
Government Relations

Anne E. Bryant, Senior Director of Government Relations
Registered Lobbyist in Washington and Oregon
Anne@phyins.com / www.phyins.com



Government Relations – Guiding Principles:

- ❖ Support comprehensive effective legislation that will (1) enhance the health care liability system, (2) promote meaningful patient-safety initiatives, (3) improve healthcare quality, and (4) support communication between healthcare professionals, providers and patients
- ❖ Provide advocacy to address challenges to the health care liability system that may (1) create new causes of action, (2) alter the standard of care, (3) establish strict liability for providing or not providing care, and (4) impose onerous or unnecessary duties on healthcare professionals and providers.

Federal Effort:

- Support *Coronavirus Provider Protection Act* (H.R. 7059) – provides immunity from liability to health professionals and facilities for care provided in good faith during the national public health emergency
- Support *Accessible Care by Curbing Excessive LawSuits Act of 2019* (“ACCESS”) – comprehensive legislation that improves the liability system and promotes meaningful patient safety initiatives – similar to California’s *Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act*
- Promote framework for legislation that addresses telemedicine liability concerns as telemedicine services continue to expand
- Protect reasonable cybersecurity and data privacy proposals relating to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Defeat proposals that expand time periods to sue by extending statute of limitations in civil procedures

Washington State:

- Defeat proposals that expand economic damages by inflating medical expenses in personal injury medical claims
- Defeat proposals that allow punitive or exemplary damages in Washington State
- Support proposals that engage in shared decision making without impacting informed consent requirements
- Promote reasonable proposals regarding a health care provider’s duty to protect and duty to warn in the outpatient context

Oregon State:

- Defeat proposals that add insurance to the Unlawful Trade Practices Act and expand the types of lawsuits that are brought against insurance companies
- Defeat proposals that increase the \$500,000 cap on non-economic damages recoverable in wrongful death actions
- Promote a reasonable and fair cap on non-economic damages recoverable in personal injury actions
- Support legislation that improves the liability system and promotes communication between healthcare professionals, providers and patients

Idaho and Alaska States:

- Defeat proposals that expand economic damages by inflating medical expenses in personal injury medical claims

In State’s Where We Do Business: Promote reasonable liability protections to protect health care providers and facilities who are leading the efforts to address the national public health emergency – Covid-19 pandemic.