



SAN ANTONIO

HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION

2017 Federal Priorities

Hospitality & Tourism

1. Support the increase of non-stop Airline Service to Reagan Airport in Washington D.C. and support this as a citywide initiative. (Air Service Task Force is working on this with the City's Governmental Affairs Department).
2. Support policies and regulations that ensure a fair and equitable working environment for both employees and employers. The Department of Labor has proposals to update the Fair Labor Standards Act, doubling the salary threshold for employees eligible for overtime pay from \$23,660 to \$47,476 and increasing the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$15.00 per hour. The escalation and time for expected implementation would force many small businesses to reduce hours and cut jobs in order to stay in operation, at the same time preventing employee advancement and stifling the ability to create and grow jobs.
3. Support JOLT ACT and Support Brand USA and all efforts to Market the U.S. as an international destination. The mission of Brand USA is to encourage and increase international visitation to the United States and to grow America's share of the global travel market. In doing so, we aim to bring millions of new international visitors who spend billions of dollars to the United States, creating tens of thousands of new American job.
4. Support Airport Infrastructure—Citywide Initiatives including the increase of PFC charges (Passenger Facility Charge) to remodel and continue to improve airports at the national level. The PFC has not been changed in over 10 years and it still remains in San Antonio at \$4.50 when it needs to adjust to \$8.50 per passenger. This is a national effort to modernize our Airports.
5. Continue to Support the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) as it is critical to increase foreign travel to the United States and help our economy. Our overseas travelers spend more and stay longer than visitors from Canada and Mexico. The US Travel Association advocates continued expansion. US Travel encourages the US government to maintain these policies so that key Latin American allies such as Argentina, Brazil etc. can become part of the VMP. Thirty-eight countries are presently participating.
6. The Tourism & Hospitality Industry continues to press for reforming the US Immigration system in such a way as to enhance our national security, provide employers with a fair and efficient system for verifying workers, create access to temporary workers when no Americans are available, and a establish a process for addressing those undocumented workers already living in this country.