

2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY



Foster private sector job creation and strengthen Minnesota's global competitiveness:

- Oppose tax increases that would harm Minnesota's competitiveness and hamper economic recovery and growth.
- Use a portion of any budget surplus to create incentives for businesses and individuals to locate and invest in Minnesota, such as: reducing the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund deficit, reducing income taxes, strengthening the research and development credit, and reducing the state business property tax.
- Preserve employers' flexibility to determine the benefits, wages, schedules, and workplace policies that best meet the needs of the employer and employees.
- Support explicit state preemption of local government workplace mandates.
- Support COVID-19 liability reform to protect employers from frivolous lawsuits.

Focus state budget reforms on outcomes and priorities, encouraging fiscal restraint, improving service delivery, and producing desired results:

- Limit the growth in state spending by building sustainable budgets based on priorities and outcomes.
- Make transportation a high priority by dedicating a percentage of all transportation-related general fund revenues to transportation.
- Allocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to areas that will have long-term economic benefits, without requiring ongoing state funding commitments.
- Use the General Fund budget surplus or ARPA funds to reduce the deficit in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to prevent a large payroll tax increase and help employers make a full recovery from the pandemic.

HEALTH CARE



Support market-based health care reforms that are patient centered, increase quality, foster innovation, maintain access, and reduce costs

- Advance the Nurse Licensure Compact to help alleviate hospital staffing shortages and provide greater staffing flexibility.
- Extend the successful Health Insurance Premium Security Plan ("reinsurance") to continue stabilizing the individual health insurance marketplace.
- Support health care workforce initiatives that allow flexibility to meet current staffing needs and create pathways for students entering health care careers.
- Support team-based care staffing models that allow staffing decisions to be made at local hospitals based on patient needs and the judgment of experienced nursing staff.
- Align the Minnesota Health Records Act (MHRA) with the federal HIPAA law to increase quality of care and reduce costs.
- Preserve a viable and affordable private health insurance marketplace with reforms that improve quality, access, affordability, and innovation.
- Support policies that promote consumer choice and lower health insurance costs.
- Support transparent budgeting in Health and Human Services.

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EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE



Ensure all children have access to quality education and accelerate proven strategies to close worst-in-nation education gaps:

- Champion passage of legislation to amend Minnesota's constitution to affirm that all children have the fundamental right to quality education ("Page Amendment").
- Strengthen youth "learn and earn" programs and employer-led workforce training programs in high-demand areas to develop the talent needed to meet Minnesota's current and future workforce needs by supporting one-time state and/or federal funds for program expansion.
- Strengthen evidence-based literacy instruction and strategies for improving student reading skills, including statutory changes regarding balanced instruction.
- Support efforts to diversify the teaching profession, including teacher residency and mentoring programs, and end lay-off practices that adversely impact teachers of color.

Set world-class academic standards for students, measure progress towards meeting those standards, and use data for continuous improvement:

- Lead efforts to maintain world-class state academic standards and assessments.
- Support adoption of a universal kindergarten readiness assessment.
- Support improving data collection, analysis, and reporting on education programs, student learning, and outcomes.

Empower families to choose the schools and programs that best meet their children's needs and empower educators with the flexibility to provide effective programs and services:

- Lead efforts to expand use of early learning scholarships as the most flexible and effective option to meet families' early childhood needs as well as support efforts to increase the supply of quality childcare programs.
- Support expanding school choice options and high-quality charter schools to enable families to enroll their children in the schools that best meet their needs.

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