

**Springfield Regional Chamber  
Legislative Steering Committee**

**Chair**

**Michael Kane**

**Columbia Gas of Massachusetts**

Jennifer Connolly  
*Junior Achievement of  
Western Mass., Inc.*

Thomas Creed  
*TD Bank*

Dawn Creighton  
*Greenfield Community  
College*

Jose Delgado  
*MGM Springfield*

Allison Ebner  
*Employers Association  
of the NorthEast*

Richard Hanchett  
*Westfield Bank*

Dominick Ianno  
*MassMutual*

Daniel Keenan  
*Mercy Medical Center*

Lee Kirk  
*Shriners Hospitals for  
Children*

Michael Knapik  
*Baystate Health*

Joseph Lawler  
*USI-Springfield*

Eileen Leahy  
*Comcast*

Nancy Mirkin  
*Florence Bank*

Jennifer Murphy  
*Appleton Corporation*

Timothy Murphy  
*Skoler, Abbott &  
Presser, P.C.*

John O'Brien  
*J.M. O'Brien &  
Company, P.C.*

Susan O'Connor  
*Health New England*

Steve Parastatidis  
*PeoplesBank*

Aaron Saunders  
*Benchmark Strategies*

Brooke Thomson  
*Associated Industries  
of Massachusetts*

Jeffrey Trapani  
*Robinson Donovan,  
P.C.*

Tom Tubman  
*American Energy  
Coalition*

Michael Vedovelli  
*Eversource*

Robert Ziomek  
*Massachusetts College  
of Liberal Arts*

# LEGISLATIVE PARTNERS

**Baystate Health**

ADVANCING CARE. ENHANCING LIVES.



**EVERSOURCE**

**MassMutual**



**The Republican. MASS LIVE**



**connect  
commerce<sup>2</sup>  
springfield**  
Regional Chamber

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2020

**ADDRESSING THE REGION'S  
MOST PRESSING ISSUES**

# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2020

The 2019 – 2020 legislative session on Beacon Hill is in its second year, ending July 31, 2020.

The Springfield Regional Chamber has set its agenda for the remaining months of the session based on the status of the more than 6,000 pieces of legislation that have been filed since the onset of the session.

## Health Care

The cost of health care and access to its coverage is a priority for the Chamber. The Chamber will focus its efforts on:

- **Health Care Reform.** With some exceptions, the Chamber supports the concepts of the Governor's proposed health care reform bill including: access to care, telehealth and the nurse licensing compact; pharmaceutical transparency, and health care cost control measures for all. The Chamber will monitor all legislative proposals that may run counter to these concepts.
- **Federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).** The Chamber will continue to follow legislative, regulatory and fiscal changes to the Act, as well as proposals for a single payer system/Medicare for All, and advocate at the state and/or federal level in order to avoid negative impacts to the health care system in Massachusetts.

- **Provider Reimbursements.**

The Chamber will advocate for appropriate commercial Medicare, Medicaid and Disproportionate Services Hospital payments so as not to penalize our health care providers or drive up costs to the commercial markets.

- **Mandated Benefits.** The Chamber will continue to review areas for cost containment and oppose mandated and/or expanded benefits that are not evidence-based and whose costs exceed their value.



## Workplace and Workforce

The Chamber works hard to make the region competitive and will continue its advocacy to ensure it remains so, including:

- **Paid Family/Medical Leave.** The Chamber will monitor this issue and advocate as appropriate to ensure reasonable implementation for the business community.
- **Workforce Talent.** The Chamber will advocate as appropriate for policy recommendations which remove barriers to workforce participation and support a stronger alignment between what employers demand in workers and the skills they need in building that workforce.
- **Independent Contractors.** The Chamber will encourage reforms to better reflect the current economy, encourage entrepreneurialism and incent business growth.
- **Wage "Theft".** The Chamber vigorously supports our existing laws that guarantee that workers are paid what they are due. The Chamber opposes, however, legislation that would shift legal responsibility for "wage theft" committed by one business to another business that did not employ the affected worker(s).

## Budget and Tax Policy

The Chamber will focus on how revenues are prioritized, spent and will monitor any potential income or other tax policy changes which could impact business. Areas include:

- **Stabilization Fund.** The Chamber will encourage rebuilding this Fund to a fiscally responsible level of \$5 billion and ensure its use only in dire circumstances.
- **Taxation.** The Chamber will monitor all proposed changes to tax policy and oppose those that may adversely impact business or job creation.
- **Gateway Cities.** The Chamber will support adequate funding needed for programs to address the specific needs of these cities with an emphasis on funding programs which meet labor market demand.
- **Local Aid.** The Chamber will advocate for fair and equitable funding of local aid.
- **Cannabis Taxation.** The Chamber will monitor revenues to ensure funding is being used appropriately for regulatory, social and enforcement expenses.

## Energy, Infrastructure and the Environment

These are critical issues for our members, our region and our community as a whole. As such, the Chamber will:

- **Energy.** Advocate for a comprehensive strategy which includes a balanced energy portfolio, development of alternative renewable energy sources, expansion of the supply of natural gas and conservation and energy efficiency measures.
- **Transportation.** Support legislation and policies that provide for fair, equitable and responsible investments in infrastructure that strengthen the regional economy and its communities and open economic opportunity for all.
- **Environment.** Support responsible policies to protect our environment without adding unreasonable or inequitable cost burdens on any group or constituency.

