As Alabama’s foremost voice for business, the Business Council of Alabama is a non-partisan statewide business association representing the interests and concerns of nearly one million working Alabamians through its member companies and its partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama. BCA is Alabama’s exclusive affiliate to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

This annual policy agenda is produced to highlight the business community’s priorities and policy objectives of the first session of the 114th Congress.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The BCA will support efforts to:

• Secure federal contracts and support and enhance federal programs leveraging Alabama’s military, defense and aerospace, biotech and medical research, and research and development opportunities.

• Advocate changes and improvements to Sarbanes-Oxley to reduce the negative impact to business created by the existing statute by providing further clarification to the existing law in order to eliminate several unintended consequences; to reduce the disproportionate costs of compliance; and to ensure the U.S. markets are not at a competitive disadvantage to foreign markets.

• Fully fund the development of the Space Launch System and the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle to keep our nation the world leader in the human exploration of space.

• Preserve, promote and protect the integrity and viability of the federal government’s small business programs in order to ensure that work awarded under such programs is performed to the maximum extent possible by authentic small businesses that legitimately comply with applicable size standards established by the Small Business Administration.

EDUCATION/WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT

The BCA will support efforts to:

• Federally fund the needed resources to expand the Alabama Reading Initiative beyond grades K-3.