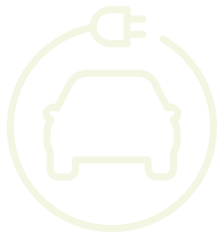


The Chamber of Catawba County's 2023 Advocacy Achievements

Advocating on behalf of our Partners is critical to our ability to help our community grow. We have committed to understanding the issues that are most important to the business community and advocate for or against those issues in order to protect business interests.

During the recent legislative session, The Chamber made significant strides in advocating for a comprehensive and forward-looking agenda, fostering pro-business policies for our community.



Transportation Finance Reform

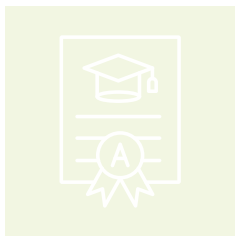
As more electric vehicles take to the roads, the gas tax that has traditionally supported the construction and maintenance of our highways is dwindling, requiring a new method to fund our road infrastructure. This session, we saw increased registration fees for electric and hybrid vehicles, introduction of new taxes on ride-sharing services, and a continued transfer of sales tax dollars to the Transportation Highway Fund.

Child Care Issues

Because the cost and availability of high-quality child care often prevents parents from joining the workforce, we advocate for programs and policies that promote child care resources.



Notably, our push for improved early childhood education saw the launch of initiatives like the Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program and the allocation of significant federal funding for child care stabilization grants. There is still much improvement to be made in this area, but we were pleased that some steps were taken to strengthen our workforce.



School Report Card Reform

While no legislation was passed, a broad conversation was had within the Department of Public Instruction about the need for reform, emphasizing student progress and acknowledging alternative methods to gauge student success beyond traditional tests. There is an effort underway to have legislation presented next session that would update the traditional school report card model.

Medicaid Expansion

In an effort to reduce health care costs for small businesses and increase labor availability, we supported Medicaid Expansion, which took effect on December 1, 2023.



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Connections with Elected Officials

In 2023, we provided multiple opportunities for Chamber Partners to connect with their elected officials in an effort to foster open dialogue, allowing businesses to voice their concerns, aspirations, and insights directly to policymakers. This collaborative approach not only ensures that legislators are well-informed about the real-world implications of their decisions but also strengthens the trust and mutual understanding between the business community and the policy arena, empowering both sides to work together.



The Chamber held a Legislative Breakfast, where subject-matter experts presented on topics relevant to our legislative agenda.

Congressman Patrick McHenry gave an overview of federal issues at our Policy and a Pint event



A group of Advocacy Taskforce members traveled to Raleigh in May to meet with Rep. Adams, Rep. Setzer, and Sen. Proctor to discuss and advocate for our legislative agenda.



2023 Partner Survey Finding

95% of respondents view The Chamber of Catawba County as an advocate for pro-business public policy compared to only 74% of survey respondents from our Partner Survey in 2019.

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