

THE SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN'S

# IMMIGRATION TASK FORCE

A SENSIBLE PATH FORWARD



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**Micah Babcock**  
Staff Contact  
Director, Government Operations  
micah.babcock@sbam.org

[www.SBAM.org](http://www.SBAM.org)





## OUR COMMITMENT

SBAM is committed to promoting common sense immigration reform that will strengthen Michigan's economy as well as attract talent and business to our state. Talent is the number one challenge facing Michigan employers and we recognize the critical role national and state immigration policy will play in driving continued economic growth.

In 2018 alone, immigrants in Michigan contributed \$7.1 billion in taxes and held \$18.4 billion in spending power. Over 33,000 immigrant entrepreneurs generated more than \$27 billion in total sales and employed over 167,000 Michiganders. Our ability to attract new citizens will be key to keeping our workforce young and competitive in some of our state's most important industries. Moreover, with nearly 190,000 immigrant homeowners in Michigan, as well as \$1 billion spent in Michigan's rental housing market, immigrants are helping to stabilize the state's real estate markets and helping to grow and revitalize our communities.

SBAM this year joined numerous business organizations from around the state in signing the Michigan Compact on Immigration. All of us are working together to urge our legislators to adopt the following principles.

Immigrants and the economy in

## MICHIGAN

Immigrant Residents

**699,218**

Immigrant Share of Population

**7.0%**

Immigrant Taxes Paid

**\$7.1B**

Immigrant Spending Power

**\$18.4B**

Immigrant Entrepreneurs

**33,383**

Employees at Immigrant-Owned Firms

**167,079**

Data Year

**2018**

data provided by the New American Economy

# THE 5 PRINCIPLES

## 1. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY

Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. government and other countries. We strongly urge the Michigan congressional delegation to work to enact immigration policies at the federal level that improve the immigration system, keep communities safe, protect our borders, and facilitate trade.

## 2. STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

For our state economy to grow and compete, Michigan needs a robust workforce and policies that prioritize attracting and retaining international talent. The federal immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive to, and effective at, meeting the demands of Michigan's economy and the industries that drive growth in our state.

## 3. A SENSIBLE PATH FORWARD

Immigrants have always been and remain an important part of our communities across Michigan. Congress must adopt a common-sense approach to immigration that reflects long-established values and recognizes the critical role immigration has played in the history and economy of both our state, and nation. National immigration policies must provide a sensible path forward for immigrants wishing to come to our country and a permanent resolution for those who are of good character, pay taxes, and are committed to becoming fully participating members of our society and culture, but lack legal status.

## 4. STABILITY

We urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and unintended consequence to businesses, the workforce, and consumers. The broader reform effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably, and affordably determine who is permitted to work, ensuring an adequate workforce for the growing economy. Furthermore, reform should provide stability that allows immigrants to fully integrate into their new homes and invest in their careers.

## 5. COMPETITIVE COMMUNITIES

We recognize that the communities that are able to attract a competitive workforce will continue to grow and those communities are generally the ones who embrace and welcome new citizens. We support local efforts to create an environment that ensures that all residents have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.