

IIABW Lobbies Congress

A team of IIABW members met in May 2019 with eight Congressional offices in Washington D.C: Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representatives Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Kim Schrier, Suzan DelBene, Rick Larson, Dan Newhouse, and Adam Smith. Our group included IIABW President Dave Merrill, President Elect Melissa Power, Secretary Duane Henson, National Director Lori Reed, Board member Mary Lemon, as well as John McDonald, Sandy McDonald, Doug Mohr (Vertafore) and Executive VP Dan Holst.

Flood Insurance

IIABW encouraged Congress to make a long-term reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) without any commission cuts. The program, which is set to expire on May 31st, has seen nearly a dozen short-term extensions as well as a few lapses in the last 20 months. We also advocated for private flood insurance to satisfy the NFIP continuous coverage and mandatory purchase requirements.

Terrorism Insurance

IIABW asked Congress to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, which is set to expire at the end of next year. The program was enacted in 2002 in response to the terrorist attacks on 9/11/01 and the resulting difficulty of the commercial P & C markets to underwrite terrorism risks. Since the program's inception, it has been reauthorized three times with many reforms which have shifted more of the risk to private insurers.

Insurance Regulatory Reform

IIABW has long been concerned about federal regulatory efforts could lead to an erosion of



Senator Patty Murray



Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers



Rep. Kim Schrier

state-based regulation. We encouraged Congress to restrict or eliminate the Federal Insurance Office and to pressure the President to appoint members of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers (NARAB). NARAB was authorized by Congress in 2015 to make it easier for agencies to get licensed in multiple states while preserving state insurance regulation.

Crop Insurance

IIABW thanked Congress for passing the Farm Bill last year without making any cuts to the Federal Crop Insurance Program. We explained the important role independent agents play in the sale of crop insurance and warned them of the impact any reduction in access to the program or the weakening of the private sector delivery of crop insurance would have on farmers.

Health Care

IIABW asked Congress to fully repeal the ACA's "Cadillac tax" because of the impact it will have on small businesses. Starting in 2022, a 40% tax will be imposed on employer-provided health plans that exceed a fixed annual cost.

Tax Reform

IIABW thanked Congress for the passing of the tax reform law in 2017. Earlier this year the IRS confirmed that the 20% deduction on 'qualified business income' applies to pass-through businesses (S corps, partnerships and sole proprietorships) which impacts 2/3 of insurance agencies. We asked them to extend this tax cut which is set to expire at the end of 2025.

Cybersecurity

Congress has been discussing the creation of a nationwide uniform data breach and/or data security standard. IIABW encouraged our state's elected officials to ensure that any standard they create is not over burdensome for small businesses.