

Legislative Action

Economic Development & Tax

In order to keep Alabama more competitive with other Southern states and continue business investment and job growth, enact proven and accountable economic development incentives:

- **Renew the proven Alabama Historic Tax Credit** program
- Expand the **New Markets Development Tax Credit** program by increasing the individual project cap (currently \$10 million) and the aggregate cap (currently \$20 million).
- Create **Research-and-Development Tax Credits** modeled after the federal R&D credit but with an enhanced credit if the research is conducted by Alabama-based academic or nonprofit research institutions.
- Provide an avenue of access to capital for small business, enact **Small Business Investment Company Tax Credit** for taxpayers that make capital contributions to an eligible Alabama small business investment fund.

Maintain **federal military contracts** with Mobile-area based companies, particularly for the construction of Austal USA's Littoral Combat Ships and Expeditionary Fast Transport vessels and the future small Surface Combatant ships, as well as Ingalls Shipbuilding's LHA/LPD Amphibious Assault Ships and Coast Guard cutters.

Increase access to global markets through fair trade initiatives and agreements, including the continued funding of the Ex-Im Bank, the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and the continued reduction of trade and tourism restrictions with Cuba.

Support **federal immigration reform** that will secure our borders, establish reasonable and effective visa policies/procedures, and recognize the need to attract professional and highly-valued workers to the United States.

Preserve jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the **reduction of overly burdensome regulations** that increase the cost of doing business, create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth.

Education & Workforce Development

Continue to adequately fund **Alabama's Education budget**, including Alabama's First Class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs, in order to ensure a competitive increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college and career ready graduates; maintain high academic standards and expectations for all Alabama students such as those found in the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards.

Seek a fiscal year 2018 Alabama budget **appropriation for the University of South Alabama** that reflects the institution's successful enrollment growth and additional funding to support the implementation of a much-needed emergency medicine residency at USA Medical Center.

Energy, Environment & Infrastructure

Support the design phase of the **proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway widening project** and partner with the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to actively seek construction funding.

Preserve jobs and economic growth through the **reduction of overly burdensome regulations** that create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth.

Increase the supply of energy in a manner that is safe and protective of the environment through a **comprehensive, energy policy** that promotes energy conservation and encourages research and development of clean and alternative energy sources.

Continued support to **fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works** program in support of the **deepening and widening and the annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel**; maintain necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels.

Healthcare

Explore existing and future **options for funding Medicaid** in Alabama, in a way that provides sustainable funding and allows Alabama providers the ability to manage the cost, efficiency, and quality of healthcare provided.

Seek a permanent funding source for Mobile's **Programs for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)** and the expansion of such programs across the state in order to draw down increased federal funds for the medical care of the state's growing nursing home population at a cost savings to Medicaid.

Seek an equitable resolution on the **Medicare wage index issue** so that hospitals in the region will be fairly reimbursed for the services they provide to the Medicare population.

Small Business

Continue to enact recommended action steps identified by Governor's Hurricane Homeowners workgroup in order to encourage more affordable and readily available **coastal homeowners insurance**.

Protect an **employer's right to provide a safe workplace** by opposing any legislation that would keep an employer or property owner from restricting firearm possession on company or private property.

Support all efforts to **decrease workers' compensation medical costs** in Alabama by decreasing fraud in unemployment and workers' compensation claims with stronger statutes:

Maintain current Alabama laws that support an **employer's right to choose the treating physician** and second physician in workers' compensation claims.

Enact statutes that allow businesses to perform the Workman's Compensation claim checks prior to hire.

In order to avoid excessive and frivolous lawsuits and ensure fully-accessible public buildings and spaces, **close the loophole in Title III of the American with Disabilities Act**, by providing clearer rules for identifying and correcting ADA access violations and allowing business and property owners the opportunity to address and correct minor ADA infractions in a defined period of time, prior to an allowable civil law suit.

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Mobile Area Legislative Agenda 2017



Serving as a progressive advocate for business, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce supports and encourages work at all levels of government to stimulate jobs; supports non-regressive sources of revenue without levying a disproportionate burden on any individual segment of Alabama's economy; seeks efficiencies in government and protects fundamental public services and infrastructure.

The members of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and Mobile's economic development partners have identified the following issues, policies and appropriations as fundamental to Alabama's progress because they will help to build additional jobs and a more positive business climate in the Mobile area.



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The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce serves as a progressive advocate for business needs to promote the Mobile area's economic well being.

