



## SELF-INSURANCE INDUSTRY RAISES ITS VOICE DURING 2024 ELECTION CYCLE

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Written By Anthony Murrello

In this pivotal election year, the Self-Insurance Political Action Committee (SIPAC) has strategically increased its campaign contributions to federal candidates who are positioned to support policy positions favorable to the self-insurance industry. This approach facilitates direct engagement between the Self-Insurance Institute of America (SIIA) representatives and key policymakers via fundraising events and private meetings.

SIPAC's operations are fueled entirely by personal contributions from SIIA members, garnered through direct donations or participation in SIPAC-hosted fundraising events throughout the year. To optimize the impact of these contributions, SIPAC employs a rigorous review process to identify Congressional candidates best positioned to foster a thriving self-insurance marketplace. This vetting process involves selecting candidates who have demonstrated leadership on key issues pertinent to SIIA, either within their party or on relevant congressional committees. Additionally, SIPAC considers the candidate's strength, the political climate, and the representation of SIIA member operations or employees.

To fulfill its mission, SIPAC identifies and supports capable candidates on a bipartisan basis across both chambers of Congress. By cultivating relationships with leaders from both parties, SIPAC ensures that the self-insurance industry's interests are safeguarded regardless of electoral outcomes. Through SIPAC's contributions, SIIA representatives have established and/or strengthened connections with a bipartisan group of candidates expected to win their elections and continue shaping the legislative agenda.

For example, SIIA representatives have had monthly lunches with Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), who has served as Wyoming's Senator since 2007 and is currently the third-highest-ranking

Republican in the Senate. He also sits on the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees healthcare policy, making it a key committee for SIIA.

Should Republicans regain control of the Senate, Senator Barrasso's influence on the legislative agenda will be significant. On the Democratic side, SIIA has routinely met with Sen. Cantwell (D-WA), who is a formidable member of the Senate Finance Committee and continued the longstanding relationship with Delaware Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester has supported a number of self-insured policy goals during her time in the House and is looking forward to doing so as she is the





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overwhelming favorite to replace retiring Sen. Carper (D-DE) in the Senate.

In the House, SIPAC has supported long-time ally Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC), chair of the Education & the Workforce Committee. Congresswoman Foxx has advocated for policies that benefit the self-insurance industry, such as strengthening ERISA and the Lower Costs More Transparency Act. SIPAC has also backed Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA), allowing SIIA to engage with him regularly throughout the spring. Representing Massachusetts's 1st district since 1989, Neal served as Ranking

Member of the Ways & Means Committee this past term. Should Democrats regain control of the House, Neal would likely chair this committee.

The support of SIIA members has been instrumental in fostering these relationships and contributing to additional candidates this cycle. More than 100 individual SIIA members have supported SIPAC by attending various events, and several companies have sponsored events ranging from fine dining experiences in Boston to retro arcade games, future leaders exclusive axe-throwing events, beer tastings, and an upcoming "tailgate" event. ■

*For more information about SIPAC, please contact Anthony M. Murrello at [amurrello@siaa.org](mailto:amurrello@siaa.org).*

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