

2019 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MANATEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & QUALITY OF LIFE

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports the allocation of grant funding to businesses for red tide recovery.
- Supports federal agencies' study of blue-green algae issue.
- Supports federal legislation to address Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research.
- Supports legislation that creates a more transparent regulatory process with increased agency accountability and reduced costs and unnecessary burdens on stakeholders.
- 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.

TAX REFORM & GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Manatee Chamber:

- Supports legislation that enables state and local governments to require online sellers to charge and collect sales taxes.

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 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 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, including the enforcement of existing parity laws.
- Supports funding for innovative programs, including pilot projects, that positively impact access to care and health outcomes.