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NCOIL GRAPPLES WITH THE TREND OF RISING DRUG PRICES

Charleston, South Carolina, March 1, 2015 — NCOIL legislators at the Spring Meeting here heard expert insight into why drug prices are so high and into what the cost of specialty drugs such as the Hepatitis C therapy Solvadi means for state budgets. The Saturday, February 28 special session, entitled *Drug Prices: How Much Is Too Much? And Where Will States Draw the Line?*, was scheduled in recognition of the huge impact that drug costs have on state and federal healthcare systems.

According to NCOIL President Sen. Neil Breslin (NY):

We recognize the importance of creating solutions to address rising drug prices while also encouraging access and continued medical innovation. Specialty drugs are often for people in critical need who may have no other treatment alternatives. It's so important to keep state legislators up to date about the issues they'll be dealing with to protect these patients, among others, this year and in the future.

The session was moderated by Rep. Ken Goike of Michigan, Vice Chair of the NCOIL Health, Long-Term Care & Health Retirement Issues Committee, and featured Jenny Bryant, Senior Vice President of Policy & Research at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA); Daniel Durham Executive Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP); Jonah Houts, Vice President of Governmental Affairs at Express Scripts; and John Rother, President & CEO of the National Coalition on Health Care.

Ongoing efforts to address the Affordable Care Act and other healthcare concerns including discussions at the NCOIL Summer Meeting that is scheduled for July 16 through 19 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NCOIL is an organization of state legislators whose main area of public policy interest is insurance legislation and regulation. Most legislators active in NCOIL either chair or are members of the committees responsible for insurance legislation in their respective state houses across the country. More information is available at www.ncoil.org.

For further details, please contact the NCOIL National Office at 518-687-0178 or at snolan@ncoil.org.

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