

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

### **Improve Minnesota's tax competitiveness to foster private sector job creation and economic growth.**

- ▶ Preserve the Qualified Data Center sales tax exemption.
- ▶ Maintain current tax treatment of repatriated income.
- ▶ Repeal the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT).
- ▶ Return a portion of any budget surplus to taxpayers through tax reductions, such as:
  - Reducing individual and corporate income tax rates
  - Reducing the state business property tax levy
  - Increasing the Research & Development tax credit

### **Limit the growth in state spending by building sustainable budgets based on priorities and outcomes.**

- ▶ Base spending priorities on whether expenditures are achieving expected outcomes and supporting long-term economic competitiveness.
- ▶ Make transportation a high priority by dedicating all transportation-related general fund revenues to transportation.
- ▶ Make progress toward fully funding Parent Aware early education scholarships for low-income families.

### **Support service delivery reform that takes advantage of private sector innovations and collaborations.**

### **Preserve employers' flexibility to determine the benefits, wages and schedules that best meet the needs of the employer and employees.**

- ▶ Oppose rigid one-size-fits-all workplace mandates.
- ▶ Support explicit state preemption of local government workplace mandates.



## HEALTH CARE

### **Support market-based health care reforms that are patient-centered, increase quality, foster innovation, maintain access, and reduce costs.**

- ▶ Align Minnesota's Health Records Act (MHRA) with the federal HIPAA law to increase quality and reduce costs.
- ▶ Preserve a viable private health insurance marketplace.
  - Support reforms that improve quality, access, affordability, and innovation.
  - Oppose additional coverage mandates and policies that increase consumer costs.
- ▶ Oppose the creation of a "public option" for health insurance, which could shift the cost of under-compensated care to patients with private health insurance and degrade access to health care by harming rural clinics and hospitals.
- ▶ Support pharmaceutical price transparency to better inform patients/consumers, reduce prescription drug costs, and foster innovation.
- ▶ Oppose nurse staffing ratio requirements, as staffing decisions are best made at local hospitals based on patient needs and the judgment of experienced nursing staff.

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## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

**Strengthen use of data to ensure investments in education are being used effectively to improve student achievement, support proven classroom practices, and narrow racial and socio-economic achievement gaps.**

- ▶ Include concise, objective information on student achievement at the school and district levels on the Minnesota Department of Education website.
- ▶ Improve data collection, analysis, and reporting on early care and education programs participation and outcomes.

**Allow families to choose the schools and programs that best meet their children's needs.**

- ▶ Support expansion of early learning scholarships to additional low-income families to better meet increasing demand for high-quality early childhood programs.
- ▶ Expand school choice options to enable low-income families to enroll their children in the schools that best meet their needs.

**Provide school leaders with the flexibility needed to offer the most effective and relevant programs to meet the needs of students.**

- ▶ Support high-performing charter schools and strengthen measures to close consistently low-performing charter schools.
- ▶ Empower teachers to improve utilization of Minnesota academic standards by creating model curriculum and lesson plans aligned with standards.
- ▶ Improve strategies for literacy instruction and strengthening student reading skills.

**Support employer-led training programs (i.e. internships and apprenticeships) that help meet Minnesota's current and future workforce needs.**

- ▶ Expand registered apprenticeship, dual-training programs, and youth training programs to additional industries, and remove barriers for employers to offer these programs.

**Support proposed constitutional amendment to give every child an equal right to a quality education, as measured against uniform achievement standards.**

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