

Advocacy Benchmarks

2016 - Lobbied for reform of PA's State and Municipal Pension Systems. Pension-related costs are the state's number one fiscal problem. By the end of 2015 the state employee and teachers' pension systems had an unfunded liability of more than \$63 billion.

2016 - Worked to rectify the problem of inaccurate tax notices with PA Department of Revenue (PADOR). SMC engaged in a productive dialog with the Deputy Secretary for Taxation to find solutions to the notices. The correction of the notices pose a significant expense for small businesses. .

2016 - Lobbied for passage of House Bill 1398, modernizing the law on limited liability partnerships, general partnerships, limited partnerships and limited liability companies. Signed into law, Act 170.

2015 - Lobbied for state pension reform which is a growing burden on taxpayers due to the \$55 billion unfunded liabilities of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) and State Employee Retirement System (SERS)

2015 - SMC's white paper used member interviews to build arguments against a proposed 20% increase in the Personal Income Tax, an 11% increase in the sales tax and expansion of the sales tax base which would have a detrimental impact on small businesses who file at the individual level as pass-through entities.

2015 - Won a permanent, increased expensing limit under section 179 of the IRS code which extends expensing and phase-out amounts of \$500,000 and \$2 million and indexes both for inflation. Without Congressional action in 2015 the amounts in Section 179 were scheduled to revert to 2001 levels of a \$25,000 write-off with a \$200,000 purchase amount cap.

2014 - Supported passage of the extension of educational improvement tax credits to career and technical schools

2014 - Lobbied with a coalition and won passage of HB 1846 which provides for physician dispensing limits on drugs prescribed to injured workers under Workers Compensation

2014 - PA Secretary of Health Wolf and the PA Insurance Commissioner Consedine met with SMC to explain the UPMC- Highmark Consent Decrees

2013 - Lobbied with a coalition and won passage of Act 89, the most comprehensive transportation funding passed in decades

2013 - Lobbied along with other groups and pushed through the Small Business Estate tax which eliminated inheritance tax on certain small business assets

2013 - SMC's white paper on workforce discussed one of the most protracted problems that small and mid-sized manufacturers face - the lack of skilled workers to operate their facilities. The paper was a compilation of comments from SMC members.

2012 - SMC presented programs in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg to educate members on the far-reaching impact of the Affordable Care Act on their businesses and employees: "An Overview of the New Health Care Law" and "Small Businesses Beware...Huge Tax Increases in the Store for 2013."

2011 - SMC helped restore funding to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, the one agency in the state in a position to address escalating health care costs.

2011 - SMC members' grassroots lobbying efforts were instrumental in passing the Fair Share Act which abolished the antiquated doctrine of "Joint and Several Liabilities" whereby a person who bears even a relatively small portion of responsibility for injury or economic loss can be held liable to pay 100 percent of the damages to an injured party.

2011 - SMC helped push through Act 6 which took a step in the reform of the PA Unemployment Compensation law and addressed solvency issues.

2011 - SMC met with Pennsylvania Insurance Department (PID) Commissioner Consedine, representatives of the PID and the Governor's Office to discuss the impact of the Health Insurance Exchanges (HIE) on small business. SMC gave comments at a statewide PID listening session on the HIE to ensure that the small business viewpoint was considered.

2011 - SMC members and staff gave testimony at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Republican Policy Committee hearing on "The Cost of Doing Business in PA" at Thiel College. They presented testimony on the need for working capital, tax reform, and regulatory reform.

2010-2011 - SMC assumed a national role in the passage H.R. 4 which repealed the 1099 Expanded Corporate Information Reporting provision of the IRS code in the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The provision threatened to create extraordinarily burdensome filing requirements for small businesses.

2010 - SMC members and staff testified on Job Creation and Economic Development at the PA House of Representatives Commerce Committee hearing in the Mon Valley

2010 - SMC members testified on the impact of increasing health insurance rates at the joint hearing of the PA House of Representatives Insurance and Democratic Policy Committees in Pittsburgh.

2009 - Lobbied and won passage of Act 1 - "Non-Payment for Never Events" or obvious errors. Insurers will no longer pay for never events saving an estimated \$337.8 million per year.

2009 - Lobbied and won passage of the Reauthorization of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4)

2009 - Lobbied and won passage of Act 2, "Mini-COBRA," which provided for insurers, rather than employers, to pay 65 percent of the health insurance premium upfront, saving money for already financially- strapped small employers

2007- More than 40 SMC members traveled to Harrisburg to present a unified front and speak with lawmakers about the critical need to control health care costs for small businesses.

2007 - Lobbied and won passage of Act 52 – "The Reduction of Hospital Acquired Infections." The drop in the number of hospital-acquired infections after the first year saved an estimated \$72,000,000.

2007 - SMC staff testified before the PA House Insurance Committee in the Capitol in favor of small group insurance market reform.

2005 - Fought for targeted tax cuts for small manufacturers included in the Keystone Manufacturing Initiative

2005 - SMC intensified efforts to control health care costs for small businesses and branded the campaign "Too Much to Swallow... Health Care Costs Are Killing Small Businesses."