



## 2022 Nutmeg State Chamber Alliance Legislative Action Agenda

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Approved by the Boards of Directors of the Hamden Regional and Midstate Chambers of Commerce February 2022



The 2022 Legislative Action Agenda lists priorities that are the keys to maintaining economic opportunities, recovery from the impact of COVID-19, and creating sound business growth, with a specific focus on activities in Hamden, North Haven, Wallingford, Meriden and Berlin regions. We ask that our legislators recognize the impact of their actions on business and to support a pro-business environment where:

- Regional solutions can be implemented to achieve cost savings and efficiencies can be demonstrated.
- The high costs of doing business in Connecticut would be recognized, analyzed and reduced so business can remain competitive.
- Businesses are profitable, thus, able to make investments in personnel, technology, machinery and equipment to open new business opportunities.
- Public / private partnerships are encouraged to support the long-term goal of revenue growth.
- Functions that must be performed by government are done more efficiently.
- Provide adequate and responsible oversight and regulation while outsourcing other functions whenever possible.

The 2022 Legislative Agenda is offered as a vehicle to build solid relationships and productive alliances with our elected and appointed officials of all levels of government in order to improve the business climate in Connecticut for the short and long term.

### COVID-19 RECOVERY agenda is to:

- *Provide adequate resources from Covid-related relief funding to economic development programs that offset the economic impact and substantial resources to recover from supply chain issues.*
- *Support recovery of employment especially in hard hit industries including restaurant and retail.*
- *Develop continuous planning for future pandemics / crises to respond quickly and avoid economic damage to business and employment.*

### The Economic Development agenda is to:

- Continue to seek and support public and private partnerships to procure expertise and funding sources for comprehensive development along the Hartford Line corridor.
- Coordinate housing policy as a tool and include major employers in making housing policy.
- Plan for and market the potential of a unified Transit Oriented Development (TOD) corridor along the Hartford rail line.
- Devote additional state resources to urban areas for urban revitalization.

### The State Fiscal Policy agenda is to:

- Continue implementing a realistic State Fiscal Policy that requires efficiencies and cost reductions which review and eliminate costly and ineffective state programs and eliminate cost drivers.
- Continue funding Education as priority.
- Continue to align salary and benefit packages for state employees with those of the private sector.
- Preserve Enterprise Zone municipal reimbursements and DECD incentives and encourage and support Opportunity Zone investments.
- Continue to reduce the state pension liability.
- Utilize pandemic funding responsibly so as not to incur long-term and permanent, unsustainable costs.

### The Transportation agenda is to:

- Support the expansion and upgrade of Tweed New Haven Airport.
- Advocate for resumption of, and expansion of public transportation, especially buses, to align with the public and business needs.
- Encourage increased use of public transit in order to reduce traffic and improve efficiency throughout the region.

### The Workforce agenda is to:

- Continue Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and Trades programs and align with education for ample pipeline of talent and skills.
- Keep the state workforce skilled and competitive by investing in training programs through existing Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges, technical high schools and other resources to make Connecticut's businesses more productive and competitive.

### The Energy / Technology agenda is to:

- Encourage businesses and government – including transportation - to participate in energy efficiency programs including CPACE and renewable energy options.
- Take a fresh look at energy: including investigating rates, generation and distribution in the area and options and benefits of alternative systems and pre-planning for future capacity.

### The Education agenda is to:

- Develop and implement a sustainable system for funding education from early learning to post graduate education and to create a course of study which reflects the needs of Connecticut's business community.
- Continue to fully fund PACT (Pledge to Advance Connecticut) - the free community college tuition program.
- Strengthen the presence of Middlesex and Gateway Community Colleges and private universities in the region both now and in the future as the 12 community colleges consolidate into one statewide institution.

### The Health Care agenda is to:

- Support the continuation of Access Health CT.
- Maintain support of affordable and universal healthcare including Medicare and Medicaid funding.
- Promote a healthy community through the support of recreation programs, regional greenways and encouraging public / private partnerships.