

Six key topics to support Ohio entrepreneurs

Unemployment Compensation Modernization

1

Ohio's unemployment compensation system is insolvent. While many states made necessary changes to bring their systems to solvency, Ohio has not. Ohio employers will likely be faced with significant penalties absent meaningful reform balancing revenue with benefits. Ohio must act now before it is too late to better align our system with the realities of today's economy.

Workforce Development

2

Ohio's small businesses are struggling to find qualified workers to fill open positions. Business owners must be part of the process in establishing and participating in government administered programs. Collaboration between the education and business communities to develop meaningful curriculum and training will benefit both entities and the state as a whole. This will ensure the skill sets employers need are used to produce a prepared, in-demand workforce. Aim to streamline and consolidate Ohio's many workforce development programs to make accessing these programs easier for all.

Regulatory Reform

3

Unreasonable government regulations rank as a top concern amongst small business owners. Right-sizing government to eliminate duplicity, streamline permits and processes while balancing public safety and welfare, will lead to a more robust business climate. Have agencies review and eliminate restrictive regulations is a great starting point. We must also evaluate the current requirements to participate in various vocations to reduce/eliminate government-sanctioned barriers of entry to industries by reviewing current licensure laws and eliminating outdated/unnecessary constraints.

Health Insurance Transparency

4

Healthcare remains a top issue facing small business owners. The state can exacerbate this problem by passing state-imposed health insurance mandates which impact a small segment of the marketplace. Ohio law should require alternatives to mandates have been pursued. The general public should be informed on the gaps in coverage remaining when mandates are enacted. Small businesses need to have access to claims data, like their larger colleagues, to help shape well-informed health insurance purchasing.

Workers' Compensation Improvement

5

Ohio is one of four remaining monopolistic workers' compensation states. While claims frequency has declined in large part due to the commitment of trade associations to promote workplace safety, there remains undone policy changes to make our system more predictable for employers while continuing to meet the needs of injured workers. Maintain existing discount programs that have nearly 100,000 participating employers to continue good claims management and workplace safety programs. Retain efficient medical management of claims through the Health Partnership Program administered by Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

Taxes

6

Preserve the Business Investor Deduction (BID) and the commitment to the large majority of Ohio's small businesses that are pass-through entities. Strive for simplification of the tax code to make compliance easier. Ensure state agencies, with taxing and fee authority, are consistent with their practices and work with, not against, businesses to help comply with what can be a complex regulatory environment.