



SMC Business Councils
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SMC Lobbying Results, June 2017

Does lobbying really work? Sure it does. It's a matter of being at the right place at the right time with the right message, and being persistent. Legislative action on some issues takes years to accomplish. Here's a brief overview of some current successes.

- **Workforce – House Bill 202, Career & Tech Ed** – Difficulty in finding qualified workers to fill skilled trade jobs is always a top concern of SMC members. As several members have pointed out, “The problem is not creating jobs; it’s filling existing jobs.” Combine that with PA’s aging demographic and it’s clear that PA must train young people. Rep. Mike Turzai’s HB 202 provides an alternative pathway to graduation for career and technical education students and was signed into law by Governor Wolf on June 21.
- **Regulations – Senate Bill 561, Economically Significant Regulations** – Whenever SMC sends out an issue survey, members’ top concerns are costs of health care and insurance, taxes, and regulations. SMC is always seeking ways to lighten the regulatory burden whether it’s removing old regulations from the books, or in this case, giving lawmakers a greater say in “economically significant regulations.” SMC helped push Senate Bill 561 out of the PA Senate and over to the House. The bill requires legislative approval for regulations with an impact of more than \$1,000,000.
- **State Pension Reform – Senate Bill 1** – For the past 3 years, state pension reform has been SMC’s #1 legislative priority. SMC educated our members on the complex issue through articles and programs with lawmakers and the PA Auditor General. We lobbied lawmakers multiple times. SMC kept the issue front and center on our Grassroots Lobbying Trips to Harrisburg and helped to bring the pension issue to the attention of other organizations. Finally, Senate Bill 1 passed the House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Wolf on June 12.