

Legislative Day & AgentPAC

Lansing, MI

When I woke up on May 1st, 2019, I was nervous but excited or as my 7 year old calls it “nervous-cited”. I had an hour and a half drive to think about what I was going to say. Honestly, I had no idea what I was going to say or what to expect from my first legislative day.

First on the agenda was a briefing of our lobbying topics. This was the starting of an experience that I will never forget. A large group of peers with common interests and goals had come together to make a difference in our industry. We were all determined to be heard.

Second was reaching Michigan’s Capitol. As I walked up to this beautiful monument, with its history carved into the sides of the building, I saw the crowded halls, the dimmed lighting and the stunning detail of the Capitol building and I was feeling overwhelmed. I was in the center of everything.

I have never been active in politics until this year. This was my first step in the journey with the MAIA committee as a young agent. I was comfortable because I knew I had so many great people to fall back on and to ask questions. It seemed the only thing I needed to know was where to go and when!

The next part was easier than I had imagined. Speaking with Senator Paul Wojno and House Representative John Chirkun about current issues within the insurance industry came naturally. I have been working in the industry for 14 years. I felt like many voices and stories were heard that day - even those who could not be present. It was humbling to be able to share these details in a setting so grand. I was honored to be a part of this day.

This experience has taught me how valuable AgentPAC is to help create strong relationships with legislators and to have such a positive impact on the political process within the insurance industry. Whether we have chosen to be a part of the legislative actions and/or bills in the past does not matter. However, it does matter for our future.

We all want a voice but we don’t always want to be the one to speak up. Political action committees are there on our behalf to support our voice and engage in the political process because our industry and state greatly depend on it. You can always have a say in the future!

Shelly Biernacki
Young Agent Committee Member