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**NCOIL LEGISLATORS ADOPT RESOLUTION
ENCOURAGING COVERAGE FOR OBESITY TREATMENT**

Troy, New York, July 28, 2015 — Legislators at their NCOIL Summer Meeting in Indianapolis recently adopted a resolution supporting efforts to increase health insurance coverage for obesity treatments, including pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery, and encouraging states to select health exchange benchmark plans that allow for such access. The NCOIL Health, Long-Term Care and Health Retirement Issues Committee adopted the resolution on July 16, followed by Executive Committee approval on July 19.

Rep. Marcus Hunter (LA), sponsor of the resolution, said “The passage of this resolution demonstrates the legislative awareness that obesity is a disease having the latent effect reducing worker productivity and increasing medical costs. Preventative care and treatment are critical. As such, enacting legislation targeting all socioeconomic strata is ideal.”

According to Assem. Kevin Cahill (NY), chair of the Health Committee, “By encouraging state exchanges to include a full range of coverage for obesity treatments, the health and wellness of individuals participating in such programs would increase, while obesity-related medical costs should decline.”

The *Resolution in Support of Efforts to Reduce the Incidence of Obesity and Chronic Disease* calls for states to take voluntary action in order to increase prevention efforts and help to treat those who are suffering with obesity by making more options available. In particular, the resolution encourages implementation of chronic disease management programs (CDMPs), funded through state programs and/or other sources, that cover various treatments, and it supports Qualified Health Plans that do the same.

NCOIL will further its efforts to address Affordable Care Act and other healthcare concerns during the NCOIL Annual Meeting, scheduled for November 12 through 15 in San Antonio, Texas.

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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