



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025





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We believe in an economy of abundance, one in which success for some means success for others. The key is innovation-driven growth that enables people to realize their potential by contributing to the lives of others.

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HEALTHCARE

Putting patients first by placing them in the driver's seat of their own health care



Greetings,

Americans for Prosperity believes that free people are capable of achieving extraordinary things. That is why we take a principled approach to policy reform that will remove government barriers and increase freedom and opportunity for all Georgians.

Our work is largely made possible by concerned citizens who turn into grassroots activists, working alongside us to advance policies that improve people's lives.

We hope you join us in supporting commonsense policies that help reignite the American Dream and move Georgia forward on its pathway to prosperity.



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REGULATORY REFORM

We all want Georgia to have a strong economy today, tomorrow, and for years to come. Job creators have flocked to our state, fleeing high tax and burdensome regulation states, but there's no guarantee that will always be the case. In September 2024, the Mercatus Center ranked Georgia as the 26th most regulated state and the Cicero Institute ranks Georgia last in terms of regulatory processes and procedures. Sunrise and sunset reforms to regulatory rule-making processes will ensure a predictable and reasonable regulatory environment for years to come.



The REINS Act

The Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act is a sunrise review mechanism that requires major rules be approved by the legislature prior to implementation. Additionally, it would require for the first time that new rules and regs be given a regulatory cost estimate so that lawmakers, affected businesses, and the public know the true cost of regulatory burden prior to implementation.

Red Tape Rollback

A smart sunset reform to repeal outdated or harmful regulations could include:

- Requiring a regular review of rules and regulations already on the books
- Identifying less restrictive regulatory alternatives when repromulgating rules
- Requiring legislative approval prior to repromulgating a major rule
- Ensuring that repromulgation of rules don't lead to higher regulatory costs

2 THE ECONOMY

Tax Reform

In the past several years, the legislature has taken steps to reduce the state personal and corporate tax rates. To remain competitive with our neighbors, continued emphasis should be placed on further reductions, which can be funded by a continuation of conservative budgeting and elimination of wasteful special-interest tax expenditures.

Portable Benefits

Portable benefits funds are accounts funded by workers to cover various benefits, including health insurance, with benefits attached to the individual rather than the employer or business clients. These funds serve as either primary or supplemental benefits, with contributions being voluntary and adjustable by the worker. Reforms can give self-employed workers a pathway to open their own accounts and secure more affordable benefits while also allowing clients to put money in their accounts as a part of compensation.



Civil Litigation Reform

Lawsuit abuse leads to unnecessarily higher costs for individual consumers as well as businesses. It is long overdue for the legislature to look hard at ways to reform these practices.

Housing Policy Reform

Permit Accessory Dwelling Units

Several states have passed laws permitting homeowners to build ADUs, which can take the form of backyard cottages, basement apartments, or garage conversions. This allows for more housing units, at a lower cost, and can create additional income for homeowners.

Cap Minimum-Lot-Size Requirements

Minimum-lot-size requirements are one of the key regulations that prevent entry-level housing construction because they require each new house to sit on a large piece of land. State policymakers can put a cap on local minimum lot sizes where sewer and water infrastructure are available.



3

REMOVING BARRIERS

Licensure Reform for those with Criminal History

Previous legislation like SB 157 should be revisited as to unlock opportunities for those who have paid their debt to society and no longer present a threat to public safety. Outdated licensure requirements that prevent people from pursuing work they do well is bad for the economy and for individual success and fulfillment.

Welfare Benefits Cliff

When low-income individuals begin to earn more, they often face the loss of certain state benefits, creating a disincentive for financial independence. The additional income is frequently insufficient to compensate for the lost benefits, leading many to avoid accepting higher wages, promotions, or increased hours to maintain their eligibility. This perpetuates poverty. However, gradually reducing benefits as income rises, rather than eliminating them outright, can help break this cycle. It encourages a transition off benefits, potentially reducing long-term dependency and benefiting both employers and employees by increasing labor participation.



Cottage Food

Georgia's cottage food framework provides opportunities for individuals to prepare and sell low-risk foods from their home kitchens, such as baked goods, jams, and candies. However, current regulations can create unnecessary hurdles for small-scale entrepreneurs. By streamlining requirements for permits, labeling, and sanitation, we can make it easier for cottage food businesses to thrive. These changes would support local entrepreneurship, boost economic opportunity, and empower more Georgians to pursue small business ventures from their homes.

4 EDUCATION

Competency Based Education

Remove arbitrary seat-time rules and focus on content mastery. Most education systems are organized around specific requirements related to the number of hours (or even minutes) of instruction a student receives in a day, week, and school year. Instead, they should focus on mastering concepts and skills, regardless of time, place, and pace. We should free teachers to individualize learning, so that students stay interested and passionate about their education.

Fully Fund the New Georgia Promise Scholarship

We support fully funding this new program created by SB 233 and believe all students should be eligible. We oppose any attempts to further restrict eligibility.

Learn Everywhere

Provide an education credit for learning, wherever it occurs. Children learn through a variety of approaches and experiences: this includes learning in a traditional classroom and experiences far beyond the walls of a traditional school. Learn Everywhere policies create a path for students to earn course credits for these out-of-classroom learning opportunities.



Public School Choice

No more lines

Students and families should be able to choose their public school, no matter where they live.

Education your way

All students enrolled in any form of school - including private, microschool, or homeschool - should be able to access public schooling on a course-by-course basis and for extracurricular activities.

5 HEALTHCARE

No to Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid expansion means that able-bodied childless adults will receive taxpayer funded healthcare insurance, there will be less healthcare access for the truly needy, and our country will be driven further into debt and toward a fiscal cliff.

Full CON Repeal

We applaud the legislature for the progress made in 2024 with HB 1339, which repealed Certificate of Need requirements for hospitals in rural counties, psychiatric and substance abuse facilities, and birthing centers. However, Georgia cannot reach the optimal healthcare environment with CON still on the books. We support a full repeal so that patients have more options at lower costs.



Address Provider Shortage

- 9 counties with no physicians at all
- 18 counties with no family medicine physicians
- 65 counties with no pediatric physicians
- 82 counties with no OB/GYN physicians

Allow international medical school graduates (IMGs) who are licensed in another country to practice in Georgia without having to complete a U.S.-based residency training program after passing all medical exams and practicing under a provisional license for an eligible hospital or other provider.



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