

Democracy is not a spectator sport! 2021 State of Government Affairs at MBA

MBA's mission is to build a pro-business climate in Pennsylvania. The pandemic continued for a second year and pushed employers down another challenging path with supply chain disruptions, inflation, vaccine mandates, labor shortages, and wage hikes. MBA Government Affairs focused on where we could have the most impact for members.

Visits to introduce MBA to newly elected lawmakers were conducted. Those included were Representatives Silvis, DelRosso, Major, Mercuri, Davanzo, Bonner, Benham, Kinkead, Pisciotto and Senator Robinson. Several were introduced to an MBA member company in their districts.

Rep. Donna Oberlander, PA House Majority Whip, Co-Chair, Manufacturing Caucus, and MBA arranged visits to four MBA manufacturers. They included Magee Plastics Company, Liquid Ion, Harmony Castings LLC, and Ace Wire Spring & Form Co. Usually, five lawmakers attended along with Rep. Oberlander and MBA staff. The visits educated attendees on how small manufacturers operate and where Pennsylvania can assist with policy.

MBA partnered to create an opportunity for members to speak with an extraordinary number of lawmakers - 22 - at the first Western Pennsylvania Annual Legislative Reception in September at CNX Resources in Southpointe. The evening's special guest was PA Speaker of the House, Rep. Bryan Cutler.

A Business Issues Forum preceded the reception and provided a venue for lawmakers and employers to learn where they share common ground. Thirteen roundtable discussions took place and answered "What keeps You up at Night? MBA government affairs is dedicated to working on several of the top issues identified, workforce, and health care.

We hosted several in-person and virtual forums where members were able to speak with US Senator Pat Toomey for a business roundtable, U.S. Rep Mike Kelly to update members on federal legislation. In 2022 MBA will hold several meetings for candidates for Pennsylvania governor and US Senate, giving members an opportunity to be heard.

MBA was represented at events, meetings, and coalitions which are too numerous to mention. Highlights include:

- The Power PA Jobs Alliance is strongly opposed to Governor Wolf's hard push to have the Department of Environmental Protection implement the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- The perspective of smaller manufacturers was given at the Senate Committee on Community, Economic & Recreational Development hearing on "Government Barriers to Manufacturing Growth in Pennsylvania."
- Rep. Mercuri's bi-monthly Business Roundtable.
- The PA Coalition for Civil Justice Reform seeks covid liability protections.
- "Vote Yes" primary ballot measure to establish checks and balances to limit the Governor and empower our local elected representatives to terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration. – Both efforts passed!
- Opposing the federal PRO Act.

MBA lobbied lawmakers on legislation pertaining to regulatory reform, taxation, workforce, energy, and transportation. MBA diligently worked to pass Association Health Plans which will allow small groups to aggregate in large pools and enjoy the same benefits and cost reductions as larger companies.

Governor Wolf was not spared: MBA sent a letter requesting Pennsylvania phase-out participation in federal unemployment programs that paid unemployed claimants an additional \$300 per week.

MBA provided education about the issues and communicated with members via policy group meetings, the Business Magazine, government newsletters, and podcasts. MBA's new "Health-Care Costs - A Resource for Employers and Employees" was the basis for a program in the Cranberry office.

MBA leveraged relationships with the television media to voice members' positions. MBA was heard loud and clear on President Biden's new pandemic rules, new tolls to Pennsylvania highways, employees returning to work, \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief legislation, Governor Wolf's \$15 an hour minimum wage jump, his startling budget address, wasteful spending, and how President Biden's "Buy American" executive order will disrupt the supply chain.

MBA government affairs will continue to fight for you in 2022. Democracy is not a spectator sport.

The Manufacturer & Business Association (MBA) founded in 1905, has over 3,000 members representing around 120,000 employees in 57 counties. The MBA is dedicated to helping employers face challenges by delivering services that lower the cost of doing business, ease the burden of compliance and increase productivity for its members. The MBA is recognized as a trusted resource for employers across Pennsylvania, northeastern Ohio, and southwestern New York. www.mbausa.org