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## Government Relations

Anne E. Bryant, Senior Director of Government Relations  
Registered Lobbyist in Washington and Oregon  
[Anne@phyins.com](mailto:Anne@phyins.com) / [www.phyins.com](http://www.phyins.com)



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Guiding Principles – we oppose legislation that:

- Creates new causes of action against health care professionals
- Alters the standard of care for physicians
- Creates strict liability for performing or not performing care
- Imposes onerous or unnecessary duties on insureds

Nationally:

- Support comprehensive legislation that improves the liability system and promotes meaningful patient safety initiatives – similar to California’s *Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act*
- Protect the provision that no new standard of care for medical liability claims is created by the *Affordable Care Act*
- Support Crisis Standard of Care and the *Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act* – provides liability protection for health care professionals and facilities providing uncompensated services to victims of federally declared disasters
- Promote framework for legislation that addresses telemedicine liability concerns as telemedicine services expand

Washington:

- Defeat proposals to expand wrongful death claimants to include other beneficiaries
- Defeat proposals to expand economic damages by inflating medical expenses in personal injury medical claims
- Defeat proposals to allow punitive (or “exemplary”) damages in Washington State
- Defeat proposals to eliminate confidentiality protections for OIC data reporting related to closed medical malpractice claims
- Support proposals to engage in shared decision making without impacting informed consent requirements

Oregon:

- 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 to 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 comprehensive legislation that improves the liability system and promotes meaningful patient safety initiatives

Work with Healthier Washington and the Oregon Patient Safety Commission to promote engagement in a state-wide patient empowerment campaign

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