Alliance's Director of Government Relations,
at BButler@LynchburgRegion.org or call (434) 207-8585.



Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

300 Lucado Place, Lynchburg, VA 24504
Info@LynchburgRegion.org | (434) 845-5966

Learn more about our business advocacy work at LynchburgRegion.org.