

## In an increasingly globalized world,

no single regional economy can exist in isolation. Today's businesses require freedom, flexibility, security, and modernized infrastructure to succeed. To this end, these priorities represent what the Greater Louisville region needs to continue thriving as a vibrant economic competitor on the global stage.

Increased access to capital, along with improved technical assistance and capacity building for small businesses, will ensure that our entrepreneurs have a supportive environment in which to innovate. Funding for early childhood and STEAM education, increased recruitment of visa programs and access to a global talent pool in order to attract highly-educated workers, and improved infrastructure provide the tools needed to compete. Health care reforms, along with funding for mental health and substance use disorders, will ensure a healthy, productive workforce. A pro-growth tax code, reasonable environmental regulations, compensatory flexibility, and competitive labor regulations provide the freedom to succeed. Finally, advancing free and fair trade with other countries will ensure that Greater Louisville businesses have every opportunity to benefit from competitive and open world trade.

## PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP

GLI thanks the many individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to assist in business advocacy efforts. Special thanks are extended to those listed below who lead the Public Policy Council and its Issue Advisory Committees.

### **PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL CHAIRS:**

Sherri Craig, KentuckyOne Health  
Tim Hagerty, Frost Brown Todd, LLC

### **BI-STATE COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

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### **BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

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### **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

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### **ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

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### **HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Gwen Cooper, Hosparus Health

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Chris Dickinson, Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.

## BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

*Support and ease increased investment in small businesses, while ensuring all businesses have the trade and labor environment necessary to compete in the world economy.*

### **COMPENSATORY PRACTICES**

GLI supports allowing private-sector employers to have the flexibility to offer employees compensatory time off as an alternative to monetary compensation for overtime work. This change will free employees to choose the best way to alleviate the difficulties of juggling work, home, family, and community, just as governments have for decades.

### **INCREASE ACCESS TO CAPITAL & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

GLI is supportive of easing access to capital and increased funding for technical assistance and capacity building through Small Business Development Centers. We also urge Congress to review and repeal overly burdensome banking regulations that stifle lending to businesses.

### **INVESTMENTS FOR HIGH-UNEMPLOYMENT AREAS**

GLI supports reforms to current programs to better prioritize resources for qualifying areas of high unemployment that need investment capital the most, like West Louisville. These programs, such as EB-5, need to be reassessed to help link resources with need.

### **FAIR LABOR PROPOSALS**

Any changes to the threshold for the employee exemption for overtime pay should avoid excessive increases in costs for employers, especially small businesses, and ensure that employers are able to adapt to rule changes without fundamentally altering their business model.

### **CONTINUE IMPROVING THE FEDERAL TAX CODE**

GLI applauds Congress for passing the first major overhaul of the federal tax code in more than a generation. As economic growth accelerates as a result of the new tax law, we encourage Congress to continue making technical corrections, further simplify tax compliance and guidelines for businesses, and enact measures to incentivize charitable giving.

### **INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

GLI supports trade agreements that promote open, free, and fair trade with other countries. To ensure fairness in free trade, GLI strongly encourages Congress to include provisions prohibiting currency manipulation. GLI opposes the imposition of tariffs or any approach to international trade that could bring harm to Greater Louisville businesses or limit access to global markets.

### **E-COMMERCE SALES TAX**

A level playing field is needed in the retail marketplace to apply the same rules to local and online businesses. GLI supports legislation, like the Marketplace Fairness Act, to restore parity for local brick-and-mortar businesses by allowing states to collect existing sales and use taxes on remote transactions and require internet merchants to remit to the state where the purchase is delivered. GLI also supports measures to avoid unnecessary

administrative burdens for online businesses, ensure simplification when it comes to compliance, and ameliorate privacy concerns for consumers.

### **NET NEUTRALITY**

Congressional action is needed to remove uncertainty from the market and ensure the issue of net neutrality does not swing back-and-forth every four years. Through legislation that applies to all internet companies and guarantees neutrality, transparency, openness, non-discrimination, and privacy protection for all internet users, Congress can permanently protect the open internet for all users while encouraging continued investment for the next generation of internet innovation.

### **ARTS FUNDING**

Greater Louisville's arts scene competes with the top cities in the world and drives economic growth. GLI supports federal funding for arts programs to help our region continue to attract and retain top talent, boost tourism, and sustain a positive quality of life for our citizens.

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

*Ease the burden imposed by onerous or unnecessary regulations on Greater Louisville's top industries.*

### **CLEAN POWER PLAN**

Proposed regulations to reduce carbon emissions from power plants place an undue financial hardship on commercial and residential power consumers. Greater Louisville has long held the strong competitive advantage of low-cost energy and this plan threatens that distinction.

### **WATERS OF THE U.S.**

GLI applauds the current administration's reevaluation of the impacts of expanding the definition of Waters of the U.S. which has far reaching implications on homebuilding, retail, farming, and energy sectors. GLI supports efforts to clarify this definition without expanding it to the detriment of American businesses.

### **REGULATORY REFORMS**

GLI welcomes efforts to streamline the federal environmental bureaucracy and eliminate unnecessary and burdensome regulations while still protecting environmental quality. Any such regulatory reform efforts should ensure that federal and state regulatory agencies retain the necessary resources to perform their statutorily required functions in a timely manner, so that American businesses can obtain necessary permits, approvals, and other regulatory reviews in an efficient and expeditious manner. It is imperative that any such reforms foster, and not impede, economic growth in the United States. To this end, GLI supports EPA's proposed reform measures to the New Source Review program and rescinding the "once in always in" policy for classification of major sources under section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

### **FUNDING FOR BROWNFIELDS REMEDIATION**

Brownfields remediation and redevelopment programs are critical for reducing the prevalence of blight and hazardous properties in Greater Louisville. We support funding and access to Brownfields Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants and other programs that facilitate the rehabilitation of these properties.

**[GLI]**  
**GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.**  
The Metro Chamber of Commerce

2018

**FEDERAL  
AGENDA**

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

*Continue to improve our multi-modal transportation and infrastructure networks to remain a world-class logistics hub.*

## FUNDING FOR REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Access to small and medium-sized airports stimulates regional economic growth. GLI strongly urges a five-year minimum re-authorization of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding to give airports more predictability for infrastructure planning. In addition, federal appropriations for the Airport Improvement Program should return to the 2011 funding level of \$3.5 billion per year.

## INLAND WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

With increased pressure on inland infrastructure and the expansion of the Panama Canal, GLI recognizes the importance inland waterways will continue to play in international trade. Full funding to support critical water infrastructure improvements is necessary to support inland waterway commerce.

## FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR RAILROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

GLI supports increased federal funding for maintaining and improving the safety of railroad infrastructure. Dedicated resources for short line tracks and regional railroads are critical for the sustainability and improvement of multi-modal freight transportation in Greater Louisville.

## MODERNIZE THE FEDERAL FUELS USER FEE

The Federal Fuels User Fee has not been updated since the 1990s and has failed to keep up with inflation. GLI supports modernizing the Federal Fuels User Fee to stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Adequate funding for transportation projects is necessary to support the foundation of Greater Louisville's economic growth. GLI supports removing barriers that prevent the leverage of private capital and urges further action to streamline the permitting process in order to reduce costs and allow for quicker planning-to-construction turnaround and more timely completion. Sustainable surface transportation funding should be a top priority in Washington. GLI opposes adjusting the Federal Reserve dividend rate to be used as a random funding source, a bad precedent set to fund the FAST Act.

## FUNDING FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Greater Louisville relies upon tens of millions of dollars in federal funding in support of the Transit Authority of River City (TARC) and federal grants for parks and highway projects. With recent budget proposals calling for potential cuts and adjustments to federal matching funds, GLI urges Congress to support local governments with the vital resources needed for development, essential services, and safety. GLI opposes cuts to Capital Improvement Grants (CIG) and advocates for ensuring that programs like BUILD provide local governments in both urban and rural areas with an adequate share of federal funds.

# HEALTH CARE

*Support reforms that improve collaborative care and reduce regulatory and financial burdens on employers and providers. Ensure improved health care access for all populations through adequate reimbursement for services and community interventions that lower overall health care costs, produce a healthier workforce, and improve community quality of life.*

## COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS

GLI applauds Congress for its actions to fund comprehensive treatment and recovery programs for substance use disorders related to opioids. This is a vital step in ending the deadly opioid crisis. We encourage regularly-scheduled appropriations of these resources.

## FUNDING FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

GLI supports proposals to allocate increased resources for mental health treatment and research. In addition, with over 1.2 million people in local, state, and federal custody with a mental health diagnosis, GLI is supportive of programs that provide treatment alternatives to incarceration.

## 30-VS. 40-HOUR WORKWEEK

GLI supports reforming the employer mandate established by the Affordable Care Act and calls for a return to the 40-hour workweek as the threshold for determining which employees are entitled to employer-provided health care coverage.

## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT TAXES

GLI was pleased to see Congress suspend the harmful taxation structure imposed by the Affordable Care Act. ACA taxes—including the Cadillac Tax, the Health Insurance Tax, and the Medical Device Tax—would have totaled billions of dollars over the next several years, driving up costs for insurers and manufacturers as well as businesses and individuals. We encourage Congress to continue delaying implementation of these taxes or permanently repeal them.

## MEDICARE

GLI applauds Congress for recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) appropriations to create innovative health care programs that incentivize value-based payment models that improve health outcomes. Congress should urge CMS to implement value-based payment models currently under review.

## MEDICAID

GLI urges Congress to continue offering affordable and accessible care by giving states flexibility for serving Medicaid populations. GLI opposes federal cuts to the Medicare and Medicaid programs due to the strain potential cuts would place on providers and employers.

## MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT

GLI supports the repeal or reform of the overly-complex Medicare claims and appeals review process, like Recovery Audit Contractors and Zone Program Integrity Contractors. Replacements

should better align health treatment goals and outcomes with reimbursement models. Reforms or repeals would relieve a significant administrative burden, allowing providers to offer better, more affordable high-quality care.

## THE STARK LAW

The Stark Law prohibits physicians from referring Medicare and Medicaid patients for certain designated health services (DHS) to an entity (such as a hospital) with which the physician has a financial relationship, and it prohibits the DHS entity from submitting claims to Medicare or Medicaid for payment for those services. The penalties for violation of Stark are severe; they include the repayment by the providers of any improper payments received, significant civil monetary penalties, and possible exclusion of the physician and DHS entity from participation in Medicare and Medicaid. While the law includes exceptions to accommodate many common relationships among physicians and DHS entities, the exceptions and the law itself do not fully support the movement by the federal government and some states to incentivize health care providers by aligning their incentives to improve the quality of care and reduce costs without risking patient or program abuse. While GLI is supportive of efforts underway to review the negative impacts of the Stark Law, a full repeal of the Stark Law by Congress is needed. Regulators should rely on other existing federal laws (including the Anti-Kickback Statute of the Social Security Act and the False Claims Act) and state laws to regulate the financial relationships among referring providers which are reimbursed under Medicare and Medicaid. If repeal is not an option, we support revision of the Stark Law to: (i) allow federal and state governments to encourage innovation in provision of quality and cost-efficient health care; (ii) change the applicable penalties to be proportional to the nature of the violation, and (iii) amend the law to exclude compensation arrangements from its prohibitions.

# EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

*Support increases in investment for our next generation of entrepreneurs, innovators, and employees.*

## FOCUS FUNDING FOR STEAM

Preparing the next generation to enter a globalized workforce that has an increased focus on science, technology, engineering, and math, together with art is critical to connecting businesses with qualified workers. STEAM education and workforce programs are vital to filling open positions in the fastest growing portions of Greater Louisville's economy: health care and logistics.

## FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

More than 80% of a child's brain development occurs before age five. GLI supports increasing investment in early childhood education and development programs that will prepare children to learn from birth to Kindergarten and beyond.

## INCREASE RECRUITMENT VISA PROGRAMS TO ATTRACT HIGHLY-EDUCATED WORKERS

While the U.S. works to educate the next generation of STEM employees, GLI supports policies that allow businesses to recruit

highly-educated workers from around the world that will fill the need many businesses have in Greater Louisville for high-skilled, STEM positions. GLI opposes initiatives to further limit or restrict the ability of regional employers to find and employ the talent they need.

## PASS DACA LEGISLATION AND BUILD A GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

A central pillar of GLI's strategy for growing our regional economy is building a globally competitive workforce. This means doing everything we can to attract, educate, and retain the most well-trained and work-ready people from around the world to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, is crucial to this strategy. GLI strongly urges Congress to pass legislation protecting Dreamers from detention and deportation and allowing Greater Louisville to continue building a globally-competitive workforce.

## FUNDING FOR WORKFORCE EDUCATION

Resources are needed to prepare our region's youth and adults for career paths more aligned with the needs of our economy. GLI supports program funding focused on integrating work-based learning, such as apprenticeships, and prioritization of credentialing outcomes to keep Greater Louisville's workforce competitive on the international stage. This includes reauthorizing the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and restoring its funding to pre-recession levels.

## FUNDING FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

GLI recognizes that a highly educated workforce is essential to competing in today's global economy. GLI supports postsecondary education funding tied to performance and supports funding for research and development grants to research universities. We also urge evaluations and reforms of financial aid programs to improve access and affordability while incentivizing outcomes.

## GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT RULE

Most students rely upon federal financial aid to pursue a variety of career paths, especially those in underserved populations, and options like proprietary or career colleges are vital stepping stones to providing life-changing opportunities. GLI supports the review of the gainful employment rule to balance increased access in higher education, while encouraging positive outcomes, to meet the country's workforce training needs.

## FUNDING FOR THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Business-led Workforce Boards like KentuckianaWorks play a critical role in creating an aligned system of career development between K-12, higher education, and the needs of regional employers. These boards oversee a set of career centers that work with youth and adults to connect them to the many growing jobs and careers in our region. GLI encourages Congress to allocate additional funding through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to support this important work and favors allowing increased flexibility in how these funds are used at the state and local levels.

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