

# 2019 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As we enter this new legislative session, the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce reiterates its support for a vibrant business community that spurs economic growth. Every effort should be made to improve the business climate, not harm it. When new legislation is proposed, the impact on businesses, large and small, should be an important consideration. This state's best chance for improved economic vitality is through a robust and dynamic economy in which firms are allowed to maximize value with limited interference from government. Ultimately, we want businesses to be able to create more jobs in this state.

### EXPAND TWEED AIRPORT

Major businesses across the New Haven region have stated that an improved Tweed will help their growth. Their employees will save time from traveling to other airports, and the region will be more attractive to talent, creating more job opportunities here:

- Eliminate the statutory limit on runway length
- Support noise abatement programs for nearby residents
- Review options for moving the terminal to a new location and provide funding
- Consider all options to improve the airport for future growth

### FISCAL STABILITY ISSUES

Business growth is the only viable path for fiscal stability and certainty for the State's finances. Tweed's resurgence will be one part of the business growth which will result in greater state revenues from job growth. Unfunded liabilities and major revenue swings create uncertainty for businesses that are considering investing in Connecticut. A plan for fiscal stability and economic growth will give the state credibility:

- Adopt a sustainable plan to address pension costs and structural deficits to create fiscal stability that allows businesses to invest in Connecticut
- Give serious consideration to Plan 2.0 from the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Improvements at Tweed will be an important driver to get talent into this region. The Chamber is prepared to help convene employers, colleges and universities, workforce development programs, and others (including, for example, coding academies) to design solutions for the workforce needs in the Greater New Haven region. We will look to successful models, such as the Eastern Connecticut Manufacturing Pipeline and will promote high-quality internships. In turn, the General Assembly and Administration should:

- Use funding sources including authorized appropriations for bonding through Public Act No. 18-178 that was passed with bipartisan support in 2018
- Support the Skill-Up initiative that trains people for manufacturing jobs in the Greater New Haven Region
- Restore funding for the Roberta Willis Scholarship Program and ensure that students have the choice of attending a public or independent, nonprofit college or university
- Fund internships in order to increase Connecticut's retention of recent college graduates
- As an additional measure to retain and attract talent, offer loan forgiveness to recent college graduates who are hired into health care, science, technology, engineering, art, or mathematics positions
- Support business mentorship programs for K-12 schools
- Review and adopt national best practices for workforce development and training

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**Contact Your CT Legislators:**

House Democrats - 800.842.8267 | House Republicans - 800.842.1423  
Senate Democrats - 800.842.1420 | Senate Republicans - 800.842.1421

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