

MEDIA CONTACT:

Christopher Diebel, Director of Public Affairs
Phone: 515.246.1701 (O) / 515.778.8708 (M)
cdiebel@iowabusinesscouncil.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 17, 2020

Iowa Business Council Announces 2021 Legislative Agenda

Policy Efforts Include Workforce Development, Child Care, Competitive Tax Policy and Affordable Housing

DES MOINES – The Iowa Business Council (IBC) has identified its 2021 legislative agenda. During the organization's final meeting of the year, IBC members voted to focus on issues such as competitive tax policy, broadband connectivity, workforce development, child care and housing.

"Now more than ever, our members are committed to elevating Iowa's long-term economic vitality. As we emerge from the pandemic, we believe our outlined legislative policy priorities will support our efforts to foster growth throughout Iowa," explains IBC President Tim Yaggi.

The Iowa Business Council 2021 state legislative agenda includes:

- **Competitive Tax Policy:** To continue to strengthen Iowa's economic climate, the IBC will remain engaged in efforts that provide a simple, transparent, and stable tax structure. The IBC supported the efforts of the 2020 Invest in Iowa Act and will support continued efforts in 2021 to make Iowa's tax code more competitive for all taxpayers.
- **Broadband Connectivity:** Virtually all aspects of Iowa's economy, educational attainment, and healthcare delivery is now centered around broadband connectivity. The IBC supports efforts to significantly invest in this critical infrastructure to provide universal broadband access across the entire state. State appropriations, matching grant funding opportunities, and bonding combined with a dedicated source of funding are areas in which the necessary investment could be achieved.
- **Workforce Development:** The IBC will continue to support investments in the Future Ready Iowa initiative, including the Last Dollar Scholarship and Employer Innovation Fund, and other efforts that enhance the development of a talented workforce. The IBC will additionally support innovative policies that lead to an increase in Iowa's talent pipeline.
- **Child Care:** As the state continues to recover from the pandemic, access to high quality, affordable child care has never been more important to Iowa's families and the economy. Iowa leads the nation with both parents working outside the home. Yet 23% of Iowans live within a child care desert. As a result, the IBC supports efforts to further address the child care cliff effect while also increasing access to high quality, affordable child care.
- **Housing:** The availability of adequate workforce housing directly impacts the economic climate in Iowa's communities. As the state continues to recover from the economic consequences of the pandemic, housing is poised to be a vital catalyst for expanded economic growth and development. Therefore, the IBC supports the expansion of the workforce housing tax credit and increased investment in the state housing trust fund.

"We look forward to working with both the General Assembly and the Governor to advance these priority areas and ensure Iowa remains a competitive place to work, live, and raise a family," says IBC Executive Director Joe Murphy.

###

About the Iowa Business Council

The Iowa Business Council (IBC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose 23 members are the chief decision makers of major Iowa employers. One in six jobs in Iowa are tied to an IBC company. IBC member companies have invested billions of dollars of capital in Iowa's commercial infrastructure; lead the way in technology innovation, R&D, and grants procured; and are often the driving financial and volunteer forces behind philanthropic efforts all over the state.

IBC member companies include: Ruan Transportation Management Systems; Vermeer Corporation; Iowa Bankers Association; Alliant Energy; Casey's General Stores, Inc.; Collins Aerospace; Corteva Agriscience; Deere & Company; Fareway; FBL Financial Group, Inc.; HNI Corporation; Hy-Vee, Inc., Kent Corporation; Mercy Health Network; Meredith Corporation; MidAmerican Energy Company; Pella Corporation; Principal; The Weitz Company; The University of Iowa Health Care; UnityPoint Health; Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa; and Wells Enterprises, Inc.