

Kentucky Chamber
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.



Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson testified on HB 1, enabling right-to-work legislation, alongside Speaker of the House Jeff Hoover and House Majority Floor Leader Jonathan Shell to the House Economic Development Committee on Jan. 4. HB 1 was passed on Jan. 9.

2017 session producing historic wins for business

IN JUST the first few days of the 2017 legislative session, historic changes have come to Kentucky with the passage of key business priorities like right-to-work, repealing the prevailing wage, and more.

The business community has been at the forefront of conversations in Frankfort as the Kentucky Chamber has been able to check off many items on our agenda that have been top priorities for decades.

Kentucky is now a right-to-work state as legislation was passed in the first week and House Bill 1 was signed into law by the governor with an emergency clause, meaning the law took effect immediately.

Right-to-work prohibits requiring any worker to join a union as a condition of employment. The Kentucky Chamber has long advocated for the passage of right-to-work legislation and believes union membership should be a matter of personal choice, and the freedom not to affiliate with a labor union is no less deserving of protection that the freedom to affiliate.

As Kentucky struggles to recruit new businesses and retain existing ones, passage of right-to-work legislation will help the Commonwealth be more attractive to companies seeking to locate

their business in the state.

“The Kentucky Chamber, representing thousands of businesses across the state, has advocated Right-to-Work legislation for at least 30 years. The Kentucky General Assembly made a bold and historic decision to pass a right-to-work law, to guarantee workers a choice about joining a union and to tell the world that Kentucky is ‘Open for Business,’” Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson said.

“We congratulate the General Assembly and

“The Kentucky General Assembly made a bold and historic decision to pass a right-to-work law, to guarantee workers a choice about joining a union and to tell the world that Kentucky is ‘Open for Business.’”

- Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson

Governor Bevin for having the courage to pass this legislation and to make Kentucky an even better place to do business.”

Another right-to-work related bill, the Paycheck Protection Act has also been signed by the governor.

SEE SESSION, PAGE 6

Chamber launches Workforce Center

EXPANDING EMPLOYER-LED EFFORTS to improve the quality of state workforce programs and the results they produce will be a key focus of the Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center, a new initiative of the state’s leading business association.

The launch of the Workforce Center, is the result of extensive planning and research that confirmed the critical need for greater private-sector involvement in the development of workforce policies and programs, said Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson.

“Employers across Kentucky – and across the nation – recognize the urgent need to address the challenges that are holding us back from building a globally competitive workforce,” Adkisson said. “Meaningful employer involvement is key to achieving this goal, and we believe the Workforce Center will create and sustain that involvement.”

The Workforce Center is supported by a \$316,800 grant from USA Funds, a national nonprofit organization that focuses on improved student outcomes, employer engagement in ensuring education quality, innovative approaches to college and career preparation, and streamlining key transitions along the path through education and training to careers.



Beth Davisson will serve as executive director of the Workforce Center.

Chamber partners with BB&T to train principals

DURING A RECENT meeting of the Chamber’s Leadership Institute for School Principals Advisory Board, the group voted unanimously to partner with the BB&T Leadership Institute of

Greensboro, NC, to provide executive leadership training for Kentucky’s school principals, beginning in June.



Joel Hopper
President
Brenntag Mid-South
Henderson

For six years, the Chamber has raised money from Kentucky businesses to sponsor

principals from their local schools for executive-level leadership training. More than 300 principals have graduated from the Chamber’s Institute and more than \$3 million has been donated through the Chamber Foundation to sponsor individual principals.

“When the Kentucky Chamber Foundation launched the Leadership Institute for School Principals in 2011, it was with the goal of empowering principals with high-level leadership training usually provided to corporate executives,” said Leadership Institute Board Chair Joel Hopper. “Going forward, we feel that BB&T’s Leadership Institute is best suited to be our strategic partner for providing the training.”

CRAFT PLEDGES SUPPORT

Following a report about the Institute to the Chamber’s Board of Directors in early January, board member Joe Craft, president of Alliance Resources, made a generous offer to match any donation made to support principals in eastern Kentucky. Several Chamber board members made immediate commitments to accept Craft’s challenge. It is anticipated that 48 principals from across the state will be admitted to the 2017 class.

Other donations are needed. Sponsoring a principal costs \$4,500 and donations are tax deductible through the Kentucky Chamber Foundation. Donations can be made online at kychamber.com/leadership-institute-donation-form to make your pledge today. For more information, contact Kelly Wolf at kwolf@kychamber.com or (502) 848-8725.



Joseph Craft III
President/CEO
Alliance Resource Partners,
and Alliance Coal LLC
Lexington

SEE WORKFORCE, PAGE 3

What does Kentucky's Right-to-Work law mean for you?

ON MONDAY, January 8, 2017, Kentucky became a "Right-to-Work" state. What does this mean? The Kentucky Right-to-Work Act forbids new union contracts from requiring that employees pay union dues or lose their jobs. Such contracts are often called "Union Shop" or "Union Security" agreements. The new law adds Kentucky to the 27 other states that already prohibit mandatory payments to unions.

DETAILS

Kentucky's new Right-to-Work law ("RTW") does not apply to existing union contracts. Employees working under union contracts that pre-date the RTW law may still be required to pay union dues. Applying the new legislation to pre-existing union contracts would expose the RTW law to legal challenges that the Kentucky legislature sought to avoid.

Kentucky's RTW law does, however, avoid a loophole that enabled unions in other states to postpone the impact of Right-to-Work laws. In other states, some unions

quickly renegotiated long-term union contracts before the effective date of the state's Right-to-Work law. In other cases, unions quickly secured extensions or renewals of existing contracts to extend their ability to collect mandatory union dues. Kentucky made its law effective immediately. Kentucky's RTW law also forbids any extension or renewal of an existing "Union Shop" agreement.

Another feature of Kentucky's RTW law not common to all Right-to-Work laws is the law's application to most public employees. Some states make their Right-to-Work laws only applicable to private sector employees. Kentucky's law protects both public and private employees.



By John Lovett,
Frost Brown Todd
Labor and Employment
Practice Group

IMPACT ON EMPLOYERS WITH UNIONS

Kentucky employers that have existing union contracts requiring employees to pay union dues must continue to honor these contracts until they expire. If the union calls upon the employer to terminate an employee for not paying union dues, the employer must comply. New, renewed, or extended union contracts, however, may not require employees to pay union dues. Payment of union dues must be voluntary.

Employers must also continue to honor wage assignment agreements in which employees authorize the deduction of union dues from their paychecks ("dues check-off"). Federal law requires that dues check-off agreements be revocable at least once a year and at the expiration of a union contract. Dues check-off agreements continue to be valid, however, unless and until the employee revokes the agreement. Dues check-off agreements do not depend on "union shop." They continue until revoked despite the RTW law.

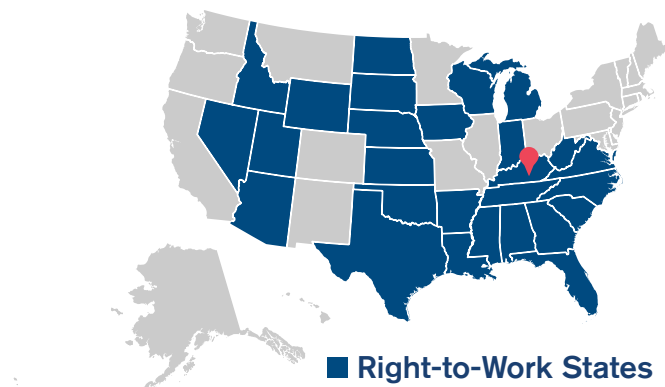
IMPACT ON EMPLOYERS WITHOUT UNIONS

Kentucky employers operating free from unions should not assume that the new RTW law will make it easier to stay union-free. Employees remain equally free to join a union in Right-to-Work states. In fact, some of the largest union organizing drives in recent years have occurred in Right-to-Work states. Unions go where the jobs are. When employees choose union representation, most choose to join the union and pay dues even if not required to do so. So, new union organizing brings new income to the union even though all employees cannot be required to pay union dues in a Right-to-Work state.

RIGHT-TO-WORK FACTS & FIGURES



Businesses more often choose locations in **RTW states**, as evidenced by the major rapid growth of firms and establishments.



Increase in Manufacturing

Between 2001-2013

- Output has grown faster in RTW states: **rising by more than 30%** v. 20% in non-RTW states.
- Seven out of ten states with the **largest growth** in real output were RTW states.
- Real manufacturing **rose by 35%** in RTW states v. 19% in non-RTW states.

"From March 2013 to November 2014 Indiana factory payroll employment **grew 9.4%** compared to 1.2% average growth for states without RTW.

From March 2013 to November 2014 Michigan saw **4% payroll manufacturing job growth** beating an average of 2.8% in RTW states and .9% in non-RTW states."

- *The Wall Street Journal*

"From 2010-2014 RTW states **added nearly 1 million more jobs** than non-RTW states."

- *U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics*



Private Sector Employment

Between 2001-2013 private sector employment **grew by 17.4%** in RTW states compared to 8.2% in non-RTW states.



Personal income

Between 2001 and 2013 personal income rose by nearly **twice as much** as in non-RTW states: 27.7% v. 15.3%.



Annual Unemployment Rate

On average the annual unemployment rate in RTW states is **.5% lower** than in non-RTW states.

*Translation: If in 2014 non-RTW states had the same unemployment rates as RTW states approximately **402,000 more people would have been employed.***

Right-to-Work isn't anti-union!



If a state passes a Right-to-Work (RTW) law: Workers still have the same rights to organize, join a union and collectively bargain as workers in states without RTW laws.



What is different?:

A union in a RTW state cannot force a worker to pay dues or fees as a condition of employment.



Workers have the option:

RTW laws provide workers the option of whether or not to join a union, requiring union leaders to be responsive to workers as an incentive to keep members.



More opportunity:

When states experience economic growth and job creation, unions naturally have more opportunities to organize more workers.

Political & Business News



Kentucky Chamber

The Bottom Line

KYCHAMBERBOTTOMLINE.COM | WITH JACQUELINE PITTS

FROM THE FRONT

WORKFORCE: Center will focus on network development, support

“Productive partnerships involving employers, educators and workforce program providers are critical to ensuring better outcomes for students, better jobs for workers and a stronger workforce for employers,” noted Derek Redelman, Vice President, Research & Policy, USA Funds. “The Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center will provide important leadership in building those partnerships to better meet the educational and employment needs of individuals, businesses and the state as a whole.”

Beth Davisson will serve as executive director of the Workforce Center. Davisson has been Director of Career Services for Health and Medical Programs at Sullivan University since 2013 and was the 2016 president and executive director of the Louisville Society for Human Resource Management.



Derek Redelman, Vice President, Research & Policy, USA Funds (right), discussed the Workforce Center with Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson (left), and Davisson during the recent Workforce Summit.

Davisson is creator and leader of “Bridging the Talent Gap,” a workforce development program designed to identify talent gaps in the Louisville community; serves on the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (KYSHRM) state council; and received the KYSHRM Lyle Hannah Spirit Award for 2016. She also has been recognized by Business First (“Top Business Leaders under 40” in 2016 and “Top 20 People to Know in Human Resources” in 2014).

“Businesses throughout the Commonwealth are unable to grow without the right talent in place, and the Kentucky Chamber’s new Workforce Center demonstrates our dedication to preparing Kentucky’s workforce and to building a thriving economy,” Davisson said.

The Workforce Center will target the following areas:

- **BUSINESS LEADERSHIP** to represent the interests of the employer community in partnership efforts with the Governor and administration officials. The focus will be on aligning education, workforce and economic development at the policy and service-delivery levels.
- **NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT** to assist employers who serve on state and local workforce boards or participate in other workforce efforts. Information sharing, peer-to-peer communications and other supportive efforts will focus on ensuring consistency and collaboration across the state.
- **INDUSTRY COLLABORATIVES** to build on the KY FAME model to bring together employers and workforce educators to define skill needs and create collaborative programs that provide sector-specific training opportunities for students and workers. (The KY FAME collaborative has gained national recognition for its focus on advanced manufacturing careers.)
- **EFFECTIVELY USING DATA** to determine the actual impact and outcomes of workforce training and development programs.
- **ESSENTIAL SKILL INITIATIVES** to address what employers identify as a critical problem with many workers – the lack of such basic personal management skills as showing up for work, communicating and getting along with colleagues and taking responsibility.

In addition to addressing Kentucky’s workforce challenges, business leaders note that the center offers an opportunity to create a model that could be replicated by business associations across the country.

2nd Annual Kentucky Workforce Summit

Solutions for Economic Competitiveness



presented by



Kentucky Labor Cabinet Secretary Derrick Ramsey (left) detailed his cabinet’s efforts on apprenticeship programs, sharing statistics including 87 percent of individuals who go through an apprenticeship program quickly find work after completion and many start at salaries around \$50,000 a year

Workforce needs take center stage at Kentucky Chamber summit

AS THE LACK of a competitive workforce continues to be the number one concern for businesses in Kentucky, employers, educators and people from all areas of Kentucky’s workforce system came together Jan. 25 to discuss how to address the issues the state faces in order to build a healthy and skilled workforce at the Kentucky Chamber’s 2nd Annual Kentucky Workforce Summit, presented by the Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development.

The Kentucky Workforce Summit: Solutions for Economic Competitiveness focused on key areas where greater employer involvement can make a positive difference for the productivity of their companies and the overall quality of Kentucky’s workforce including a focus on essential skills, career readiness, utilizing apprenticeship programs, and more.

Speakers and panelists throughout the day emphasized the need to move from a workforce system that has business and education on opposite sides of the table and instead use all of the resources available in the state to begin solving these issues.

During the Summit, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet (EWDC) Secretary Hal Heiner and Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS) Executive Director Kate Akers, Ph.D. released the Kentucky Future Skills Report, is the state’s first interactive report on workforce supply and demand.

“This report will provide much needed feedback to policymakers, practitioners, the business community and the public about the future of Kentucky’s workforce,” Secretary Heiner said. “It’s the first time in the Commonwealth and possibly the United States that a report has been this comprehensive when linking actual education and workforce data.”

The Kentucky Future Skills Report utilizes three components of education and workforce development in Kentucky: Historic Workforce Supply, Current Employment Outcomes and Future Workforce Demand.

“Kentuckians can now use an interactive tool to compare credential supply by State, Workforce Planning Region and Local Workforce Area,” said Akers. “The report represents more than 600,000 credentials from over 450,000 individuals over the past five years.”

Additionally, Kentucky Labor Cabinet Secretary Derrick Ramsey detailed his cabinet’s efforts on apprenticeship programs, sharing impressive statistics including 87



Photos by Charity Hedges

Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Hal Heiner and Beth Kuhn, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Workforce Investment and the Kentucky Career Center spoke during the event, discussing new cabinet initiatives, and the recently released Kentucky Future Skills Report. percent of individuals who go through an apprenticeship program quickly find work after completion and many start at salaries around \$50,000 a year.

Apprenticeships and other methods of employer engagement were also discussed in a panel of employers who all agreed that the time for businesses to get involved is now and stressed that it is critical for employers to find ways to help in their communities and through the workforce system.

Adkisson closed the program by ensuring that there will be another conference next year and encouraged businesses and others to work with the Chamber’s new Workforce Center to develop strategies for their regions.

22nd Annual KENTUCKY CHAMBER DAY

— Premier Kick-off of the Legislative Session —

State leaders say historic changes will continue

GOV. MATT BEVIN and legislative leaders stressed to business leaders and citizens of the Commonwealth at the 22nd Annual Kentucky Chamber Day that they plan to continue the great momentum of their first week of all GOP control in Frankfort.

After a long day at the Capitol passing key priority bills including right-to-work, prevailing wage repeal, medical review panels and more, lawmakers were running late to the dinner in Lexington.

Because of the delay on the House floor as debate carried on about right-to-work and repealing the prevailing wage, new House Speaker Jeff Hoover was unable to make it to Lexington but called in to the dinner to make his remarks about the historic day.

In his speech over the phone, Speaker Hoover pointed to the excitement of the day with business priorities moving for the first time after decades of being placed on the back burner.

“We are committed to doing things differently, working on issues that will spur economic growth and job creation,” Hoover said.

“We are committed to doing things differently, working on issues that will spur economic growth and job creation.”

- Speaker of the House Jeff Hoover

The dinner began with remarks from Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Bill Lear and Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson who both commended the legislature on the historic work being done at the Capitol in the first week of the 2017 session, a week normally reserved for organization which is seeing passage of many bills this year.

Gov. Bevin shared similar sentiments in his speech, stressing that now is the time for action as the Republicans in Frankfort know that is what the people of Kentucky elected them to do.

“We are going to lead the nation in job production and business growth, red tape reduction and entitlement reform,” Bevin said.

Senate President Robert Stivers also gave a big welcome to Hoover as the new House Speaker and discussed the progress he sees already being made in the first week under Hoover’s leadership.

“With the change of climate and dynamics between chambers and parties, we can create a better climate for the business community,” Stivers said.

The sole Democrat giving remarks during the evening was Sen. Morgan McGarvey of Louisville who filled in for Senate Democratic Leader Ray Jones.

McGarvey stressed to the Chamber audience that while he is not on the same side as the new majority in Kentucky, he believes that some of the best work can be done when both sides work together. He pointed to issues like public-private partnership (P3) legislation, bills seeking to address the heroin epidemic, pension reforms and more that have been done under divided government and expressed his optimism about what can be done in this new atmosphere.



Photo by Charity Hedges

During the 22nd Annual Kentucky Chamber Day event in Lexington, Gov. Matt Bevin thanked event sponsors and Chamber members for being the “lifeblood” of Kentucky’s economy.



Photos by Tim Webb

(LEFT) House Speaker Jeff Hoover’s photo was displayed on the large screens during the event. After being delayed at the Capitol, Hoover made his speech to the Chamber Day audience over the phone. (RIGHT) Senate President Robert Stivers discussed the historic progress made by the Kentucky House of Representatives under Hoover’s leadership.



Photos by Tim Webb

(LEFT) Senator Morgan McGarvey took the stage on behalf of Senate Minority Leader Ray Jones, who was unable to attend. McGarvey said the best work that can be done during the session will happen when both parties work together. (RIGHT) KET’s Renee Shaw served as emcee of the Kentucky Chamber Day Event. You can watch highlights of the event on KET’s website at ket.org.

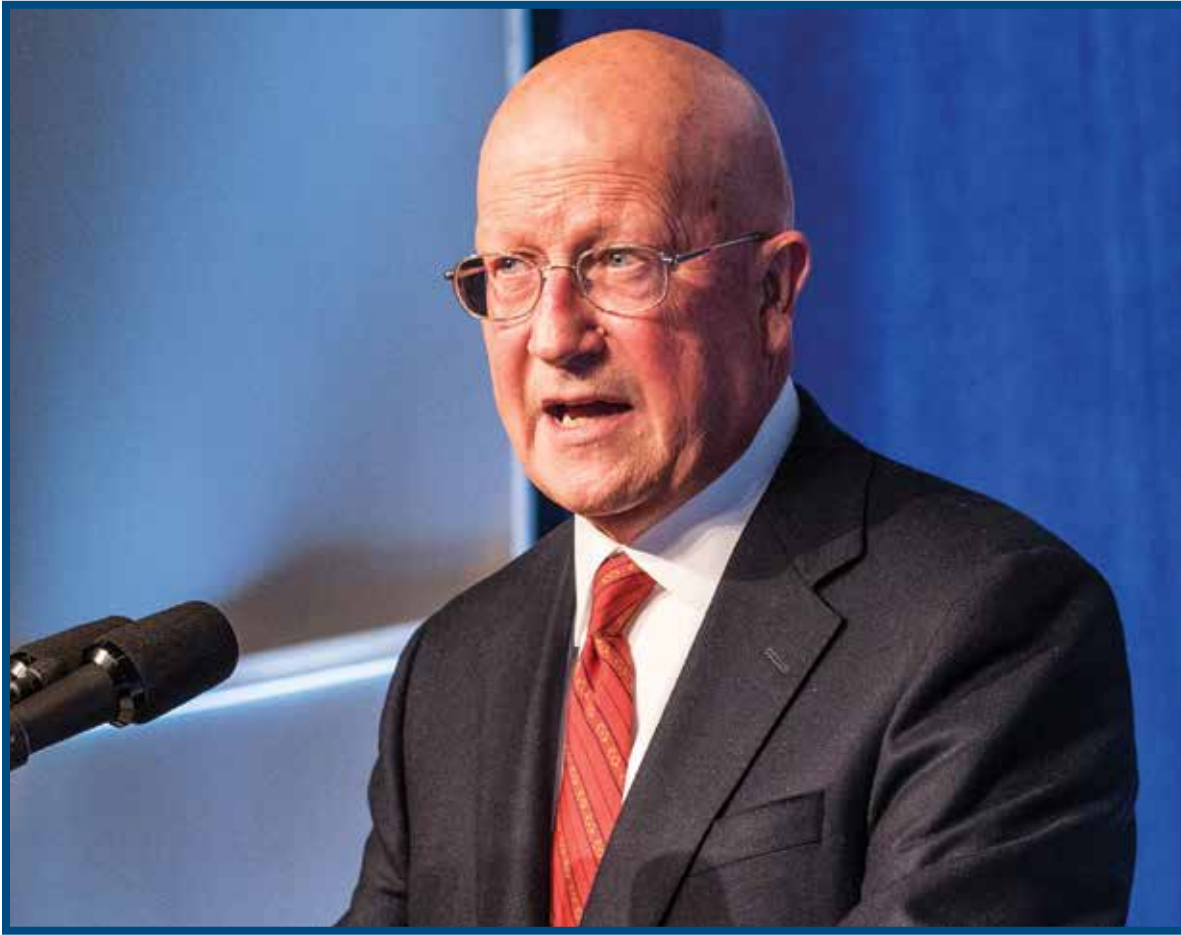


Photo by Charity Hedges

Kentucky Chamber Chairman Bill Lear, chairman emeritus of Stoll Keenon Ogden, welcomed the audience, recognizing board members in attendance and Kentucky Chamber Chairman-elect Joe Craft, president of Alliance Resources.



Photos by Tim Webb

(TOP) Former Kentucky Chamber Chairman Kevin Canafax and his team from Fidelity Investments, who sponsored the event. (ABOVE) Robert Ryan, Wyatt Tarrant and Combs, and Former Chairman Luther Deaton, Central Bank.



Photos by Tim Webb

(LEFT) More than 1,600 people attended the 22nd Annual Kentucky Chamber Day dinner on Jan. 7. (CENTER) Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors member Terry Forcht, Forcht Group. (RIGHT) Former Kentucky Chamber Board Chairman Darby Turner, Bingham, Greenebaum, Doll.



Photos by Tim Webb

(LEFT) Three former Kentucky Chamber Board Chairmen, John Williams, CSI, Craig Guess, and Jim Booth, Booth Energy. (CENTER) Senate President Robert Stivers with former Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Elizabeth McCoy, Planters Bank, and board member Winston Griffin, Laurel Grocery Company. (RIGHT) Kentucky Chamber board members Tierra Kavanaugh Wayne, TKT and Associates, and Nick Rowe, Kentucky American Water.

100 companies named Best Places to Work

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER of Commerce and the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (KYSHRM) have announced the 100 companies (in alphabetical order) that made the 13th Annual Best Places to Work in Kentucky list. The winner rankings will be announced at an awards dinner Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at Heritage Hall in the Lexington Convention Center. The selection process is based on an assessment of the company's employee policies and procedures and the results of an internal employee survey. For more details, visit bestplacestoworkky.com.



And the winners are ...

Kentucky Chamber members noted in bold.

SMALL COMPANIES

Companies of 15-149 U.S. employees

Advanced Payroll Systems
AMR Management Services
ARGI Financial Group
Associations International
 Benefit Insurance Marketing (BIM)
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 Don Marshall Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Fiat Nissan
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 Middleton Reutlinger
 Mirazon
People Plus, Inc.
Peoples Exchange Bank
 Post Time Studios
Saint Joseph Martin, a part of KentuckyOne Health
SDGblue, LLC
SIS, LLC
 Strategic Communications, LLC
 Strategic Marketing Services, LLC
Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC
Town & Country Bank and Trust Co.
Unified Trust Company
 US WorldMeds
 Venminder, Inc.
Ward, Hocker & Thornton, PLLC

Harrison Memorial Hospital
Harshaw Trane
Heritage Bank USA, Inc.
 Hosparus Inc.
Houchens Insurance Group
Independence Bank
 Kentucky Bank
KentuckyOne Health, Medical Center Jewish East
KORT
L&N Federal Credit Union
 Louisville Tile Distributors
 MassMutual Midwest
MCM CPAs & Advisors
NetGain Technologies
 Park Community Credit Union
PBI Bank
Stites & Harbison, PLLC
 WDRB Media
 Wendell Foster
Winterwood Inc.

LARGE COMPANIES

Companies of 500 or more U.S. employees

Aerotek
AssuredPartners NL
Baptist Health
 Booz Allen Hamilton
Central Bank & Trust Co.
 Comcast Cable
Corning Incorporated
Crowe Horwath LLP
CSI
 Edward Jones
 Envoy Mortgage
Farm Credit Mid-America
Frankfort Regional Medical Center
Genentech
Hilliard Lyons
 Jack Henry & Associates, Inc.
Kentucky American Water
KentuckyOne Health, Our Lady of Peace
 Long John Silver's, LLC
Neustar
Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital
Papa John's Corporate
 Parallon- Revenue Cycle Point Solutions; Louisville Specialty Center
Republic Bank & Trust Company
Rockcastle Regional Hospital and Respiratory Care Center
 Senture, LLC
Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
Stock Yards Bank & Trust
 Total Quality Logistics
Trilogy Health Services, LLC
 V-Soft Consulting Group Inc

MEDIUM COMPANIES

Companies of 150-499 U.S. employees

Air Hydro Power
Balluff, Inc.
Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP
Blue & Co., LLC
 Brooksource
 Clark Regional Medical Center
 Creative Lodging Solutions
Dean Dorton
Forcht Bank

The Best Places to Work in Kentucky Awards Dinner is April 26. Register at bestplacestoworkky.com

FROM THE FRONT

SESSION: Paycheck protection, prevailing wage bills signed

The paycheck protection bill, Senate Bill 6, requires workers to "opt-in" to having union dues withheld from their paychecks rather than the current practice that holds a worker must act to opt out of having an employer withhold their dues.

The state's prevailing wage has also been repealed as is expected to bring a boon to the state as more buildings will be built in Kentucky now that the extra cost burden of the prevailing wage has been removed.

House Bill 3 eliminated the government defined hourly wage in construction contracts known as prevailing wage on government projects. A 2014 study by the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission — a nonpartisan research organization

of the legislature — determined that the prevailing wage law inflated labor cost by 24 percent on average and increased total project costs by an average of 10 to 16 percent.

"Added spending on public works projects by Kentucky taxpayers means fewer public works projects are built or existing projects, such as schools, are scaled back," Kentucky Chamber President Adkisson said.

The Kentucky Chamber plans to continue to push for passage of pro-business legislation including medical review panels, charter schools and more in the 2017 session while also continuing to have a seat at the table on pension and tax reform, which are expected to be addressed later in the year.

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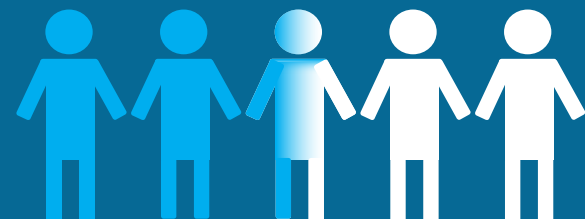
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Charter schools offer another tool for Kentucky education

KENTUCKY FELT an earthquake on November 8, 2016 that drastically changed the makeup of Frankfort and provided the Bluegrass state with a viable path to finally adopt needed reforms. With an eager Governor and a General Assembly intent on improving Kentucky's business climate and education system, Kentuckians from all parts of the state should be excited about one thing: opportunity.

The General Assembly has the opportunity to expand public education options for all parents, students and educators. Legislation allowing for public charter schools is long overdue. Kentucky is one of only seven states that does not allow for these innovative public schools. Unfounded myths, baseless fears, and a host of honest questions have provided cover for policy makers to place special interests ahead of student success. As a late adopter of public charter schools, Kentucky can learn from twenty-six years of research and best practices on what does—and does not—work with public charter schools.

Before passing a public charter school bill though, it is important to understand what exactly public charter schools are. Simply put, they are public schools that are free to be more innovative but are held strictly accountable for improved student achievement and management through the "charter," a performance contract that outlines school expectations. As public schools, charter schools do not charge tuition, teach religion, or have admissions requirements and they are held to the same high standards as every public school in Kentucky, with greater accountability.

There are certain aspects of a public charter school bill that are important to include so that these institutions can be successful. First, there must be multiple types of authorizers. Authorizers are the entities that carefully review a charter application, give it the green light to open the doors, oversee its performance, and shut them if they don't meet the needs of children, parents, and taxpayers.



This op-ed is a product of the Kentucky Charter School Project, a group comprised of organizations promoting public charter schools in Kentucky and which the Kentucky Chamber is a member of.



Kentucky Chamber Vice President of Public Affairs Ashli Watts spoke in favor of charter schools at the School Choice Rally at the state capitol on Jan. 27.

In the interest of true innovation and market principles, multiple authorizing authorities are a critical component to maximize positive impact. Some say that only local school boards should authorize charter schools citing "local control on decision making." However, nothing is more local than parents and guardians making a decision about their children's education. Further, the boards that govern individual charter schools will be local and ensure local control.

Second, a public charter school bill must allow educators, parents, and community members throughout the state an equal opportunity to apply to start a new public charter school from scratch. Legislation should not limit public charter schools to one or two counties. Instead, policy makers should acknowledge that parents, kids, and teachers, no matter their address, deserve equal education opportunity.

Third, equitable funding for public charter school students is a must. Continuing to allow public dollars to follow children is essential to giving public charter schools the opportunity to be successful and make a difference for our state.

The 2017 General Assembly will hopefully bring new opportunities to our kids. The time is now to pass a strong public charter school bill.

Thank you for your investment!

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A New Way to Control Your Company's Healthcare Costs

Life Style Health Plans is a preferred partner of the Kentucky Chamber offering a better way to control your healthcare costs with a robust wellness component.

The group health plans, designed with you in mind, feature many value added benefits to save you money:

- Level-funded group health plans
- \$0 copay telemedicine access
- 100% paid lab benefit program
- 100% paid diabetic supply benefit
- \$1 copay for certain generic prescriptions
- Patient care coordination for every member
- Integrated wellness with cash and deductible incentives
- Wellness coaching and chronic condition management

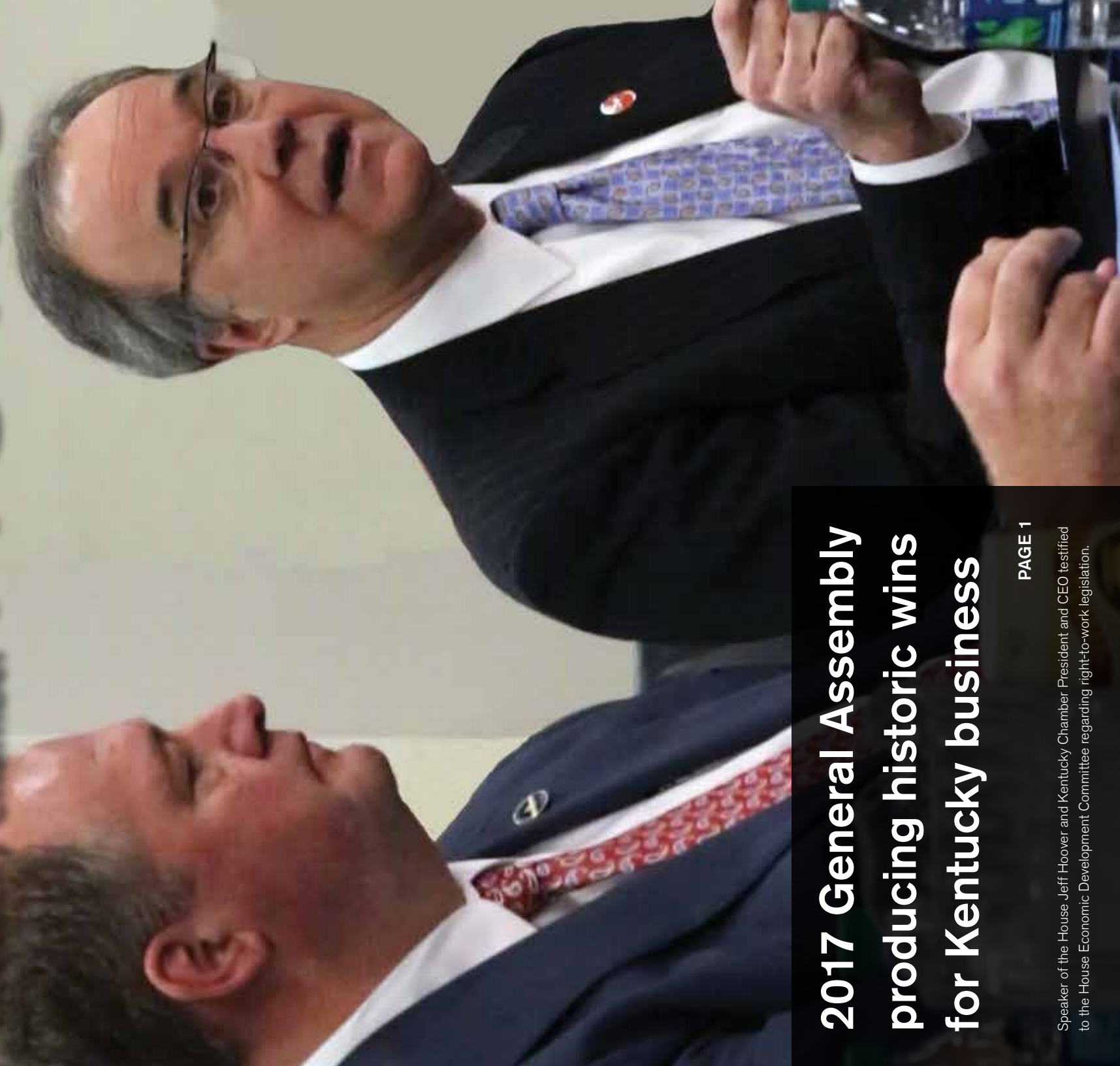


Are you ready to take back control of your health care costs?
Contact Hilary Morgan at hmorgan@kychamber.com.

FEBRUARY 2017

Kentucky Chamber NEWS

Kentucky Chamber



2017 General Assembly producing historic wins for Kentucky business

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Speaker of the House Jeff Hoover and Kentucky Chamber President and CEO testified to the House Economic Development Committee regarding right-to-work legislation.