

State of the Association 2023

Manufacturer & Business Association Government Affairs

The MBA educates policy makers on the issues important to small and medium-sized businesses. We educate our members on government action and participation. We are uniquely positioned to give our members access to the people in government that make the decisions that directly affect your business.

As a member participating in our legislative events and programs, you are part of an exclusive group and have access to networking opportunities and access to influential people that align with our pro-business ideals and are involved in government decisions that collectively improve the business community.

We believe supply and demand and economic freedom are the foundation for the best environment for businesses to grow and thrive. As always, we concentrate our focus on where we can have the most impact for you, our members.

Legislation

MBA tracks and lobbies lawmakers on members' priority issues such as reduction of health care costs via Association Health Plans and scope of practice legislation, taxation including reduction of the Corporate Net Income tax (CNIT) tax rate, and increasing Net Operating Loss (NOL's) Carryforwards, transportation, permitting reform, regulations, energy choice, funding for a state match for SBIR, and workforce. Workforce is a top concern, and we work on that any way possible.

MBA joins coalitions to accomplish some state and federal legislative goals. MBA participates in the Power PA Jobs Alliance which opposes Pennsylvania's entrance into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). We are also members of the Compete PA Coalition, focused primarily on reducing the CNIT rate and NOL's. On the federal level we've joined coalitions, for example, to oppose the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), and the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

Letters sent on behalf of MBA members included: support for the Main Street Tax Certainty Act of 2023 legislation to make permanent the 20-percent deduction for small and individually owned businesses (Section 199A); support of federal permitting reform; action on Pennsylvania's delayed permitting process and business tax reform legislation.

Member communications are a priority.

Members are informed and educated on issues and government through calls, policy meetings, the daily News You Can Use, the monthly Hill Report, and the On the Hill column in the Business Magazine. The Government Affairs website is maintained for member use and updated with important information periodically.

MBA 2023 state legislative agenda

The key factors driving MBA's legislative agenda pertain to PA's demographic trends and how they impact workforce now and future projections. While PA continues to strengthen the work force by training youth, adults, and untapped populations it is apparent new ways must be found to replace diminishing human capital.

To that end MBA has researched and become familiar with the use of robotics, collaborative robots, and automation. While robotics is not a silver bullet, they will provide a partial solution for some companies.

MBA is also in the early stages of investigating transportation issues to determine if they constitute a barrier that keeps people out of the workforce pipeline. We will also look at Unemployment and Workmen's' Compensation.

Two major highlights of 2023

A very important panel discussion – Moderated by President Reagan's former executive assistant, Jezree Friend provided the business perspective alongside PA Senator Devlin Robinson and Representative Rob Mercuri, to provide solutions for our business community. Amongst other topics, Friend warned of the dangers of PA's potential participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a tax on energy-producing power plants.

The Third Annual Western PA Legislative Reception – MBA partnered with the Washington County Chamber and the Pittsburgh Business Exchange and created an opportunity for members to speak with lawmakers from the PA House and Senate. Speaker of the House, PA Rep. Joanna McClinton, and Rep. Bryan Cutler both shared the keynote spot. 30 Pennsylvania lawmakers were present with our members. Most important, a summary of the Business Issues Forum was distributed to PA House and Senate Leadership.

MBA and lawmakers in 2023

MBA builds relationships with lawmakers and raises our public profile. MBA was represented at events, on calls and at meetings too numerous to list. Here are some examples:

We spoke at a press conference on the steps of the capitol rotunda in Harrisburg on behalf of the MBA members' need for more affordable health insurance and our House Bill 555 to bring back association health plans. Around 20 legislators joined us!

Jezree participated as a panelist for a legislative update to the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association (PIOGA) and the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and also moderated the Washington County Commissioner's Forum.

MBA consistently participates with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development (ACCD) events, Annual Regional Investors Meeting with Governor Shapiro, ACCD regional planning events, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber Annual Elected Officials reception.

Given our expertise in elections, we frequently appeared as a guest on the "Talk Erie" radio program to break down primary and general election results.

The MBA had a booth at the 2023 PA Leadership Conference which featured the free market leaders in Pennsylvania.

Attended hearings – "Developing Our Workforce," PA House Republican Policy Committee with Rep. Stephenie Scialabba.

Attended roundtables – "Leaders in Business and Politics Roundtable," PA Reps. Valerie Gaydos and Jason Ortitay, PA Rep. Rob Mercuri's Wexford Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Business Roundtable.

Visited several MBA companies with members of the PA House Manufacturing Caucus – Visits included facility tours and policy discussions. 2023 saw visits to Sloan Lubrication Systems, Inc., and Cygnus Manufacturing Company, LLC.

Attended and hosted events to meet lawmakers – MBA hosted Congressman Mike Kelly on May 4th for a legislative lunch with 60 members. Topics covered were the economy, energy, health insurance, debt ceiling, and Erie Airport concerns.

The MBA's legislative guests included State Senator Dan Laughlin, Representatives Roae and Banta, and Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacey Garity.

There were many new lawmakers in 2023 and MBA attended receptions and programs to get acquainted.

Scheduled personal visits with lawmakers – Visits were arranged to introduce MBA to new lawmakers. In some instances, visits are scheduled to introduce MBA members who are constituents with issues to discuss and/or to discuss MBA supported legislation. MBA helped assemble a lawmaker panel for NTMA to include PA Sen. Camera Bartolotta, Rep. Donna Oberlander, Rep. Eric Nelson and Rep. Nick Pisciotano.

MBA in the news.

MBA wrote opinion pieces, was quoted in print and on radio and cited for outstanding accomplishments.

“20 People to Know in Manufacturing: Region poised to lead manufacturing resurgence,” Pittsburgh Business Times, Eileen Anderson, June 29, 2023

“The Pa. Turnpike costs too much, because it owes too much,” Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Eileen Anderson, January 5, 2023

“Observers hopeful about common ground between governor, Legislature,” Pittsburgh Business Times, January 12, 2023

And lastly... As an MBA member you will both see influential people in your industry and be seen as a key decision maker and an important leader in the area. MBA members get access to people who are making the decisions that directly affect their business in a way they would not get elsewhere. Our goal is always to do what is in the best interest of you, our members. MBA government affairs will continue to fight for you in 2024!

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