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NCOIL SCRUTINIZES EMERGING TRENDS IN HEALTHCARE

Nashville, TN, November 24, 2013—Legislators at the NCOIL Annual Meeting delved deeply into the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid, continuing a longstanding NCOIL mission to keep state legislators informed on critical healthcare issues impacting the states.

At a two-part November 21 symposium, entitled *Exchange Enrollment: What We Know So Far* and *Healthcare Costs in the ACA Era: Emerging Trends?* respectively, featuring a wide range of perspectives—including Richard Birhanzel of Accenture, Amber Goodwin of Enroll America, Audrey Halvorson of the American Academy of Actuaries, Kevin Kuhlman of the National Federation of Independent Business, Dr. Barbara McAneny of the American Medical Association, and James O'Connor of Milliman—on the future of health insurance enrollment and healthcare costs, legislators received info in response to questions about the growth of public and private exchanges, costs affecting physician care, and the health insurance premiums under the ACA.

Sen. James Seward (NY), moderator, said that “We’re seeing such huge changes in healthcare with the launch of the ACA, and it’s so important to keep state legislators up to date about the issues that they’ll be dealing with in the next legislative session and beyond.”

A November 23 special session titled *A New Era for Medicaid: Measuring Costs and Quality*—featuring Tina Brill of Amerigroup, Senator Kemp Hannon of New York, and Matt Salo of the National Association of Medicaid Directors—focused on Medicaid expansion, managed care programs, long-term care, and efforts by states to reform their Medicaid programs, including Arkansas and New York. Rep. Kathleen Keenan (VT), moderator, said that “Medicaid is a crucial issue that states need to address. My hope is that legislators come away from this discussion with ideas that they can take back to their states.”

During a November 24 meeting of the NCOIL Health, LTC, and Health Retirement Issues Committee, NCOIL was pleased to welcome Tracey Thomas of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to discuss consumer fraud related to implementation of the ACA and how states can take action to protect consumers.

The NCOIL 2013 Annual Meeting took place November 21 through 24. The 2014 Spring Meeting is scheduled for March 6 through 9, in Savannah, Georgia.

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.

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