

2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MANATEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports passage of legislation extending the tax deductions for new business expenditures to organizational expenditures and increasing the maximum deduction amount for start-up and organizational expenditures.
- Supports legislation that will phase-in the overtime regulations salary threshold adopted by the Department of Labor over five years.
- Supports capitalizing on Manatee County's proximity to the Panama Canal's expansion (Port Manatee is the closest deep water port to the Panama Canal).
- Supports continued federal funding in conjunction with Port Manatee's dredged material management facility improvements to provide and transport dredged material to be beneficially used for Washington Park, Palmetto and restoration.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports transportation legislation that authorizes a long term sustainable revenue stream.
- Supports federal funding for continued operation and maintenance of the Manatee Harbor entrance channel and Tampa Bay main channel to include maintaining adequate dredged material disposal capacity at Port Manatee.
- Supports full use of the Federal Harbor Maintenance Tax that provides full federal funding for federal channel maintenance.

HEALTH CARE

The Manatee Chamber:

- Advocates collaborative solutions to support greater access, increased quality and a reduction in overall per-patient cost of care with the input of all stakeholders, including options for small businesses and their employees.
- Supports expanded options for small businesses to participate in affordable group insurance plans.
- Urges equitable Medicare Reimbursement for Manatee County as a key strategy to ensuring our ability to attract and retain physicians and critical healthcare personnel.
- Supports increased funding and /or enabling legislation for increased access to behavioral health and related services. We applaud the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and urge funding through the annual appropriations process.
- Supports legislation to reform the nation's mental health system to provide innovative medical treatment, research and provide greater access and treatment for individuals and families.
- Supports funding for innovative programs, including pilot projects, that positively impact access to care and health outcomes.

TAX REFORM & GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Manatee Chamber urges the following:

- Support for legislation that creates a more transparent regulatory process with increased agency accountability and reduces costs and unnecessary burdens on stakeholders.
- To support legislation that enables state and local governments to require online sellers to charge and collect sales taxes.
- To address individual rates along with corporate rates, as many of the Chamber's small business members file individually as pass through entities, *and*
- To strongly oppose any efforts to create an imbalanced tax regime between individuals, small business and corporate entities or to finance a reduction in rates for large corporations on the backs of small businesses.