

January 29, 2019

Virginia General Assembly  
Pocahontas Building  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear General Assembly Members:

In 2017, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce released Blueprint Virginia 2025, which serves as an outline for policy recommendations that will reposition Virginia, once again, as the best state for business. More than 6,000 leaders, including regional and local chambers of commerce, participated in the engagement process and the rising cost of health insurance was of great concern for Virginia employers. We are writing you today to encourage you to support bills – **SB 1689 (Dunnavant), SB 1351 (Wagner), SB 1353 (Wagner), and SB 1712 (Vogel)** – that will help increase access to affordable health care coverage for small employers in Virginia.

This concept allows associations to sell benefit plans to its members through the formation of a benefits consortium. We believe allowing organizations to offer health insurance plans to small businesses will expand access to affordable health care coverage options for small employers.

As articulated through the recommendations of Blueprint Virginia 2025, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and those listed below remain committed to expanding access to health care coverage and minimizing cost. We encourage you to support this concept to allow us to become a part of the solution in ensuring our small business owners can afford health insurance for themselves and their employees.

The bills before the legislature that support this health care for small business concept include **SB 1689 (Dunnavant), SB 1351 and SB 1353 (Wagner), and SB 1712 (Vogel)**. As representatives of some of Virginia's leading employers, **we strongly encourage you to support these bills.**

We hope we can count on your support.

