



119th Congress Legislative Agenda

The Austin Chamber of Commerce encourages legislators to work in a bipartisan manner to advance policies that strengthen our economy, create good-paying jobs, support small businesses and boost state investments into our education system. Central Texas has experienced tremendous growth in recent years. Our entire region benefits from this economic growth and the United States Congress plays an important role in passing legislation that improves the lives of all Texans and ensures that Central Texas remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Transportation, Infrastructure & Housing

- Full funding and enhanced appropriations for Capitol Investment Grants to support Project Connect
- Secure funding for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Grants
- Support discretionary grant funding for IH-35 capital express “Cap and Stitch” Project
- Fully funding the FAA Airport Improvement Program at \$4 billion as authorized in the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Act
- Increased funding for Homeless Assistance Grants and enhancement of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

Education, Talent & Workforce

- Fund schools, close achievement gaps and support greater alignment between K-12, higher education and labor demand
- Streamline the FAFSA application process and increase the Pell grant to help students afford higher education
- Extend work-study to in-demand apprenticeships, internships and work-based learning programs
- Support pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for high-paying industries
- Support meaningful immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship and federal locality pay reform to give employers access the world’s best talent

Economic Development, Innovation & National Security

- Obligate all congressionally-appropriated funding under the CHIPS and Science Act for manufacturing incentives and research initiatives
- Support H.R. 802, the STAR Act, bipartisan legislation aimed to enhance U.S. leadership in semiconductor design and research by expanding tax incentives for domestic chip development
- Support S. 1639 – American Innovation and Jobs Act, which restores the full and immediate deduction of R&D expenditures
- Maintain federal funding for U.S. Army Futures Command, whose mission is to modernize the Army through the development and integration of advanced technologies

Trade

- Support free and fair international trade agreements that create jobs in Central Texas and strengthen domestic manufacturing
- Oppose tariffs that discourage economic development and capital investment, particularly with Texas’ key trading partners like Mexico and Canada where we have established supply chains
- Maintain Texas’ role as the #1 exporting state for 22 consecutive years, where exports in 2024 totaled over \$444 billion, accounting for nearly ¼ of all U.S. exports

Healthcare

- Preserve the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)
- Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits that support 3.3 million Texans with Marketplace plans
- Support legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs
- Expand telehealth availability in Central Texas communities
- Advance policies that help nursing schools create, expand and support accelerated nursing degree programs to address severe nursing shortages in Central Texas
- Support value-based care models that improve health outcomes and reduce costs for federally funded health coverage programs