



Allegany County Chamber of Commerce 2021 Legislative Agenda

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce is a business association of 300 members, from sole proprietorships to large corporations and non-profits. Through a full calendar of programs and events, the Chamber supports business and community growth, providing educational and marketing opportunities to its members. The Allegany County Chamber serves businesses and individuals in order to promote and create economic success in Allegany County.

PRIORITIES

•Support Association Health Plans

•Small businesses should have access to affordable group health plans that can provide benefits to their employees. The Maryland Healthcare Access Act of 2018 prohibits small business from participation in Association Health Plans, ignoring the important role small business plays in the economy, and discriminating against those employees, and their families. Chambers of Commerce and other associations able to offer this service to its members would create larger pools for small business employees to access advantages currently only available to large employers.

•Support legislation that provides relief and support for businesses affected by COVID-19

•It is vital that policies support business and steps should be taken to ensure they can continue operations and recover from the pandemic.

•Support liability protection for businesses and organization related to COVID-19

•The private business sector has suffered tremendously and should be protected from unreasonable liability exposure.

•Support fully funding the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Fund and Board

•Increasing economic investment in the western-most counties of the state will support critical infrastructure and business development projects with matching funds from local entities while being overseen by a board of representatives from the region and the Maryland Department of Commerce.

•Support pro-business legislation and regulations

•The economic vitality of western Maryland lies within the legislation and regulations that enhance, not hinder, opportunities for new and existing businesses.

•Oppose new, unnecessary regulations or mandates

•Any new, unnecessary regulations or mandates will further impede the health, sustainability, and opportunities for growth among Maryland employers. Employers who are within the scope of existing (already somewhat restrictive) regulations should have the right to manage their business in a way that suits their operations.

•Businesses that have survived the pandemic should not have to face unjustified threats and mandated wage payouts. To assume the overall health of employees is the sole responsibility of the employer is no more necessary now than pre-pandemic.

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