

IIABW Lobbies Congress in April 2018

A team of IIABW members met with nine Congressional offices in Washington D.C.: Senator Cantwell and Representatives Suzan DelBene, Rick Larson, Pramila Jayapal, Dan Newhouse, Derek Kilmer, Adam Smith, Denny Heck, and Cathy McMorris Rodgers. Our group included IIABW President Rob Tripple, President Elect Dave Merrill, National Director Sue Knobeloch, Board member Mary Lemon, Young Agent Committee Chair Ryan Porter, Rose Chambers, Claire Merrill, Susan Tripple, Eric Ummel (of Safeco) and Executive VP Dan Holst.

Flood Insurance

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is currently reauthorized through July 31, 2018. We advocated for a long-term reauthorization of a reformed NFIP and for private flood insurance to satisfy the NFIP continuous coverage and mandatory purchase requirements. We encouraged our elected officials to vote against cuts to the Write-Your-Own insurer reimbursement rate and agent commissions.

Tax Reform

A key provision of the new tax law creates a 20% deduction on qualified business income for some businesses organized as pass-through entities (2/3 of IIABW members). We explained to our Congressional delegation that it is unclear whether insurance agencies will be considered a "specified service business" by the IRS which would limit some agencies' abilities to utilize the deduction.

Insurance Regulatory Reform

The Big I has long been concerned about federal regulatory efforts could lead to an erosion of state-based regulation. We thanked Rep. Denny Heck for authoring HR 3861 which would restrict the authority of the Federal Insurance Office. We also



Congressman Rick Larson



Congressman Derek Kilmer



Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers

urged Congress to support the appointment of a 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.

Crop Insurance

We explained the important role independent agents play in the sale and servicing of crop insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP). We urged Congress to support the FCIP in the 2018 Farm Bill and to oppose any changes to the Farm Bill that would increase the cost of crop insurance to farmers; reduce the number of farmers eligible for crop insurance; or weaken the efficient private sector delivery of crop insurance.

Health Care

We lobbied for a full repeal of the ACA's "Cadillac tax" because it will impact many Big I small business members and their clients starting in 2022. We also asked our Congressional delegation to support legislation that would clarify that agent compensation is not part of the ACA's medical loss ratio formula which reduces agent compensation.

Cybersecurity

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