



## **2020 Legislative Agenda**

Pennsylvania has abundant natural resources, geographic advantages and first rate educational and training institutions that are attractive to employers and help companies compete. We urge lawmakers to pursue a public policy agenda that complements these advantages encourages job growth, and helps improve the Commonwealth's business climate and prospects for economic prosperity today and in the years ahead.

### **Workforce Development and career readiness**

Employers in Pennsylvania continue to experience workforce challenges that are detrimental to our economy and prospects for growth. We urge lawmakers to build on past efforts and focus on policies that will help Pennsylvania's youth prepare for the jobs of the future; help facilitate upskilling opportunities within the incumbent workforce; encourage those on the sidelines to transition back into the workforce; and make Pennsylvania an attractive destination for individuals starting careers or relocating.

### **Responsible state spending and smart government**

The PA Chamber urges the legislature and Governor to work collaboratively toward enactment of a responsible, on-time state budget that exhausts all opportunities for cost-savings and more efficient spending. We urge lawmakers to build on the public pension reform achieved in Act 5 of 2017 and focus on fairly mitigating the unfunded liability providing for long-term solvency and addressing municipal pensions. The PA Chamber also supports public-private partnerships and opportunities to privatize those government services that could be more efficiently provided by the private sector.

### **Improve the business tax structure**

Policymakers should reform and align the Commonwealth's tax structure with pro-growth initiatives enacted at the federal level. Our corporate net income tax rate must be reduced in order for our employers to prosper in a global economy. The PA Chamber will advocate for comprehensive changes to the state tax structure that embody the principles of competitiveness, predictability, fairness and simplicity. These changes include addressing the manner by which local taxes are levied and administered.

### **Affordable and accessible health care**

High health-care costs remain an impediment for many businesses who wish to offer a high level of quality care and accessibility for employees at affordable prices and without undue bureaucracy. The PA Chamber will continue to advocate for policies that will encourage competition in the provision of healthcare while also giving employers the most flexibility when making health care decisions.

### **Flexibility in energy markets and science-based environmental requirements**

Numerous state and federal environmental regulations and energy mandates are hindering the state's economic positions. The PA Chamber opposes the imposition of new, and the expansion of existing, mandates and will continue to advocate for thoughtful, science-based development and flexible implementation of environmental law.

### **Creating an equitable civil justice system**

Pennsylvania's legal climate lacks protections that create a fair, balanced and common sense civil litigation system. The business community supports legal reforms that help prevent lawsuit abuse while protecting the right of legitimate plaintiffs to seek justice. The PA Chamber supports lawsuit abuse reform proposals that provide for full and timely compensation of parties legitimately injured; give employers predictability and certainty; and change the judicial system to achieve greater efficiencies and unbiased justice.

### **Modern, safe, efficient and reliable infrastructure systems**

Pennsylvania must construct and maintain reliable transportation, telecommunications, wireless and utility systems and other infrastructure. The PA Chamber will continue to advocate for greater efficiencies in their construction, maintenance and delivery, including streamlined permit and regulatory processes. The business community supports expanded reliance on public-private partnerships to help the Commonwealth meet its infrastructure needs in a manner consistent with the imperative for fiscal restraints.

### **Balanced labor and employment laws and regulations**

The PA Chamber supports labor and employment public policy that helps facilitate a fair work environment without triggering unintended consequences that hurt employers. The business community supports eliminating misuse and improving the unemployment compensation system; and facilitating a workers' compensation system that roots out abuse and, most importantly, focuses on returning injured workers to full health and function. Employers oppose excessive mandates; artificial wage inflators; laws that force individuals in the private sector to pay dues to a union as a condition of employment; and allowing public resources to be used for collecting union dues and political contributions.

### **Quality educational opportunities**

The PA Chamber supports a public education system based on rigorous standards, with appropriate transparency and robust accountability measures, to help ensure Pennsylvania students graduate high school as prepared as possible for the next phase of their lives. The PA Chamber further supports initiatives that help provide families with options to best fit the specific education needs of students.