



2020 FEDERAL POLICY FOCUS

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce work together to promote pro-growth policies for our region. We collaborate with our over 2,000 combined member businesses and other partners to develop the policy priorities vital to our region's success.

Today's political world, particularly on the federal level is diminished of bipartisanship and full of political tensions that impede public policy progress, and we want to do all we can to encourage more civil and cooperative discourse. This is our number one public policy priority because we want to see our national focus return to the issues that grow our communities like fair trade policies, globally competitive educational systems, health care systems that are sustainable and affordable, immigration reform that grows our workforce and much needed infrastructure improvements, instead of focusing on bitter partisan politics.

We strongly support First Amendment rights for all people and urge elected officials, candidates and citizens to be civil in discussions and debates on policy issues and political opinions. We are committed to leading by example and will do all we can to encourage citizens and elected officials to work together and focus on serving our communities.



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While all the policy positions included in our 2020 federal public policy agenda are important to the growth of our region, together we will focus on the following priorities:

- Support immigration reform that allows employers further access to skilled workers, including reaching a permanent solution for recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a reliable federal employment verification (e-verify) system feasible for employers of all sizes and industries, and updating the Visa system to allow more workers to enter and stay in the U.S.
- Support funding priorities for Kirkwood Community College, including allowing Pell Grants to be used for short-term, workforce-oriented programs.
- Support funding priorities for the University of Iowa, specifically robust funding for federal financial aid programs and research programs at the federal agencies.
- Support policies and programs that make it easier for Iowa small business owners, entrepreneurs, manufacturers and farmers to sell their products abroad by eliminating taxes, tariffs and other trade barriers on American goods.
- Support the examination of new policies that provide a sustainable, flexible and affordable healthcare system that will take more of the burden off small business owners.
- Support measures to address the nation's pilot shortage, including lowering financial barriers to the profession and increasing the number of pathways to accrue the necessary experience to ensure sustainable and competitive regional air service.
- Support increasing the cap on the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) to allow the Eastern Iowa Airport the ability to improve, expand and upgrade airport facilities and remain competitive.
- Support implementing a long-term sustainable funding solution and next generation infrastructure research to meet the nation's infrastructure needs, including high-speed broadband.

For more details on our comprehensive 2020 public policy agenda, visit www.cedarrapids.org or www.iowacityarea.com.