



2007 Public Policy Agenda Healthcare

Public Policy Agenda Executive Summary

The Greater Akron Region is poised to realize economic growth and investment over the coming years, and the Greater Akron Chamber is ready to spearhead the charge for business and job growth for the area. As a leading economic development organization, the Chamber is dedicated to creating a political climate that encourages business attraction and retention, job creation, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and infrastructure support, making the Greater Akron Region a superior choice for business location and providing a high quality of life for the people of the region.

The 2007 Public Policy Agenda outlines the issues that our business leadership believes will promote investment in our region. The Chamber will proactively work with our decision makers at the local, state, and federal levels to impact decisions that will positively affect the business climate of Northeast Ohio. With the help of our members and partners, we know that we can provide a framework for guiding responsible public policy decisions that foster economic growth, job creation, and a strong quality of life for our communities.

Health Care

Health care has a direct economic impact of \$1.9 billion for our region, including providing 15,880 jobs from hospitals alone. Indirectly, the region benefits by \$3.1 billion in output and earnings from local spending by hospitals. The Greater Akron Region benefits in an extraordinary way from the advanced availability of quality health care. Our health care system is the top driver in number of employees for the region. Hospitals continue to create jobs and provide training for employees. Our health care providers advance biotech research and medical technology which provides direct economic investment in the region. Through incubators and work with venture capital organizations, our hospitals provide entrepreneurial support for start-up companies and partnerships increasing the opportunities to transition to a high-tech economy.

- **The Greater Akron Chamber will continue to support market-driven solutions to control growth in health care costs and to foster competition in the private health insurance market. The Chamber will advocate for fair and equitable reimbursement plans for health care providers ensuring their continued economic growth in the region.**
- **The Greater Akron Chamber will support the Summit 2010 project as it relates to the health care industry.**
- **The Greater Akron Chamber will continue to look for opportunities to create economic growth in biotech and health care through local, state, and federal funding.**