



2021 Federal Legislative Session

Top 8 Federal Legislative Priorities

August 2021 • San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



1. Supports continued economic relief to help small businesses recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and easing restrictions in how small businesses can spend the funds to ensure the loans are forgiven.
2. Supports targeted and temporary liability protections for businesses allowing them to operate safely during the pandemic without fear of unfair lawsuits.
3. Supports legislation creating a permanent solution allowing DACA participants to receive lawful, permanent status and continue their contributions to the United States.
4. Supports much-needed comprehensive immigration reform to help businesses meet their critical workforce needs and encourage economic growth.
5. Supports expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) targeted groups to include military spouses.
6. Supports the reduction of tariffs to encourage the free flow of goods and services with U.S. Trading Partners.
7. Supports expansion of workforce training programs that help individuals get the skills they need for jobs being created now and in the future.
8. Supports a comprehensive infrastructure package that will:
 - Revitalize our crumbling infrastructure
 - Invest in public schools
 - Stimulate the economy
 - Fund shovel worthy surface transportation projects; and
 - Expand quality high-speed broadband access.

Small Business

Minority, Women and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

- Supports efforts to strengthen the minority business community, including:
 - ◊ Expanding federal contracting opportunities for minority, women and veteran-owned small businesses.
 - ◊ Efforts to increase the number of minority, women and veteran-owned small businesses.
 - ◊ Efforts to integrate Hispanic businesses into the global economy.
- Supports financial support for incubation and acceleration programs assisting small business with capacity building and job creation programs especially in HUBZones.

Innovation, Research & Development

- Supports increased funding for federal government programs, such as the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, that drive innovation and foster economic growth method for expanding the Texas Education Opportunity Grant to high school students enrolled in dual credit courses.

Taxes & Regulations

- Opposes legislation regulating a private business's daily operations and or employment practices.
- Supports tax reform and relief for small businesses so they can reopen safely, remain competitive, and create jobs.
- Supports regulatory reform and relief for small businesses that will help them grow and create jobs.

Access to Capital

- Supports legislation to encourage access to capital for small businesses.
- Supports innovative financing options that would allow small businesses to access capital and grow.

Economic Development

Business Expansion

- Supports protecting and strengthening The Opportunity Zone Program.

Military, Veterans & Spouses

- Supports legislation that expand hiring and career opportunities, improve access to continuing education programs and increase small business opportunities for military spouses.
- Supports sustaining and enhancing Joint Base San Antonio's (JBSA) mission readiness, and ensure the long term protections of the region's military bases by helping to preserve, protect and grow military missions – such as Space Command – and installations in the San Antonio Region.
- Supports sustaining and increasing P4 partnerships with region's military, and pursue infrastructure funding through the National Defense and Authorizations Act (NDAA) and appropriations process for off base projects and other programs.
- Supports authorizing and appropriating additional funding to improve Department of Defense (DoD) military readiness rates and reduce the maintenance backlog in tactical aviation in our military services.
- Supports robust public-private partnerships between the DoD and the private sector on sustainment of aircraft thereby leveraging decades of expertise and efficiency to ensure continued military readiness and long-term cost savings to the United States Government and taxpayers.
- Supports advocating for the 2022 Department of Defense Warrior Games to be held in San Antonio.
- Supports key clarifications and modifications to Section 703 of the 2021 NDAA to help streamline the billing/collection process for BAMC and other military treatment facilities (MTF) who provide medical care to civilians.



Transportation

- Supports a federal transportation (infrastructure) initiative and/or the next federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.
- Supports increased funding opportunities for operations and capital expenses in collaboration with local partners to advance multi modal transportation options as identified and supported by locally driven processes.
- Supports an increase in Capital Investment Grant funding and program limits, specifically within Small Starts.
- Supports extension of the Alternative Fuels Tax Credit.
- Supports increased funding for Bus and Bus Facilities within federal transit funding.
- Supports legislative language for the usage of alternative fuels as a transition toward a higher usage of electric vehicles as technology demonstrates usable range and capability.
- Supports continued supplemental support for public transit as COVID-19 recovery occurs.

Energy

- Supports policies, programs and funding for non-attainment areas to reach and maintain attainment with federal ozone standards before additional regulations are necessary.
- Supports congressional efforts and proposals to incentivize research, demonstration and deployment of evolving advanced technologies that will promote innovation and assist with net emissions reductions.
- Supports carbon-reduction proposals that are resource-neutral, economy wide, and give San Antonio the flexibility to invest in and transition to low- and non-emitting technologies in a manner consistent with our community's priorities and the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP).
- Supports additional federal funding for programs such as the Low-Income Home Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as it provides invaluable support and financial assistance to our San Antonio community members unable to pay their energy bills.

Healthcare

- Supports alternative options for affordable and high-quality health insurance plans available to small business owners and their employees.
- Supports adjustments and appropriations to enhance the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP).
- Supports the extension and renewal of the 1115 Texas Transformation Waiver.
- Supports effective solutions, such as Telehealth, that will help expand access to quality, affordable Health Care.

Immigration

- Supports expanding programs for job-creating entrepreneurs to start and grow business in the U.S.
- Supports increased allotment of H1-B visas for high-skilled immigrants to meet the needs of businesses.
- Supports effective use of modern technology for enhanced, practical, and effective border security.
- Supports facilitating secure domestic and international travel through support of programs such as Secure Travel Partnership (Visa Waiver Program) and the Trusted Traveler Program.

Housing

- Supports increasing and/or maintaining funding for programs used to increase multifamily and single family housing production, as well as homeownership. Programs include but are not limited to the Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Tax Exempt Bonds, Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), CHOICE Neighborhoods and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME).

Water

- Supports assistance for Low-Income Utility Customers Impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Supports tax Exemption for Water Conservation Rebates Similar to the Electric Utilities Rebates.
- Supports continued Funding for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects.
- Supports monitoring the new Lead and Copper Rules to Ensure Reasonable Implementation.

Education

Public Education

- Supports extending the FCC E-Rate Schools and Libraries USF Program by enabling high-speed internet access/services for virtual learners beyond campus boundaries.
- Supports comprehensive infrastructure funding that includes public schools and high-speed broadband access expansion.
- Supports quality universal full day Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) Education for all students (three and four years old).
- Supports full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) by increasing the percentage funded to what was intended when originally enacted in 2004 and 2015.
- Supports increasing funding for federal Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) education programs and initiatives that help expand the STEM workforce.



Higher Education

- Supports reauthorization of the Higher Education Act focusing on the following key improvement areas:
 - ◊ Student affordability, access and success;
 - ◊ Simplification of the FAFSA;
 - ◊ Institutional accountability; and
 - ◊ Innovation and compliance
- Supports preserving and enhancing the Federal Pell Grant program by:
 - ◊ Extend eligibility to short-term training programs;
 - ◊ Increase the annual maximum amount;
 - ◊ Expand eligibility to incarcerated students (“Second Chance Support”); and
 - ◊ Increase lifetime eligibility to 14 semesters
- Supports increased funding for vital institutional aid programs that include:
 - ◊ Strengthening Institutions (Title III-A of the HEA) program;
 - ◊ Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions;
 - ◊ Historically Black Colleges and Universities;
 - ◊ TRIO; and
 - ◊ GEAR UP
- Supports implementing policies, rules, and regulations that allow for the investment in successful workforce development programs such as:
 - ◊ Federal incentives to businesses that offer internships and apprenticeships;
 - ◊ Adult education and training programs;
 - ◊ Veteran training programs;
 - ◊ Expanded Opportunity Youth program funding; and
 - ◊ Educator development programs.

Workforce Development

- Supports increased funding for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and reforms to ensure workers acquire skills and credentials that meet employers’ needs.
- Supports much needed reforms to the Federal Apprenticeship Program that will scale-up apprenticeships opportunities, increase access to apprenticeships and expand apprenticeships into high-demand occupations.

International Trade

- Supports the nomination and confirmation of four members of the EXIM Bank Board of Directors.
- Supports public/private partnerships that drive investment at homes and from foreign interest.
- Opposes restrictions that would hinder domestic subsidiaries of foreign direct investment companies to participate in the political process.
- Supports continued implementation of the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act program allowing communities and private sector to provide for alternative financing arrangements for certain services and for the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land ports of entry and for other purposes.
- Supports modernization of the U.S. Tax Code to allow U.S. businesses to effectively participate in the global economy and repatriate profits earned abroad.
- Supports a capital increase for the North American Development Banks to fulfill its mission of improving environmental infrastructure and the quality of life on both sides of the border.

- Supports strengthening the political and business relationships with governments from across the world to promote trade, strengthen global supply chains with strategic partners and foreign direct investment.
- Implores the US to stabilize and honor existing agreements and advocate for trade partners to do the same, through the provisions and channels established in the existing legal framework.



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