



# SIIA 2019 DC Legislative Fly-In

Over 40 SIIA members from around the country met in Washington to participate in SIIA's Annual Legislative Fly-In. These members were able to meet with over 55 congressional offices to advocate on behalf of the self-insurance industry. These meetings ranged from the offices of the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, to committee staff and new Freshmen Member offices. Among a number of issues addressed, SIIA members sought to educate policy-makers and their staff on self-insurance in general and the Self-Insurance Protection Act, as well as discuss in detail top-of-mind issues such as surprise medical billing and drug pricing transparency. Prior to Hill meetings, members were able to obtain a deeper dive into policy and political issues from the SIIA Government Relations team.

The annual Fly-In is a great tool for SIIA members from around the country to voice their opinion and demonstrate expertise to Congress. By doing so, our industry not only strengthens advocacy outreach, but also creates foundational relationships with Members of Congress and their staff. This direct involvement allows SIIA to broaden support for ongoing legislative initiatives and increased educational outreach.

Thank you to all the SIIA members who participated in the 2019 Fly-In!



**Barry Koonce, VP of American Fidelity, enjoying his day on the Hill.**



**Thomas Bittner & Steve Suter meeting with Congresswoman Kim Schrier (WA-D)**

**“Sen. Wyden’s office talked about state deference in the surprise billing arena. They believe patients should be held harmless, which I said we agreed with. I talked about the downsides of arbitration and the importance of reasonable reimbursement rates. They said the Feds should not get in the way of state regulation in this arena.”**

**-Catherine Bresler, VP CoreSource Inc.**



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**MIKE CASTRO** Sr. VP, Claims Management Services  
Mike.Castro@ipmg.com • 630.485.5895



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# Meet SIIA's Government Relations Committee Chair, Steve Suter!



**Brian Johnston, Todd Archer, Tom Bel-  
ding, and Barry Koonce meeting with  
Senator James Inhofe's staff (OK-R)**

On behalf of the SIIA Government Relations Committee and staff, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and explain more about what the committee does. The GRC currently is comprised of 11 SIIA members, who discuss SIIA policy priorities and create positions and solutions with the advice of the SIIA team. This year, our policy focus areas are far ranging and align with many of Congress' top priorities – surprise medical billing, drug pricing, cost transparency and employer sponsored care.

This year alone, the GRC has created specific issue task forces to establish formal association positions on surprise billing and, recently, a Drug Pricing Task Force to create a self-insurance specific policy proposal to tackle the ever-increasing costs of prescription drugs. While the GRC is the formal policy setting body for much of the work SIIA does, we cannot do it without ongoing input and interest from fellow SIIA members like you. We rely on you for on-the-ground issues, solutions and education. In fact, it is the collective expertise of SIIA members that allows us to educate policymakers, shape legislation and continue to build on the strong foundation of the self-insurance industry.

It continues to be a privilege to lead the GRC this year and continue the growth of SIIA's policy and political activities. If I can ever be of help, or if you wish to discuss policy issues, please feel free to contact me or members of the SIIA team.

**Steve Suter**  
President & CEO  
Healthcare Management Administrators  
[Steve.Suter@accesstpa.com](mailto:Steve.Suter@accesstpa.com)



**Charlie Carlson & Jovina Arabe-Tassey get-  
ting ready for a meeting with Senator Tina  
Smith (MN-D)**



## 2019 Government Relations Committee Members

**Steve Suter**  
President & CEO  
Healthcare Management  
Administrators

**Julie Bodmer**  
VP & General Counsel  
Symetra Life Insurance

**Catherine Bresler**  
VP, Counsel - Government  
Relations, CoreSource Inc.

**Lee Davidson**  
Senior VP  
Berkley Accident & Health

**Doug Layman**  
President  
Gilsbar, LLC

**Ron Peck, Esq.**  
SVP & General Counsel  
The Phia Group

**Aaron E. Pohlmann**  
Attorney  
Womble Bond Dickinson

**Jay Ritchie**  
Executive VP  
Tokio Marine HCC

**Brad Roehrenbeck**  
General Counsel & VP  
Medcost

**William Schmitt**  
VP Business Development  
Accolade

**Cheryl Tolbert**  
President & CEO  
Louisiana Business Group on  
Health

## SIIA's Government Relations Team Adam Brackemyre, Ryan Work, Cristina Antelo, Mike Ferguson, Dakota Jackson, and Chris Condeluci.

