

## Legislative Report

# SMC Post-Holiday Meeting with Elected Officials

*"We need to get small business moving again so we can grow and create jobs."*

by Eileen Anderson

SMC is unique in our number of active members. That was apparent Thursday, January 14, at the Sheraton Station Square when more than 90 members turned out to meet federal and state legislators. Maybe voters are feeling rebellious due to the frenetic pace of change at the federal level or the contrasting lack of change in a state capitol plagued by annual budget gridlock and criminal prosecutions of legislators. Whatever the reason, members came in droves, and there was a "buzz" in the air as they got the message out to lawmakers . . . "We need to get small business moving again so we can grow and create jobs."

Among the issues taken to legislators were health care overhaul legislation and its numerous impacts on small business - employer mandates, financing and increased taxes, new 1099 Corporate Information reporting requirements, and the need to give sole-proprietors

the same ability to fully deduct health care premiums. The lack of small business credit was also a hot topic along with labor law - the misnamed "Employee Free Choice Act," the Estate Tax, and rising energy costs in the form of HB 80 - Amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act.

Many of you have been extremely active with legislative issues. We thank you for your hard work and assure you it is making a difference. It's part of our ongoing effort to "Seize the playing field." Small businesses must speak up if we are to have a seat at the table. See you May 3 in Harrisburg for Grassroots Lobbying Day and May 26-27 in D.C. for our Washington Presentation to Congress. ▼

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