



Common Sense Initiative

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Carrie Kuruc, Director

Small Business Advisory Council Meeting – Minutes **Thursday, June 20th, 2019, 10:00 AM**

Karine Hray, Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Director of Business Advocacy, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Members Present:

- Representative George Lang
- Doug Barry
- William Bishop
- Tyeis Baker-Baumann
- Thomas Demaline
- Mike Kahoe

Mrs. Hray gave a brief introduction of newly appointed member, State Representative George Lang, who spoke of his focus on small business with his work in the General Assembly.

Mrs. Hray then introduced Lt. Governor Jon Husted, who addressed the challenge the state has faced due to inclement weather, specifically the very rainy spring, and thanked the members for making it to Columbus despite that. He updated the Council on the status of the CSI backlog, stating that all rule packages that are still with CSI from the backlog are waiting on action from outside of the CSI Office. The next step he sees for CSI is to play offense and seek out outdated and overburdensome regulations.

For example, the Lt. Governor told the story of Aaron Westbrook, a 20-year-old college student who used a 3-D printer to create his own prosthetic hand when he was just 14 years old. Mr. Westbrook founded a non-profit company that 3-D prints task-specific prosthetic limbs for individuals with limb differences and provides them free-of-charge. However, the current state of the law could have prevented him from operating his business, because a person needs 6 -7 years of school and experience in order to get a license to practice prosthetics.

Lt. Governor Husted mentioned the legislation CSI is proposing with the help of Senator Rob McColley to ensure that outdated regulations will not get in the way of innovation in Ohio. Language proposed in the budget bill allows the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board, which licenses the practice of prosthetics, to grant permission for people like Aaron to continue researching and developing new technology.

Lt. Governor Husted discussed another of his priority initiatives, the issues facing workforce development. He talked about exciting opportunities for skills training and highlighted the example of a young woman who is attending Butler Tech to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor on an untraditional route that has allowed for her to get work experience at a hospital and 20 college credits before high school graduation.

Mr. Demaline asked what relief farmers should expect due to recent flooding. The Lt. Governor stated that Governor DeWine has an agriculture background and has spent much of his time focusing on the issue to find solutions to the problem. Mr. Barry expressed his thanks for the Lt. Governor and Governor visiting the Dayton area following the recent tornados that passed through the region, and expressed his hope for some financial relief for small businesses that have been affected by the storms and may not be able to recover enough revenue to cover their expenses. Lt. Governor Husted was hopeful that the federal disaster declaration will help, and that the state must think creatively to tackle all of the challenges from the inclement weather. Mr. Bishop asked about the transfer of lumber across the state and the need for multiple permits to move lumber. Lt. Governor Husted was unsure about the Ohio Department of Transportation's ability to permit waivers, but offered to have staff collect more information.

Following that discussion, Mrs. Hray introduced Governor DeWine's Senior Advisor on Criminal Justice Policy, Andy Wilson. Mr. Wilson introduced himself and discussed how difficult it is for companies to find adequate labor, including employees who have necessary training and can pass a drug test. Mr. Wilson stressed the need for policy that ensures public safety while still taking care of people in all areas of life, including those with criminal records. Mr. Wilson stated that the main reason people are re-introduced to crime is the inability to attain a steady job. He stated that low level non-violent offenders could be the biggest population of skilled labor in the state by training them with both hard and soft skills to be a contributing member of society. Mr. Wilson spoke of a Cincinnati-based website that offers an online matching service for skilled ex-convicts and businesses. Mr. Wilson also stated the Governor's office is open to new ideas.

Mr. Wilson then answered questions from the Council. Mr. Barry asked what can be done to build an accurate and realistic career path for the populations entering the workforce. Mr. Wilson stated a need to teach soft skills, manage expectations and instill hard work ethics in those who need of a job.

Representative Lang pointed out the legislative struggle to attain the right results for this population, especially when state government has grown quickly despite the slower growth of its funding base. Mr. Wilson responded that carefully developed legislative changes are necessary, so that low level offenders can be removed from the criminal justice system indefinitely.

Mr. Demaline expressed that a challenge with employing those who have been convicted of committing a crime is an appropriate work ethic. Mrs. Baker-Baumann expressed her interest in hearing from those who have been successfully reintroduced and rehabilitated to learn from them what works.

After a short break, Mrs. Hray introduced Emily Fabiano, Director of Strategy and Operations for the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. Mrs. Fabiano spoke about several workforce programs available to help the ex-criminal population find employment, including Certificates of Qualification for Employment (CQE). Mrs. Fabiano introduced the staff and work of the Office of Workforce Transformation. She expressed the importance of addressing the needs of employees and employers regarding the continually changing landscape of technology in the workplace. She also touched on the status of the Office's programs proposed in the budget, such as the ChooseOhio First scholarship program, the Tech Cred initiative, and industry sector partnerships. She then took questions.

Mr. Demaline asked if the objectives are more of a widespread focus or a more specific objective. Mrs. Fabiano stated that the initiatives such as Tech Cred have a wide net, but also allow for more focused initiatives as a part of the widespread effort. Mrs. Baker-Baumann posed a question regarding funding and referenced a skill development program in which a private business engaged the community's youth. Mrs. Fabiano stated that early engagement of students in skill-based training is a focus of the administration. Mr. Bishop suggested that private schools could be helpful when public schools are overwhelmed in career training paths. Mr. Kahoe expressed his interest in working with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation to help connect persons receiving unemployment benefits with employers.

Mrs. Hray introduced CSI Director Carrie Kuruc. Ms. Kuruc informed the members that Emily Groseclose will replace Mrs. Hray as the Council's main point of contact. Mrs. Hray expressed her gratitude in having worked with the Council.

Ms. Kuruc then talked about the process of eliminating the rule backlog, and that the focus of CSI is on ensuring substantial stakeholder engagement. Mr. Bishop asked how the rules are classified, and Ms. Kuruc stated that that Ohio law requires state agencies, boards, and commissions to determine if a rule has an adverse impact on business and requires CSI review based on the definition of "adverse impact on business" in Ohio law.

Ms. Kuruc highlighted some recently passed legislation regarding the regulatory process, such as Senate Bill 255 concerning occupational licensing. Ms. Kuruc stated that the bill requires CSI to testify on feedback CSI has received regarding the rules under review pursuant to that bill.

Ms. Kuruc spoke about Senate Bill 221 and its requirement for agencies to ensure any policies it implements are adopted as rules.

Ms. Kuruc discussed Senate Bill 1 and informed the members that some language from that bill is expected to be included in the budget. She gave an overview of the regulatory reform requirements of SB 1, including the creation of base inventories of regulatory restrictions and a requirement that agencies remove two restrictions for every new restriction proposed. Ms. Kuruc also mentioned two pending bills regarding temporary occupational licensure for military spouses.

Following that discussion, Ms. Kuruc asked for any objections to the previous meeting minutes, and there were none. Ms. Kuruc closed the meeting at 12:05 p.m., reminding the Council that the next scheduled meeting is August 22, 2019.