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PIAA Hosts Medical Professional Liability Insurance Industry Capitol Hill Day in Washington, D.C.

Member Companies Meet with Congressional Leaders, Educate Them on Key Legislative and Policy Issues

Rockville, MD (September 18, 2014) – PIAA, the trade association representing the medical professional liability (MPL) insurance community, played host to member company insurance executives and legislative professionals from across the country, during its MPL insurance industry Capitol Hill Day, September 16.

“We’ve brought leaders from the medical liability industry together in the nation’s capital, so they can take their message directly to their congressional lawmakers,” said Gloria H. Everett, President and CEO of The Mutual RRG and PIAA Chair. “This educational effort is essential to attaining the federal legislative and policy goals that will advance the interests of PIAA members, as well as the interests of the healthcare professionals they insure and their patients.”

Participants began the day with a breakfast briefing from PIAA staff, to review strategy and talking points, followed by visits to Capitol Hill. A primary message delivered was on the Standard of Care Protection Act—a bill long championed by PIAA to clarify that federal healthcare reimbursement guidelines and other new reporting provisions cannot be interpreted to create new standards of care that can be used in MPL lawsuits. Another area of focus was the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act, which protects volunteer health professionals from liability in treating victims of a federally declared disaster. Both of these proposed pieces of legislation currently have bi-partisan support on Capitol Hill, but PIAA is seeking additional cosponsors and support for legislative action. In addition, PIAA members informed lawmakers about developments regarding communication and resolution programs.

PIAA members also had the opportunity to discuss their own state-level issues, in addition to their priorities for federal action.

Meetings with were held with legislators and key congressional staff from across the political spectrum, including Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Cong. Joe Pitts (R-PA), Cong. Doris Matsui (D-CA), and Cong. Ami Bera (D-CA).

“Today's visits were important for educating and informing our nation’s elected leaders about MPL and our member’s priorities,” said Brian K. Atchinson, President and CEO, PIAA. “It’s critical that members of Congress and their staff hear directly from their constituents about legislative and policy priorities. We are very appreciative of the PIAA members who came to Washington D.C. to participate in these briefings and Capitol Hill meetings.”

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PIAA is the trade association representing medical professional liability insurance companies, risk retention groups, captives, trusts, and other entities. PIAA members insure more than two-thirds of America’s private practicing physicians and 3,000 hospitals, as well as dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, and other healthcare professionals.