

2018 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MANATEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports legislation that creates a more transparent regulatory process with increased agency accountability and reduces costs and unnecessary burdens on stakeholders.
- Supports legislation that will phase-in the overtime regulations salary threshold adopted by the Department of Labor over five years.
- 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 restoration.
- Opposes gas or oil drilling within 125 miles off the Florida Coast.

TRANSPORTATION & 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 collected from shippers for the sole purpose of federal navigation channel maintenance.

TAX REFORM & GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports legislation extending tax deductions for new business expenditures to organizational expenditures and increasing the maximum deduction amount for start-up and organizational expenditures.
- Supports legislation that enables state and local governments to require online sellers to charge and collect sales taxes.
- Supports addressing individual rates along with corporate rates, as many of the Chamber's small business members file individually as pass through entities.
- Strongly opposes 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.

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 to participate in affordable group insurance plans.
- Urges equitable Medicare reimbursement rates for Manatee County by re-evaluating the formulary as a key strategy to insuring 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 mental health related services and advocates for additional per capita funding to address opioid addiction prevention and treatment.
- Supports legislation to reform the nation's mental health system to provide innovative medical research and treatment and provide greater access for individuals and families.
- Supports funding for innovative programs, including pilot projects, that positively impact access to care and health outcomes.