

regional development and growth including biennial reauthorization of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) and permanent authorization of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

Energy and Environment—The KC Chamber supports alternative, domestic, and renewable energy resources that are environmentally friendly and do not impede the region's economic growth. The KC Chamber advocates for policies that maintain states' rights and flexibility, and maximize energy security and efficiencies including the ENERGY STAR program, upgrading infrastructure, and other strategies to reduce greenhouse gases. We support reasonable air quality measures that protect public health economic growth.

Regional Stability—The Chamber advocates for an appropriately-funded census critical to a representative democracy, accountable government, and needed business and community investment; adequate funding for area military installations and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI); and implementation of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act.

Broadband—The Chamber supports efforts to reduce unnecessary regulations to broadband investment.

ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTH CARE

There is an undeniable link between the financial health of our businesses and the overall health and wellness of our workforce. The Chamber supports efforts to improve access to health care, reduce business costs, and regulatory burdens of providing health care coverage and wellness support including the permanent postponement of Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) cuts and preservation of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

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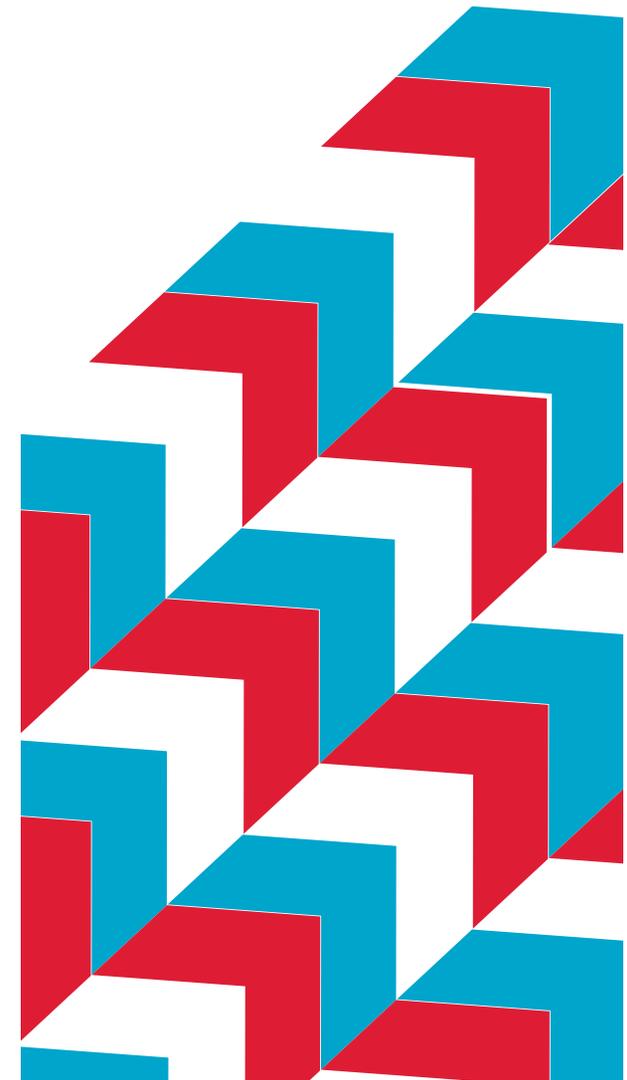
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Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce **2018 Federal Public Policy Priorities Agenda**

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Greater Kansas City plays a vital role in the health and vibrancy of the Missouri and Kansas economies. In order to grow opportunity and prosperity in the two-state region, the KC Chamber calls on Congress to enact public policy that maintains a competitive climate for economic development and long-term vitality by supporting these regional priorities:

- Sound Pro-Growth Economic Development and Fiscal Responsibility
- Human Capital and 21st Century Workforce
- World-Class Infrastructure
- Accessible, Affordable Quality Health Care

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

International Trade—Robust international trade is a key facet of Kansas City’s plan to expand exportation of goods and services and create jobs in our region. The Chamber supports pro-trade initiatives critical to U.S. competitiveness such as NAFTA, US Export-Import Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, USTDA, International Trade Administration.

Regulatory Relief—The KC Chamber supports initiatives to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and minimize the impacts of government actions on small businesses.

Support for Small, Diverse and Startup Businesses—Support for small, diverse, and emerging businesses is vital to job creation and the competitiveness of the bi-state region. We urge support for policies to stimulate entrepreneurship, regional innovation strategies and incentives to commercialize university research through legislation such as the Startup Act.

Research & Development—Research and development at universities and federally funded laboratories provides significant economic impact in the bi-state region. The KC Chamber urges Congress to invest in agencies critical to high value job growth in our region, such as NIH, NSF, DOD, DOE, and others. The Chamber supports investment in NBAF at K-State and the bio/agrodefense mission, the KU Cancer Center, and the KC Animal Health Corridor.

Immigration Reform—Responsible immigration reform, including policies that improve access to much needed human capital, is vital to workforce and economic expansion in our region. The Chamber supports:

- Guest worker programs and talent-oriented policies, such as the Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act, that expand visa programs, including H1B visas, for highly skilled workers and foreign entrepreneurs.
- Legislation to allow Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients to remain in the US and contribute to our economy as much-needed members of our workforce.

Fiscal Responsibility—A balanced federal budget and reduced national debt are critical to the health of our national economy today and in the future. The Chamber supports a responsible long-term deficit reduction plan consisting of growth policies, spending restraint and reform measures.

Tax Reform—The KC Chamber supports efforts to improve the climate for businesses of all sizes including:

- Measures to incentivize business startups.
- Efforts to increase investment in U.S. companies.
- A uniform and fair standard to reduce the tax compliance burden of the mobile workforce.
- Preservation of designations and structures for employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs).
- Maintaining tax-exempt status for municipal bonds, private activity bonds and other tax structures that foster a strong environment for a growing region.

Social Security—The KC Chamber supports measures to improve long-term solvency of the Social Security system.

Financial Services—A strong, responsive, and innovative banking system is critical to the success of the region’s businesses, consumers, and institutions and paramount to a vibrant regional economy. The Chamber supports policies that recognize the value of the diversity of financial services providers and calls for reconsideration of burdensome federal regulations and legislation including, Dodd-Frank.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND A 21st CENTURY READY WORKFORCE

In the knowledge-based global marketplace, a well-educated population with technical skills and problem-solving abilities is key to Kansas City’s ability to innovate, grow, and compete. The KC Chamber supports policies and funding to encourage a robust PK-20 public education system emphasizing local control, exemplary education based on global standards and a well-trained, productive workforce. The Chamber supports:

- Investment in early learning programs including Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care Development Block Grant.
- Programs to keep higher education accessible including higher education tax incentives; funding for year-long Pell Grants; increased investments to serve students seeking in-demand, non-credit credentials; increased funding for Graduate Medical Education (GME) and the Public Health Services Act (PHSA).
- Policies that promote labor productivity, job training, and encourage citizens to enter the workforce, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), technical education, and integration of secondary and post-secondary programs.
- The Chamber opposes reduced federal investment in education based on state funding and tuition levels and opposes policies that support or incentivize K-12 scholarship tax credits, tax tuition credits, and vouchers.

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation—The KC Chamber supports sustainable, innovative, and diverse investment solutions and delivery tools for the region’s multimodal transportation infrastructure to ensure safe, efficient, sustainable and adequately funded surface, rail, aviation, and marine transportation to meet the regional economic and mobility needs of the region.

Water, Wastewater & the Missouri & Kansas Rivers—The Chamber calls for adequate investment and measures to assist local governments with sustainable improvements to flood risk management, water, and wastewater systems to meet demands of