

# 118th 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
- Increased funding for Homeless Assistance Grants and enhancement of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

### Education, Talent and 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 and National Security

- Support swift implementation of the CHIPS And Science Act and targeted investments in Central Texas' semiconductor industry
- Advance The American Innovation and Jobs Act (S. 866/H.R. 2673) which restores the full and immediate deduction of R&D expenditures
- Modernize and strengthen programs within the Economic Development Administration (EDA)

### Healthcare

- Support Bipartisan Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (S. 834/H.R. 2256) to address growing physician shortage in Central TX
- Secure one of the available ARPA-H hubs in Dallas, an effort that is supported by Austin, San Antonio and Fort Worth
- Lower the cost of prescription drugs and expand Telehealth availability