

BUSINESS CLIMATE

DEFICIT REDUCTION

The Partnership supports the enactment of a credible long-term deficit reduction and balanced budget plan.

The current U.S. national debt has exceeded \$20 trillion, and budget deficits are projected well into the future. The ballooning federal budget deficit is a serious concern and should be methodically reduced through economic growth, spending restraint and entitlement reform. Addressing these challenges by enacting a credible budget plan will boost both short- and long-term economic confidence.

TAXES

The Partnership is committed to pro-growth tax policies that preserve America's global competitiveness, and it opposes tax increases that reduce businesses' ability to grow, invest and create jobs.

The Partnership believes any tax reform should enable businesses to compete globally, attract foreign investment, increase capital for investment and drive job creation. Comprehensive tax reform must lower tax rates for all businesses and should create tax policies that bring effective rates in line with those of global competitors to ensure increased competitiveness and investment. The success of our economy depends on a tax code that rewards achievement and savings, which will produce more revenue for the government.

Accordingly, The Partnership supports:

- Promoting comprehensive pro-growth tax reform that achieves a smarter, streamlined tax system.
- Pursuing a permanent pro-growth tax agenda that broadens the base, lowers rates, gives certainty to businesses and simplifies compliance.
- Supporting reform measures that encourage private capital investment and provide equal treatment across all industries.

Additionally, The Partnership supports retaining tax deductions for charitable contributions in the federal tax code, as it encourages private giving and support for issues impacting Central Iowa communities.

REGULATORY REFORM

The Partnership supports initiatives aimed at reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on the nation's industries, promoting economic growth and job creation and minimizing the impacts of government actions on small businesses. These efforts could be even more effective if the Administration took a broader approach to addressing regulatory reform by also examining and updating the rulemaking process and increasing oversight to ensure that the established processes are properly and consistently followed.

Accordingly, The Partnership supports:

- Reform the rule making process to make it more transparent, effective and accountable.
- Requiring all federal agencies to ensure all existing and future federal regulations are carefully designed, promulgated and enforced to achieve the intended benefits while minimizing the regulatory burdens on small business, stemming from both individual regulatory mandates as well as the cumulative burdens imposed by additive regulations.
- Requiring that environmental regulations are based on sound science.
- Requiring that economic and employment impacts of major rules are independently evaluated and disclosed to the public ensuring the costs of rules are clear to everyone up front.
- Allowing affected members of the public to obtain independent review of agency actions.
- Providing for an up-or-down recorded vote by Congress for regulations deemed to have a major impact on jobs.
- Providing for independent periodic review of current regulations and sun-setting those deemed ineffective or unnecessary.
- Strengthening the efforts of the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy to ensure that the interests of small businesses are fully considered when agencies begin crafting new regulations.
- Legislation replacing single-director governance of the Consumer Financial

Protection Bureau (CFPB) with a five-member commission. Prudential banking regulators should actively participate in the consumer protection rule-writing process and be mindful to not implement unnecessary requirements that could prevent community banks from serving important needs of customers.

INSURANCE REGULATION

State-based insurance regulation has helped create the largest, most competitive insurance system in the world, including comprehensive consumer protections and the most transparent and inclusive procedures. In recognition of this, Congress reaffirmed the primacy of state regulation in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, even as a new Federal Insurance Office was created with the goal of strengthening the U.S. voice internationally. Unfortunately, instead of having a single, stronger united voice, the United States now has multiple competing voices that are often at odds, opening the door for competing regulatory systems to seek globalization of the standards at the expense of U.S. consumers and competitiveness. Meanwhile, international bank regulators seek to impose global one-size-fits-all rules that are often inconsistent with proven effective state-based regulation. The U.S. voice in international discussions is often weakened because the Treasury and the Federal Reserve System (Fed) sometimes advocate positions different from, and even contrary to, the positions of experienced state regulators. Unfortunately, there is almost no transparency or accountability related to the activities of these international regulators and the U.S. representatives at these meetings.

The Partnership asks Congress to exercise aggressive oversight over the activities of federal agencies to ensure insurance regulatory powers remain reserved to the states. In addition, The Partnership asks Congress to support legislation to require more unity among U.S. international insurance representatives and to direct U.S. representatives to demand more transparency and accountability in international standard setting.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Small business is the backbone of the American economy, and the federal government should help drive innovation and create more jobs. Because entrepreneurship is the path to prosperity for many Americans, small disadvantaged businesses should be nurtured. Small businesses employ 50 percent of all private sector employees and have generated 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually during the last decade, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

With that in mind, The Partnership supports continued funding for:

- The SBA's efforts to provide technical and financial assistance and access to

capital for small businesses.

- The Office of Small Business Development Center (SBDC) network.
- The Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP).
- The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA).
- The Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program.
- The State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI).

Further, The Partnership supports streamlining the government procurement process and increasing business opportunities for the private sector in the federal market.