

The Voice of Iowa Business



**IOWA
ASSOCIATION
OF BUSINESS
AND INDUSTRY**

2023
**LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**

2023 Legislative Priorities

The Iowa Association of Business and Industry has proudly served as the Voice of Iowa Business since 1903. A member-driven organization, representing 1,500 member businesses that employ more than 330,000 working Iowans, ABI's 2023 legislative priorities reflect the goals of business and community leaders in Iowa's 99 counties.

Workforce

ABI supports innovative solutions and incentives to help businesses and employees overcome barriers to employment, such as childcare and adequate and available workforce housing. ABI supports legislative efforts to recruit, retrain and retain talent in the state. ABI encourages the Legislature to continue funding Future Ready Iowa, Elevate Iowa, work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeship programs, and other initiatives that will help upskill our existing workforce and prepare students for the careers of tomorrow. ABI supports revising qualifications and age restrictions for age appropriate employment. Further, as part of ensuring a qualified workforce, ABI encourages the Legislature to maintain policies that are conducive to safe workplaces and that allow employers to address drug and alcohol use.

Tort Reform

Predictability and certainty is necessary when it comes to understanding costs related to liability and other factors that affect industry. Therefore, ABI encourages the Legislature to review current law and implement changes that will limit litigation risk and the cost of insuring against expensive judgements, thereby enhancing the state's legal climate.

Property Tax Reduction and Reform

While significant progress has been made enhancing Iowa's individual and corporate income tax climates, our property tax climate for residential, commercial and industrial taxpayers remains uncompetitive and burdensome. ABI supports efforts to reduce property taxes while also reforming the system to ensure relief is actually felt by taxpayers.

Regulatory Reform

ABI members strive to comply with a wide scope of regulations at the local, state and federal levels. These regulations can often overlap, be outdated or are overly burdensome. Therefore ABI supports:

- Streamlining permitting requirements and processes, in particular environmental, reducing cost and time for businesses and the state.
- Modernizing notification requirements for employment drug testing.
- Reviewing and eliminating policies and regulations that hinder small business expansion.