

David L. Corliss

From: Hugh Carter <hcarter@lawrencechamber.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 2:41 PM
To: David L. Corliss
Cc: Imcelwain@lawrencechamber.com; Bonnie Lowe; Gene Meyer
Subject: Legislative Agenda

Mr. Corliss,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft of the City's 2015 Legislative Agenda and submit suggestions. On behalf of the Chamber, I'd like to respectfully request that the commission consider adding its own version of the following positions:

Health Care

The Chamber supports strategies and solutions that would help control health care costs, improve outcomes, positively impact the delivery system, expand access, support wellness initiatives and create a culture of health in the workplace. The Chamber supports:

- A bi-partisan effort to work with the Business and Health Care communities to resolve the open questions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and provide a more stable planning environment.
- A common sense compromise on the expansion of KanCare by 2016 to ensure the ongoing viability of health care providers who serve the uninsured and underinsured. If Kansas does not expand KanCare by 2016, more than \$2.2 billion in federal matching funds will be lost between 2016 and 2020, stifling economic and employment growth. Expansion of KanCare not only will help more people get access to affordable health care, but will also serve as an engine of economic development and job creation.

Entrepreneurship

To be successful in the global economy, Kansas must encourage innovation – embracing new technology to power the jobs of the future – and it must boost entrepreneurship by attracting capital and encouraging start-up businesses. Through a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, Kansas will not only attract businesses from other states but also foster the launch of new businesses. The abusive use of patent litigation has become an increasing concern for many small and large businesses, alike, that are targeted by patent trolls. The Chamber supports:

- Efforts to develop strong protection against abusive patent assertion claims to provide Kansas a strong advantage in attracting new companies and protecting our current retailers, financial institutions, manufacturers, tech companies and other vital sectors of our economy.
- Legislation that would empower Kansas employers to sue a patent troll if the troll makes an unfair patent demand or files an unfair lawsuit against the company.

Regional Research Funding

The Kansas Research Nexus is a partnership between the cities of Lawrence, Manhattan, and Topeka. Our chambers have come together to showcase the combined assets of our nine-county region and the benefits they offer to business and industry. We met last week and are working on position statements as they relate to federal research funding. Given that we are part of the Animal Health Corridor, we believe that we should be focusing on research dollars related to animal health sciences, among other things. We will have position statements drafted in the next week or so and look forward to sharing those with you in hopes of them being included in each of our City's legislative agendas.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or comments.

Best,

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