



2023 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

PROMOTING A HEALTHY CLIMATE FOR JOB CREATION AND A STRONG NEW HAMPSHIRE ECONOMY

FISCAL POLICY

PRIORITY: BIA believes fiscally conservative state budgets with business-friendly regulatory and business tax policies that foster economic growth are an important part of the New Hampshire Advantage. Positions include:

- Oppose an income tax or sales tax.
- Oppose any proposal that increases Business Enterprise Tax or Business Profits Tax rates.
- Support efforts to improve New Hampshire's research and development tax credit and oppose any effort to reduce or repeal this credit.
- Support efforts to reform and improve New Hampshire's business regulatory environment.
- Oppose efforts to repeal or reduce the BET credit against the BPT.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY: BIA supports efforts that increase the availability and affordability of housing for working people. Positions include:

- Support practical and reasonable efforts that increase affordable housing stock in New Hampshire.
- Oppose any efforts to roll back or repeal core principles of workforce housing legislation, accessory dwelling unit legislation and the statewide administrative Housing Appeals Board.

PRIORITY: BIA recognizes the critical role of infrastructure in fostering a healthy, growing economy. Positions include:

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- Advocate for adequate and equitable investment in New Hampshire's air, road and bridge network as well as improved local public transit opportunities.
- Oppose diversion of constitutionally protected highway fund revenue for non-highway, non-bridge-related programs.
- Support efforts to increase federal transportation aid to the state.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Educate policy leaders and the public about water infrastructure (water supply, wastewater and

stormwater) and dams that are at the end of their design life and/or exceeding capacity.

- Support efforts to secure funding for water infrastructure improvement.

HUMAN RESOURCES, HEALTH CARE, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES

PRIORITY: BIA supports business-friendly labor rules and regulations that balance the rights and responsibilities of workers and management and promote a safe and secure workplace. Positions include:

- Oppose efforts that hinder or remove an employer's ability to make sound hiring and management decisions.
- Oppose government efforts to mandate "one-size-fits-all" employee benefits.
- Support voluntary private sector paid family medical leave programs.
- Advocate for revision and modernization of RSA 275 and related statutes and regulations to make them more clear, concise and internally consistent, thereby easing the administrative burden on New Hampshire and multi-state employers.
- Support private sector right-to-work legislation in New Hampshire.
- Oppose rule-making or legislative proposals that favor organized labor interests over those of business.

PRIORITY: BIA supports efforts to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and equal opportunity in all aspects of life in New Hampshire. Fostering a welcoming environment for all individuals enhances New Hampshire's cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and prosperity.

- Support efforts to recruit, hire, support and retain employees with diverse backgrounds and experience.

HEALTH CARE

PRIORITY: BIA supports efforts that enhance outcomes and slow the growth of total health care costs for employers and employees. Positions include:

- Support adequate funding for health-care services for Medicaid beneficiaries to reduce cost-shifting to the business community.

- Support permanent reauthorization for expanded Medicaid.
- Oppose new or expanded health insurance mandates.
- Support efforts that address health care cost-drivers and increase transparency.
- Support initiatives that address employees' mental and physical health in the workplace.
- Advocate for greater transparency to address the high price of prescription drugs.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY: BIA supports efforts to develop New Hampshire's future workforce and to attract and retain new talent. Positions include:

- As a well-educated workforce is critical to the economic growth of New Hampshire, support efforts to provide higher quality, more equitable educational and training opportunities throughout the state.
- Support efforts to increase the depth and scope of Career and Technical Education, experiential and work-based learning, apprenticeships, internships, credentialing and Career Pathways initiatives.
- Explore private and public incentives to keep students in New Hampshire including increased financial support for the state's university and community college systems.
- Support employer efforts to recruit, hire and retain foreign-born workers with legal standing.
- Support employer efforts to capitalize on experience, facilitate an intergenerational workforce and create a culture of mentorship across sectors.
- Advocate for policies that strengthen the early childhood system including increasing access to quality, affordable childcare to allow caregivers to return to the labor force.

TECHNOLOGY

PRIORITY: BIA recognizes the critical role of technology innovation, telecommunications and high-speed internet in fostering a healthy, growing economy across New Hampshire. Positions include:

- Support continued private sector investment in broadband and cellular networks including 5G and other radio frequency technologies to improve access, quality and reliability. In areas where sufficient private investment has not occurred to ensure access, support public/private partnerships utilizing available state and federal funding.
- Support state and municipal telecommunications

policies that are fair and promote sustained investment and equal competition among all service providers.

- Oppose legislation to restrict telecommunications infrastructure expansion.
- Advocate for balanced business and consumer interests in any new or expanded regulations on data storage, cyberthreat protections and data breach reporting, and oppose regulations that do not fairly do so. In general, BIA believes such regulations should be established at the federal level.

ENERGY

PRIORITY: BIA will respond to New England's energy crisis by advocating for an all-energy-resources approach to achieving a cost-effective, reliable, resilient and diverse resource mix with a preference for market-based approaches. Positions include:

- Support state and regional policies for system reliability and lower short- and long-term energy costs.
- Support clear, consistent and balanced state energy infrastructure siting policies.
- Support existing business protection provisions like those in New Hampshire's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative program and the Renewable Portfolio Standard.
- Support implementation of cost-effective energy policies, such as energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.
- Oppose policies that lead to unjust or unreasonable cost-shifting to the business community.

ENVIRONMENTAL

PRIORITY: BIA supports science-based environmental policies, legislation and administrative rules that balance economic development with the long-term sustainability of the state's natural resources. Positions include:

- Oppose efforts to establish specific environmental regulatory standards and policies by statute rather than by authorized regulatory bodies.
- Oppose efforts to make New Hampshire's environmental regulations and statutes more restrictive than federal environmental regulations, unless there is clear justification.
- Establishment and enforcement of regulations should occur at the state level, not the municipal level.
- Advocate for initiatives to streamline and expedite permitting and regulatory processes.