

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF INSURANCE LEGISLATORS (NCOIL)
Principles on Healthcare Reform

Approved by the NCOIL Executive Committee on November 22, 2009.

Sponsored by Sen. James Seward (NY)

General

- 1) NCOIL supports healthcare reform that would provide consumers with access to affordable coverage and quality care.
- 2) NCOIL believes that the states, acting as laboratories of democracy, are appropriate venues for reform.
- 3) NCOIL supports examination of the impacts on other lines of insurance, including workers' comp and auto.

State/Federal

- 4) NCOIL opposes any preemption of state regulatory authority and subsequent insurance consumer protections.
- 5) NCOIL opposes any attempt to repeal the insurance antitrust exemption under the McCarran-Ferguson Act of 1945.
- 6) NCOIL questions the federal government's health insurance reform track record, including ERISA, which hinders a state's authority to make health insurance market changes.
- 7) NCOIL is on record as opposing federally directed interstate health insurance sales because of domicile state shopping and cherry picking risks, but supports states' ability to enter freely into compacts with neighboring states.
- 8) NCOIL believes that healthcare reform should include greater cooperation and coordination among the Justice Department, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), state insurance regulators, law enforcement, and private insurers to combat healthcare fraud.

Cost Implications

- 9) NCOIL believes that any meaningful reform should not increase the cost of healthcare.
- 10) NCOIL opposes any new unfunded federal mandates.
- 11) NCOIL opposes any federal reform that adds to state Medicaid costs.
- 12) NCOIL is on record as supporting efforts to provide federal funding for innovative state insurance reform programs.
- 13) NCOIL supports pilot projects that allow willing states to experiment with medical malpractice cost controls.