

2018 Legislative Priorities



**Houston Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce**

The Leader of Houston's New Majority®



Over the past 40 years, the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's advocacy work has had an indelible impact on its members and the Hispanic business community. In 2018, the Chamber will continue its advocacy work to create a better, more business-friendly Greater Houston region. The Chamber's 2018 legislative priorities are:

1. A permanent legislative solution for DACA recipients

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was an immigration policy that allowed individuals who entered the country as minors to remain, obtain work permits, and become contributing members to society. In September of 2017, the Trump administration rescinded DACA and has now left some 800,000 DREAMers in a state of limbo. It's imperative that Congress finds a permanent legislative solution that protects the DREAMers and allows them to remain in the only country that most have ever known.

2. Protecting NAFTA

Free trade agreements - with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) chief among them - have been under attack since the 2016 presidential campaign. Indeed, the Trump administration has taken an adversarial stance on the intercontinental trade agreement and is currently renegotiating the deal with Mexico and Canada.

Despite the rhetoric, this trade agreement is critical to the current and future economic success of the Greater Houston region and must be protected at all costs.

3. Maximizing 2020 Census participation

With the Trump administration's aggressive implementation of immigration policies, a chance exists that minority communities will fear participating in the pivotal 2020 census. The accuracy of this census is vital to creating a true snapshot of the American population, and will be instrumental in future redistricting efforts. It's imperative that the Hispanic community is accurately represented in this important demographical accounting.