

The Government Relations Committee has been engaged in two major initiatives at the state level. The first is the proposed legislation governing AMCs, or House Bill 124. A joint hearing was held at the State House on May 17, 2011 at which, appraisers from all over the state were given the opportunity to speak on the matter. The Bill has been referred to the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The second item is the new USPAP Update policy. On March 26, 2011, the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Real Estate Appraisers (Board) rescinded the 24-month requirement and returned to enforcing a two-calendar year schedule for USPAP updates. Unfortunately, the permanent marks against many fine appraisers remain in place costing them employment opportunities and effecting insurance premiums. A bill has been filed by Senator Kennedy to overturn the disciplinary actions taken. We received overwhelming feedback from our members on this matter and applaud your efforts in bringing this issue to light.

It is also important to recognize the Appraisal Institute's national efforts. Because the Appraisal Institute's Washington Office is the only government affairs office in our nation's capital representing real estate appraisers, Appraisal Institute members are uniquely positioned to have our voices heard by lawmakers and regulators. The Appraisal Institutes Government Relations Committee is currently involved with eight bills introduced in the 112th Congress, seven federal regulations, and seven industry initiatives affecting appraisers on a national level. Their efforts are invaluable to our profession with some of their recent federal successes highlighted below:

- Dodd-Frank Act (HR 4173) includes the most significant appraisal reforms in two decades
- Customary and Reasonable fees
- AMC registration - Helped to enact 20 AMC registration bills in less than two years
- Defeated a BPO expansion bill in MS with efforts underway in four other states
- Resources for enforcement
- Promotion of Professional Designations
- Defeated bill that would have increased the SBA appraisal threshold from \$250,000 to \$400,000 (HR 3854)