



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 17

Agenda Date: February 20, 2025

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Government Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Federal Legislative Program for the 119th U.S. Congress

SUMMARY:

An ordinance to approve the City of San Antonio's Federal Legislative Program for the 119th Congress.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Congress' 119th Session began on January 3, 2025, and ends on January 3, 2027. Prior to each congressional session, Government Affairs (GA) develops a legislative program with City Council input and approval. The program provides direction and guides the City's advocacy on behalf of the San Antonio community with members of the San Antonio Congressional Delegation, key members of Congress, federal agencies, and the administration.

Development of the City of San Antonio's new Federal Legislative Program began in July 2024 in collaboration with City Departments. The selected priorities are drawn from the City's various strategic plans previously approved by City Council and developed in consultation with City departments, federal consultants, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the San Antonio Congressional Delegation, and community partners. The proposed Federal

Legislative Program includes the priorities and issues developed with input from the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Committee. The IGR Committee was briefed and provided input on the proposed program on November 5, 2024, and the full City Council received a briefing on February 5, 2025.

The federal program is designed to be strategic and impactful, aligned with the priorities of the San Antonio community, and to help advance a resilient and sustainable city organization.

The proposed Federal Legislative Program is comprised of the following pillars:

- **Housing** – Support programs that increases housing production, provide housing stability assistance, and help address homelessness.
- **Military Protection** – Support JBSA’s mission readiness and ensure the long-term protection of the region’s military bases by helping preserve, protect, and grow military missions.
- **Public Safety & Homeland Security** – Support for programs and funding to help reduce crime and prepare San Antonio against natural and man-made disasters. And support full reimbursement of FEMA funding owed to the City.
- **Infrastructure, Resiliency & Transportation** – Support and advocacy for the receipt of federal funding to help meet San Antonio’s continued growth, enhance community facilities, and improve resilience.
- **Workforce** – Support workforce development programs that enhance the creation and access to high-quality jobs for the community.
- **Public Health & Human Services** – Support programs that increase access to healthy food and reduce food insecurity, and the expansion of public health funding.
- **Advancement of Community Interests** – Support regulations and legislation that is beneficial to the city and aligns with City Council ordinances and oppose regulations and legislation that would be detrimental to maintaining a fiscally sound and well managed organization.

ISSUE:

The Federal Legislative Program established the City’s federal priorities for the 119th Congress. It is City Council policy to develop a legislative program for each congress that aligns with Council priorities to guide the City’s advocacy efforts. As issues develop further during the 119th Congress, City staff will advise Council accordingly and obtain direction as needed.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could choose not to adopt a Federal Legislative Program for the 119th U.S. Congress and address legislation as it is filed and provide direction on an issue by issue basis. This would be inconsistent with previous policy set by City Council, limit staff ability to effectively address filed legislation, and fail to provide timely guidance to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the approval of this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the City's 119th Congress Federal Legislative Program.