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# NCOIL TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS TERRORISM

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Will terrorism require state legislative solutions?

How is the industry responding to issues arising from September 11?

What happens if liability and business interruption exposures turn into actual losses?

What is the health insurance industry doing to prepare for bioterrorism?

Sen. William J. Larkin, Jr. (NY), newly elected president of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), today announced the formation of an NCOIL Task Force on Terrorism.  He said that the Task Force will focus on addressing those and other questions.  In his statement, Sen. Larkin also said:

"The Task Force will research terrorism-related insurance issues as they emerge.  It will provide legislators with the most up-to-date information available and, where appropriate, propose state legislative responses.  The Task Force will also communicate with Congress and the Office of Homeland Security on terrorism issues, including a federal reimbursement backstop and bioterrorism."

            Sen. Larkin said that immediate NCOIL past president, Rep. Terry Parke (IL), will chair the Task Force and that Sen. Steve Geller (FL) will serve as vice-chair.  He said that, in addition to Rep. Parke, Sen. Geller, and himself, the Task Force will include the six newly appointed NCOIL committee chairs: Sen. Neil Breslin (NY), Chair of the State-Federal Relations Committee; Rep. David Counts (TX), Chair of the International Relations Committee; Rep. Brian Kennedy (RI), Chair of the Health Insurance Committee; Sen. James Seward (NY), Chair of the Life Insurance Committee; Rep. Frank Wald (ND), Chair of the Workers' Compensation Insurance Committee; and Rep. Craig Eiland (TX), Chair of the Property-Casualty Insurance Committee, as well as Assem. Ivan Lafayette and Sen. Dean Skelos, both of New York.  Sen. Larkin said that "We have united as a nation to face terrorism.  Now we must stand together as state legislators to do all we can to address its insurance implications."

            Rep. Parke, Chair of the Task Force, said:

"The Task Force will communicate with Congressional leadership on insurance- related terrorism issues and work to identify areas where state legislation may be necessary.  The Task Force will seek input from business, insurance and consumer groups with regard to the impact of the threat of terrorism on their constituents."

Sen. Larkin noted that NCOIL was the first organization of state officials to support establishment of a federal backstop to cover terrorism.  In October, then NCOIL president

Rep. Parke sent a letter to the House and Senate majority and minority leaders, voicing NCOIL's support for such a federal effort. On November 16, the Executive Committee reaffirmed its position and unanimously adopted a Resolution in Support of a Federal Backstop for Insurance Against Terrorism at its Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.  NCOIL subsequently distributed the resolution to key members of Congress.

 The NCOIL Annual Meeting included a general session panel discussion entitled *Attack on America: Impact on the Insurance Industry*, at which legislators gathered more information about the immediate and long-range impacts, both regulatory and budgetary, of the events of September 11.  Prior to the panel discussion, representatives of the workers' compensation, property-casualty, health and life industries reported on terrorism's impact on each line of insurance.

            Also elected as NCOIL officers were Rep. Chris Liese (MO), Vice-President; Rep. Kathleen Keenan (VT), Secretary; Sen. Geller, Treasurer; and Rep. Craig Eiland, Executive Committee Chair.

            Additional information on Task Force activity or other NCOIL initiatives regarding terrorism is available by contacting the NCOIL National Office, or by visiting the NCOIL Web site at [www.ncoil.org](http://www.ncoil.org/).