

# 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## One Size Does Not Fit All

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER

# ALLIANCE

ALPENA • BENZIE • CADILLAC • CHARLEVOIX • GAYLORD  
PETOSKEY • TRAVERSE CITY • MANISTEE • MARQUETTE

## Rural Business & Community Development

Work on a regional level to create, support, and promote programs and incentives compatible with rural and small metro areas.

- o Support Downtown Development Authorities (DDAs) and Tax Increment Financing (TIF).
- o Support solutions for long-term environmental cleanup and redevelopment.
- o Initiate policy or legislative change to make MEDC business development programs more scalable to fit rural and small business needs.
- o Support regulatory changes and partnerships that incentivize affordable high-speed internet access in rural areas.



## Workforce Housing Incentives

Building “affordable” and “missing middle” housing options is an issue experienced across northern Michigan. Given our largely rural nature, finding solutions to housing issues with statewide programs has been more challenging than in many urban areas that are better equipped to develop large scale housing options. The Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance, working with regional and statewide partners, will:

- o Engage the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), and state legislators to find scalable solutions for rural housing issues.
- o Initiate new programs or partnerships that can assist rural communities in tackling their critical workforce housing shortages.



## Access to Child Care

Access to quality and affordable child care is becoming a challenge for attracting and retaining a younger workforce. In many areas, that challenge is becoming a crisis. Data from a study in one area of the northern Michigan region showed a 40% gap in licensed care for infants and toddlers. Childcare providers also shared their frustrating experiences with regulatory burdens and the challenges of paying staff living wages while trying to keep rates affordable for families. Our legislators can help:

- o Decrease regulatory burden on providers.
- o Invest in provider capacity for Quality Care.
- o Initiate incentives to allow businesses and organizations to provide on-site childcare.
- o Ensure maximum federal funding is being leveraged by the state.



## Talent Attraction and Training

Northern Michigan is facing a talent deficit in many key and growing industries. The legislature should:

- o Promote investment in the Skilled Trades Training Fund and other talent initiatives.
- o Ensure STEM programming and support that is compatible with the needs of rural areas.
- o Support programs and remove barriers that allow universities, community colleges and K-12 schools to assist businesses with training and talent retention.



# 2018 Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance

## Issues We Continue to Track

- o Defend northern Michigan communities from changes to Public Act 51
- o Narrow the gap for K-12 per pupil state funding
- o Support increased higher education investment and capital outlay for Northern Michigan
- o Improve access to rural healthcare and defend funding for rural hospitals
- o Support legislative clarification of the "dark stores" property tax assessment theory
- o Promote policies conducive to reliable and affordable energy in northern Michigan
- o Support policies that improve and invest in tourism and agri-tourism industries
  - Maintain Pure Michigan campaign funding levels
  - Defend Post Labor Day School Start
  - Expand and improve administration of the H2B seasonal visa program
  - Competitive taxes for growth, production and sales of craft beer, wine, distilling industries

## Get Involved

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Blog: [www.nmichiganbusiness.com](http://www.nmichiganbusiness.com)



## About the Alliance

The partnership of the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance is based on the premise that many legislative issues impact Northern Michigan's Upper and Northern Lower region in similar ways. These issues can be addressed regionally to maximize the political influence of this 14-county chamber alliance and its more than 7,500 members.



### Our Associate Partners:

Boyer Area Chamber of Commerce  
Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce  
East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce  
Elk Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce  
Harbor Springs Area Chamber of Commerce  
Rogers City Area Chamber of Commerce  
Sault Area Chamber of Commerce

### Our Advocacy Partner:

**ACUITAS**



*insight · perception · sharpness*

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