

## NIIA EXECUTIVE TEAM

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NIIA President

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**Scott Menath**  
President Elect

**Francie Stocking**  
VP/Finance Chair

**Susan Bauman**  
NIIA Executive Director

## NIIA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TEAM

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Chairwoman

**Cory Semel**  
Co-Chair

## NIIA LOBBYIST

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**James L. Wadhams**  
Attorney, Lobbyist

**Jesse Wadhams**  
Attorney, Lobbyist

Since 1916, the Nevada Independent Insurance Agents (NIIA) has been the leading state association for Property & Casualty (P&C) Independent Insurance Agents. The NIIA is also known as the Big 'I'. The NIIA is a non-partisan trade association which provides its member agencies tools and resources to assist insurance consumers in obtaining their insurance coverage needs. NIIA members have access to over 1,500 insurers who are licensed through the Nevada Division of Insurance and provide trusted choices and best practices to businesses and families across the state.

Independent Agents are crucial to the protection of our residents and business communities. The independent insurance agent channel writes 70% of the commercial Property and Casualty (P&C) market in the U.S. Here in Nevada, this equates to about \$5.4 billion in annual written premium, and \$188.7M in premium tax contributed to the state's General Fund.

The primary focus of the NIIA is to do whatever is necessary to make sure Nevada residents and businesses have access to competitive solutions that will satisfy the customers need for insurance coverage.

NIIA has been tracking P&C insurance related bills and want to be a resource to you. We encourage you to reach out to us to review and/or provide input as needed on how a bill or its language may affect the insurance buying public. In addition to commenting on bills moving through the legislative process, we will also be advising you of current marketplace issues that are challenging your constituents including:

**Red Brush.** Wildfire risk and corresponding carrier capacity and willingness to cover these risks have plagued the homeowners and businesses in the wildfire prone areas of the state. This has created an unhealthy marketplace and has forced many properties into the least desirable non-admitted insurance market. Ultimately, the State Division of Insurance may need to assist these consumers with an alternative solution to protect their assets.

And proposed legislation listed on the backside of this sheet.

We expect this to be a very busy session for the legislature and look forward to working with you on the issues of insurance that will affect your constituents. Please reach out to us at any point during the session and after should you have any questions or need any input from the NIIA.

Bill Number	Description	Our Position
SB30	SIG Bill	Amend to include mandatory <u>annual</u> disclosures to members that they are jointly and severally liable.
SB57	DOI Omnibus Bill	Support as written.
SB274	Workers Compensation Bill – Removing Exclusive Remedy	While we are not in opposition to increasing the penalty limits of carriers in violation of current statutes, we are opposed to Section 3 of the bill that opens the door for civil litigation against the carriers. We believe that a meaningful penalty imposed is adequate to ensure that Nevada workers' claims are being handled efficiently and effectively in their best interests. The opportunity for additional civil litigation will simply be taken advantage of and increase workers compensation costs for business and their downstream consumers.
SB179	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Litigation Funding	<p>We fully support the transparency requirements of any 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Litigation Funding Agreements. In 2021 Legislative Session, the transparency of policyholders' limits was passed, and this bill would simply level the playing field.</p> <p>In light of the Justice Association's opposition to the bill, we'd also support an amendment that stipulated disclosure of such agreements would only be required if the financing agreement exceeded a threshold, such as \$10,000 or other minimal amount, to quell the concerns shared on the day-to-day financing utilized by law firms.</p> <p>We are neutral on Section 4 of this bill.</p>
AB141	Workers Compensation 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Administrators	We believe that 3 <sup>rd</sup> party administrators play an important role in self-insured insurance programs, particularly when protecting Nevada employees. We also believe that the existing prohibition of association administrators and third-party administrators having a financial interest in each other provides protection from a potential conflict in interest when managing claims.
AB209	Medical Malpractice Bill	We are <u>strongly opposed</u> to this bill. Passage of this bill will set our state back 20 years. It required a Special Session of this Legislature in 2002 to pass the reform laws as written to stabilize the insurance market for physicians that were leaving the state due to lack of insurance coverage options. Passage of this bill will once again deteriorate the market leaving Nevadans with fewer medical options. Our state is already impacted by a shortage of doctors, an issue currently be addressed by U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen, and this bill will simply accelerate a dire situation.
AB398	Defense Cost Outside Bill	We have moderate opposition to this bill. While it will only affect a minority segment of Nevada policyholders, it will drive up their premium costs significantly. There is a strong market for consumers in this space to purchase coverage with defense costs inside or outside the limit of liability, at their discretion. Removing these options do little more than provide law firms deeper pockets to pursue.
AB441	Workers Compensation – "Omnibus" Type Bill	We support this bill as written. As technology has improved and workspaces have modified, "physical presence" is far less important and can even hamper efficiency in some cases. We believe that the language in Section 1 and Section 2 of this recognize these changes in our collective business environments and are an effort to adapt accordingly.