

## Government Affairs & Legislative Updates



The Chamber's Government Relations Committee provides Chamber members with a unique opportunity to make their voices heard by policy makers at the local, regional and state levels. The Chamber, with its over 300 members representing 20,000 jobs, creates a strong voice for business for Hoffman Estates and the surrounding communities.

The Chamber strives to foster working relationships with our legislators through regular invitations to Chamber functions and meetings. This gives everyone the chance to ask questions and to find out more on the issues that effect the business community.

The Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce & Industry supports the continuance or reenactment of tax credits, exemptions, legislation and regulations adopted to enhance the business climate and encourage economic development and job creation. To this end, the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce & Industry Legislative Agenda has been approved and adopted.

### **BUSINESS CLIMATE**

#### **1. Workers' Compensation Reform**

The Chamber supports ongoing efforts to reduce the high cost of Workers' Compensation insurance, including:

The Chamber strongly supports the agreed bill process and believes this open process is essential to developing a system that addresses the concerns of employers, medical providers, insurers and workers.

#### **2. Unemployment Insurance Reform**

The Chamber will oppose any changes to the unemployment insurance system outside of the agreed bill process.

#### **3. Health Care**

The Chamber opposes any effort to expand health care coverage without legislative approval.

#### **4. Class Action Lawsuit Reform**

The Chamber supports legislation to address abuse of class action in Illinois including: limiting Illinois class action filings to Illinois residents; limiting class actions filings to appropriate jurisdictions; and establishing reasonable procedural protections for class members.

#### **5. Pension Funding**

The Chamber supports a moratorium on adding new benefits or extending expiring pension benefit programs until long range financial plans for the pension systems can be adopted that address funding shortfalls, maximize returns on investments, limit management costs and eliminate unfunded benefits.

#### **6. Public/Private Partnerships**

The Hoffman Estates Chamber opposes legislation and regulation that restricts the ability to do business with the government.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Hoffman Estates Chamber supports:

1. Efforts to enhance entrepreneurial activity and eliminate barriers for startups and the ongoing development and growth of small and medium enterprises.
2. Initiatives designed to create, attract and retain diverse businesses and cultures.

### **EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE**

#### **1. Connecting Schools with Families & Communities**

The Hoffman Estates Chamber supports initiatives that build local capacity for:

- Community schools, which prepare children for success in school and better citizenry by linking students, parents, families, and community members to resources, programs (i.e. No Excuses U) and services designed to meet their needs using the school as a “hub” for activities and maximizing existing investments in community based resources;
- Enhancement of parent engagement, community involvement and cultural diversity in students’ learning and development.

#### **2. Highly Skilled Workforce & Engaged Citizenry**

The Chamber supports legislation that:

Strengthens the articulation and accessibility between our education systems and workforce demands, as well as particular legislation that strengthens the links between high schools and employers through community-based learning programs, high school-level workforce development programs and community/school partnerships that foster employment-related skills building.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **1. Wetlands**

The Hoffman Estates Chamber will monitor and analyze any legislation promoted by Illinois environmental organizations to regulate isolated wetlands and present testimony to protect the interests of northwest regional businesses regarding legislative proposals.

### **2. Energy Sources and Energy**

The Chamber continues to support the inclusion of renewable energy sources in the state's power supply where demand is supported by the market, and where investment in renewable energy will create jobs, support economic development, and spur competitive benefits to Illinois.

The Chamber opposes any disruption of energy reliability that has public health, safety and economic implications for the Northwest suburbs.

### **3. Conservation, Reuse and Recycling**

The Chamber also supports efforts aimed at environmental education, conservation and wise use of resources, and the promotion of reuse, reclamation, recycling and materials exchanges.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

The Chamber will support any healthcare legislation that will have a positive economic impact on healthcare providers.

## **TAXATION**

The Chamber opposes an increase in taxes on business and supports sound fiscal management that strongly encourages the state to live within a balanced budget.

## **TECHNOLOGY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION**

### **1. Vibrant Information Technology Industry**

The Chamber supports initiatives focused on the attraction and retention of information technology businesses and opposes any legislation that has an adverse economic impact on the technology industry.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **1. Barrington Road Interchange**

The Hoffman Estates Chamber supports the full interchange at Barrington Road and Interstate 90 for quicker access for the fire, police and ambulance service to reach St. Alexius Medical Center and for economic vitality of area businesses.

### **2. Star Line**

The Hoffman Estates Chamber supports a new comprehensive state capital plan, in particular, the Star Line and high speed rail, in order to promote economic

development and business growth.

### **3. State Roads**

The Hoffman Estates Chamber supports constant monitoring of the maintenance of State roads in order to promote economic development and provide safe traveling for local residents and those who work in Hoffman Estates.