

### NABIP-Dallas Member Spotlight: Jared Leshin

Jared Leshin is a health insurance marketing expert with 14 years of experience in marketing and 8 years specifically focused on the health insurance and benefits marketing space. A member of NABIP for 18 months, Jared currently serves on the board as the Communications chair. Over his career, Jared has successfully positioned health insurance brokerages to stand out in a competitive market, and he's helped hundreds of benefits and insurance professionals with high-level marketing strategy, branding, social media, digital marketing, and more.



He currently leads Hyperspark + Hypersuade - a digital marketing agency that helps clients optimize their business and boost their revenue, with a suite of solutions designed to help Insurance & Benefits Professionals.

Visit <https://www.hyperspark.co/hypersuade> to learn more.

### NABIP-Dallas November Meeting

Thanks to our wonderful members, NABIP-Dallas had the opportunity to give back to our community at our membership meeting in November. We were able to collect over 20 bags of clothes for Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation and decorated and filled over 50 bags for Adopt-A-Senior for Meals on Wheels Collin County.

We are very grateful for two of our board members, Carmen Freeman and Caitlin Mathis, that led this effort and to all of the individuals that provided donations at our meeting.



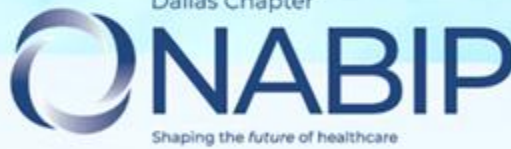


# HAPPY HOUR!

with

National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals

Dallas Chapter



Shaping the future of healthcare



**14**  
**DEC**

**4-6PM**  
**THURSDAY**

**Yard House**

**5100 Belt Line Rd. Dallas, TX 75254**

**Cost: \$25 (Gets you 2 drink tickets & appetizers will be provided)**



**VersantHealth®**

[Link to RSVP](#)



## More from our November Meeting



## NABIP-Texas Legislative Update

NABIP-Texas Legislative Update from Shannon and Mike Meroney, Meroney Public Affairs –

Goodbye third special session of the 88th Texas Legislature... and hello fourth special session.

After the 3rd called special legislative session ended on Tuesday without a deal on school vouchers and several border security bills, Gov. Greg Abbott called lawmakers back for a 4th special session beginning this evening.



“There is more work to be done,” Abbott said in a statement. “I am immediately calling lawmakers back... to complete their critical work to empower Texas parents to choose the best education pathway for their child while providing billions more in funding for Texas public schools and continuing to boost safety measures in schools.”

Abbott’s agenda for the new session includes four items: 1) boosting funding for schools, including through the creation of a voucher program; 2) school safety measures; 3) legislation to create criminal offenses for crossing the Texas-Mexico border illegally; and 4) funding for border walls and border security operations, including more police for the Liberty County community of Colony Ridge. All are left over from the third special session.

The biggest point of contention was Abbott’s request for a voucher bill that would allow parents to use taxpayer dollars to send their children to private and religious schools. An effort to do so in the regular session in the spring was defeated by a coalition of Democrats and rural Republicans. There’s been no public signaling that a majority of the two-dozen Republican holdouts have changed their minds, despite Abbott’s declaration on October 31st that he had struck a deal with House Speaker Dade Phelan’s negotiating team.

While the Senate passed its voucher bill on the sixth day of the session, the House never held a hearing on any voucher bill, let alone advanced legislation to the floor for a vote. The House inaction further soured the relationship between Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Phelan, who began sparring in the spring over property taxes and later over the House impeachment of Attorney General Ken Paxton. Patrick accused Phelan of caving to the Democrats and anti-voucher Republicans to preserve his speakership.

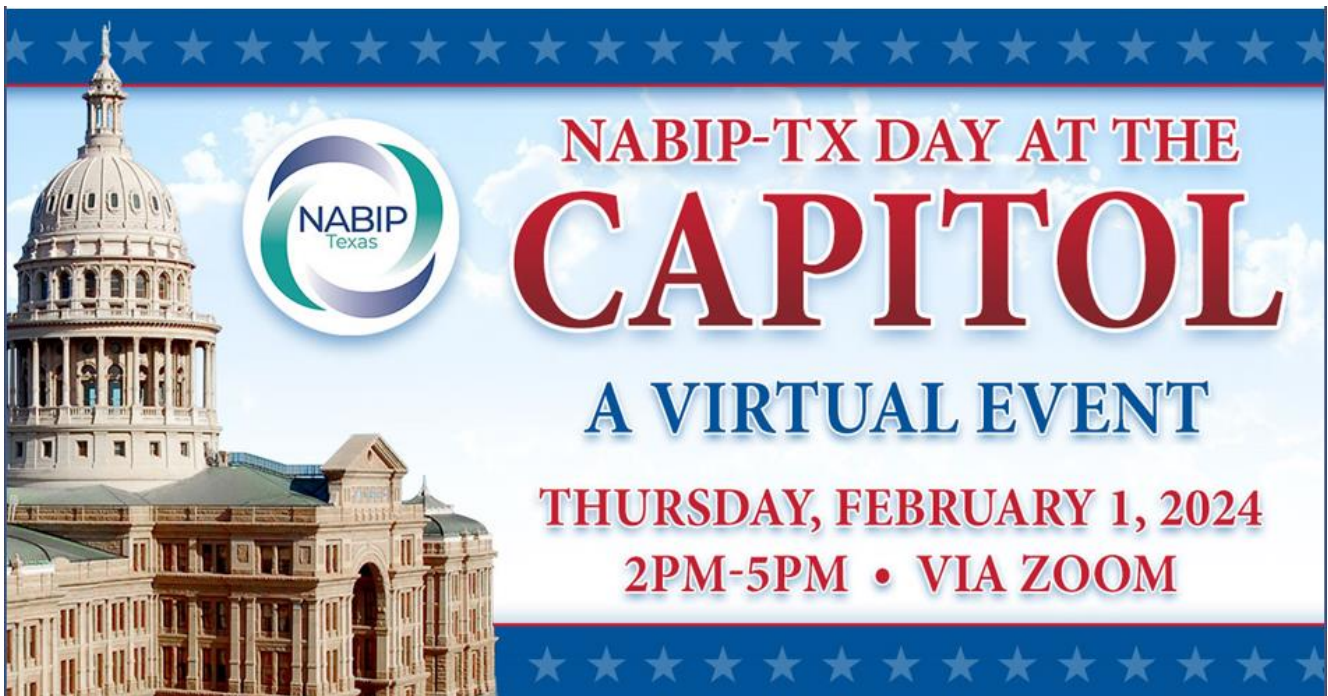
The spat had collateral damage. Senate Bill 6, which would have appropriated \$1.5 billion for the state to continue building a wall along its border with Mexico, died in the House.

The chambers passed different versions of a bill that would allow police officers to arrest immigrants who cross the border illegally, but never agreed on a compromise between them. Phelan called the Senate plan “pro-illegal immigration” while Patrick derided the House plan as a “Texas-sized catch-and-release bill.”

By law, special sessions can last no longer than 30 days. There may be a glimmer of hope, however. Last week Rep. Brad Buckley (R-Killeen) the chairman of the House public education bill, unveiled a new voucher bill with more concessions than ever to the Republican holdouts. Most significantly, it increases the amount of money each public school district receives per student.

One final thing to keep in mind: this new special session ends just a few days before lawmakers’ re-election filing deadline on Monday, December 11th at 6:00pm. How many lawmakers will decide not to run again? Further complicating matters: record votes to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton or to oppose vouchers, and promises of political retribution and heavy political spending, particularly in the primaries next Spring. Stay tuned and we’ll keep you informed along the way.

### Save the Date: NABIP-Texas Day at the Capitol

The poster features a background image of the Texas State Capitol building. On the left, there is a circular logo for NABIP Texas, consisting of two overlapping curved lines in blue and green. The text on the poster is as follows:

**NABIP-TX DAY AT THE**  
**CAPITOL**  
**A VIRTUAL EVENT**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024**  
**2PM-5PM • VIA ZOOM**



### Fast Facts

- [Registration is now open](#) for the industry's premier legislative event: **NABIP's Capitol Conference 2024!** Capitol Conference promises to be especially impactful in 2024, giving you the chance to influence policy and make your mark in a pivotal presidential election year. [Register now](#) and lock in the early-bird price before the price increases on January 31!
- CMS released the [proposed 2025 Notice of Benefits and Payment Parameters](#) earlier this week, which includes a wide swath of proposed regulations impacting the individual market, such as new network adequacy standards, changes to essential health benefits, new requirements for state-based exchanges, requirements for exchanges transitioning from federal to state platforms, and more.
- NABIP sent a [letter](#) to the offices of Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Richard Neal (D-MA) – along with CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure – in response to an [earlier letter](#) supporting CMS' proposed provisions related to broker compensation and “administrative fees.”
- Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Todd Young (R-IN), John Thune (R-SD) and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) introduced the Employer Reporting Improvement Act (S. 3204) and the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act (S. 3227) last week. The House already passed both bills in June; if these vital pieces of legislation are passed by the Senate, the landmark bills will be sent to the president's desk and signed into law. [Please urge your senator to co-sponsor these bills!](#) You can also ask your employer clients to send a message to their lawmakers [here](#).
- Did you know that November is Long-Term Care Insurance Awareness Month? On [this week's episode of the Healthcare Happy Hour](#), LTC Advisory Group members Lori Martin and Steve Cain talk with Jamala Arland, senior vice president of LTC Inforce at Genworth.
- In this week's State Spotlight: The New York State Department of Financial Services withdrew proposed PBM rules that would have had immense negative impacts by imposing mandates in the design of health benefit plans and imposing standardized pharmacy reimbursement.
- [Applications are being accepted](#) for the Legislative Achievement Award, Spirit of Freedom Award and Legislative Excellence Award. Each of these awards will be presented at Capitol Conference in February, where we will recognize individual members and state and local chapters for their accomplishments during 2023. The deadline for applications is January 15.
- NABIP has released a set of [media tools](#) for agents during the OEP, including customizable press releases, media advisories, print ads, PSAs and social-media templates.

NABIP's *Washington Update* is authored by Dan Parker, senior director of policy and engagement.





# Join and Save \$50

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF NABIP MEMBERSHIP.  
WE ARE YOUR FOURTH QUARTER RESOURCE.

*This opportunity ends on December 31, 2023*





Exciting news: the **Employer Reporting Improvement Act (S. 3204)** and the **Paperwork Burden Reduction Act (S. 3227)** are nearing the finish line. The employer reporting bill has undergone extensive debate and analysis by the Department of Treasury and Capitol Hill. Now, after several years' worth of work, these bipartisan bills have moved through committee, passed the House on voice vote, and are ready for consideration by the Senate.

Spearheaded by Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Todd Young (R-IN), John Thune (R-SD), and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), these bills represent an example of continued bipartisan cooperation to finally streamline the employer-reporting requirements and reduce the administrative burdens for all employers.

Your voice is more critical than ever. We urge you to contact your Senator today to support **S. 3204** and **S. 3227**. This is our chance to make a significant impact, reflecting our dedication to improving health insurance practices and easing employer reporting requirements.

Let's seize this opportunity to bring about positive change. Your call to action with your legislator, can drive these bills over the finish line!

**Take Action!**

### Member Resources

- ❖ New NABIP-Dallas members can register for their first lunch meeting at no cost. Email [dahu.org@gmail.com](mailto:dahu.org@gmail.com) to confirm your registration.
- ❖ [Lone Star \(Virtual\) Chapter](#) frequently offers online CE webinars at no cost for NABIP-Texas members.