

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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Regional Chamber

## ROADMAP FOR ADVOCACY

The Springfield Regional Chamber's Legislative Agenda 2022 will guide our advocacy work to best represent the issues of critical importance to our members and our business community. This work will support job creation, catalyze economic development, bolster our economic health, capitalize on the diversity of our workforce and our industries, protect the competitiveness of our region and the Commonwealth as a whole and build a more prosperous future.

## BUDGET & TAX POLICY

**SPENDING** Advocate for new spending initiatives which support an equitable and effective regional recovery; position our region for long-term economic prosperity and invest in a way that is deliberate, sustainable, evidence-based, expands upon existing programs with a track record of success, and balances our immediate needs with those that jumpstart the economy while providing for transformational change.

**REVENUES** Support fiscally sound legislation and policy which maintains a level in the Stabilization Fund to support 10% of the state's total spending; develops new revenue sources which catalyze job creation such as sports wagering; seeks to enhance current revenues and provides fair and equitable for local aid.

**TAXATION** Support proposed changes to tax policy which enhance the region's competitiveness such as estate tax reform and re-implementation of the charitable tax deduction, promote job creation and catalyze economic development, and oppose new broad-based taxes which would hinder recovery.

**FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT** Oppose the ballot initiative to amend the Massachusetts Constitution to add an additional tax on incomes as it would irreparably harm small businesses, significantly thwart the competitiveness of the region and sets a bad precedent for tax-making policy through constitutional amendment.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

**MICHAEL KNAPIK,**  
CHAIR  
Baystate Health

**ALLISON EBNER,**  
VICE CHAIR  
Employers Association of the NorthEast  
*Workplace & Workforce Subcommittee Chair*

**THOMAS CREED**  
TD Bank  
*Energy, Infrastructure & the  
Environment Subcommittee Chair*

**DOMINICK IANNO**  
MassMutual  
*Budget & Tax Policy Subcommittee Chair*

**DANIEL KEENAN**  
Mercy Medical Center  
*Healthcare Subcommittee Chair*

**JENNIFER CONNOLLY**  
Junior Achievement of Western Mass., Inc.

**TARYN DUFFY**  
MGM-Springfield

**JOSEPH LAWLER**  
USI-Springfield

**EILEEN LEAHY**  
Comcast

**FRANCES MARTHONE**  
Shriners Children's New England

**NANCY MIRKIN**  
Polish National Credit Union

**JOSEPH MITCHELL**  
Eversource

**JENNIFER MURPHY**  
Appleton Corporation

**ROBERTO NIEVES**  
Common Capital

**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

**TOM TUBMAN**  
American Energy Coalition

**ROBERT ZIOMEK**  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

## LEGISLATIVE PARTNERS

 **Baystate Health** | ADVANCING CARE.  
ENHANCING LIVES.

  
COMCAST  
NBCUNIVERSAL

 Mercy Medical Center  
Trinity Health

**EVERSOURCE**

 **MassMutual**

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HCN HEALTHCARE NEWS

## WORKPLACE & WORKFORCE

**WORKFORCE TALENT** Support legislation and policy recommendations that promote inclusive skills development including career-technical initiatives and the expansion of apprenticeship programs and those will support innovative and labor-market aligned educational models and pathways, such as dual enrollment and early college and those which target first generation college students and communities of color.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE** Advocate for legislation and policies which support and strengthen our regional economy, workforce, communities, and future with affordable, universally-accessible, stable, high-quality early childhood education for all families in our region.

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC** Monitor pandemic-related legislation and state and federal stimulus funding and advocate as appropriate to support our business community and ensure fair and equitable access to resources.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE** Advocate for a transformation and modernization of the system which does not over burden the employer community.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INTRAPRENEURSHIP** Support laws and regulations that allow flexibility for individuals and employers to create opportunity in the new economy and which support maintaining the competitiveness of our region and the state as a whole.



## ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

**ENERGY** Advocate for a comprehensive energy strategy which maintains sufficient, equitable and affordable capacity for continued growth of the region's business community, including maintaining a balanced energy portfolio, development of alternative renewal energy sources, ensuring a safe, reliable and adequate supply of natural gas, and continued conservation and energy efficiency measures.

**INFRASTRUCTURE** Support legislation and policies that provide fair, equitable and responsible investments in the maintenance and development of infrastructure, such as energy, road and rail, real estate and housing, telecommunications and broadband, that preserve and strengthen the regional economy and its communities and catalyze economic development, with a focus on the unique challenges of the region's Gateway Cities.

**ENVIRONMENT** Support responsible policies to protect our environment without adding unreasonable or inequitable cost burdens on the region's business community. Environmental protection and a sound business environment do not need to be mutually exclusive, with both resulting in new technological advances, manufacturing opportunities, job creation and efficiency, all the while preserving and protecting the environment.

## HEALTHCARE

**HEALTH EQUITY** Support legislation and policies which work to close the racial, ethnic and socio-economic health disparities in our region.

**HEALTH CARE REFORM** Support the concepts of health care reform including means to address workforce challenges such as licensing compacts and regulatory changes; access to care both medical and behavioral; telehealth; pharmaceutical transparency, and health care cost control measures. The Chamber will monitor all legislative proposals that may run counter to these concepts.

**HEALTH CARE COSTS** 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.

**PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENTS** Advocate for appropriate commercial Medicare, Medicaid and Disproportionate Services Hospital payments so as not to penalize our regional health care providers or drive up costs to the commercial markets.

**FEDERAL OVERSIGHT** Continue to follow legislative, regulatory and fiscal changes to health care, including the Affordable Care Act, as well as other proposals, and advocate at the state and/or federal level in order to avoid negative impacts to the health care system in Massachusetts.