



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Matt Kirk, SIIA Chairman of the Board, President & CEO, The Benecon Group

The Self-Insurance Institute of America has had an outstanding start to the year. We began 2025 with record-breaking attendance at the Spring Forum and a highly successful Future Leaders Forum—energizing the next generation of self-funding professionals, and sharpening our focus on the most pressing needs of our members and their clients.

The strong engagement we've seen at these events is a powerful testament to SIIA's continued growth and its central role in shaping the future of the self-insurance industry.

One of the highlights of the Spring Forum was the comprehensive legislative and regulatory update delivered by SIIA's Government Relations team.

With Republicans gaining control of both the House and Senate through 2026, several key policy priorities are now in motion.

Here are some of the most significant developments:

- **Reconciliation Legislation:** Focus areas include revisiting the 2017 tax reforms, rolling back recent energy policies, strengthening border security, and advancing immigration reforms.

- **Federal Budget:** Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown, passing a clean continuing resolution that funds the government through September 30, 2025, with increased allocations for defense, immigration, and border security.
- **Healthcare and Reconciliation:** While a repeal-and-replace strategy is not expected, there may be movement on Medicaid reforms, ICHRA rule changes, and employer-sponsored tax preferences.
- **Legislative and Regulatory Priorities:** Key areas of focus include data transparency, pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reforms, surprise billing protections, HSA expansion, site-neutral payments, and telehealth access.
- **Price Transparency:** There is increasing federal pressure on hospitals and insurers to disclose and standardize pricing, including for prescription drugs.
- **Data-Sharing and Accountability:** Enhanced enforcement efforts are underway to ensure the accuracy of claims data, remove “gag clauses,” and improve transparency across payers and providers.

These updates come at a critical time, especially as high-profile lawsuits allege that plan sponsors have breached fiduciary duties by overpaying for prescription drugs. Now more than ever, staying informed and engaged is essential.

I encourage all members to take advantage of upcoming SIIA events that offer valuable insight into these developments and showcase growth strategies from top industry experts:

- Corporate Growth Forum | June 9–10 | Charleston, SC
- 2025 National Conference & Expo | October 12–14 | Phoenix, AZ

On a personal note, I was honored to recognize Nigel Wallbank for his tremendous contributions to our community, awarding him the title of SIEF Chairman Emeritus.

Nigel’s decades-long leadership—spanning board service, international initiatives, and financial stewardship—has played a critical role in SIIA’s success and evolution.

Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated members, committees, and leadership, we’ve laid the foundation for an impactful year ahead. Together, we have the opportunity to drive meaningful improvements in healthcare cost and care delivery throughout 2025 and beyond.

Let’s keep moving forward—together. ■