

# NCOIL

National Conference of Insurance Legislators

...for the states

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NCOIL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES 2008 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS, AND RENEWED PRIORITIES

**Troy, New York, November 21, 2007**—State Rep. Brian Kennedy (RI), president of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), today announced the recent election of the following officers for 2008: Senator James Seward (NY) as President-Elect; Rep. Robert Damron (KY) as Vice President; Rep. George Keiser (ND) as Secretary; and Sen. Carroll Leavell (NM) as Treasurer.

In addition, Rep. Kennedy announced that he had appointed co-chairs for the 2008 standing committees, in order to enhance balance within committee leadership:

<i>Financial Services &amp; Investment Products:</i>	Rep. Fulton Sheen (MI) Assem. Ivan Lafayette (NY)
<i>Health, Long-Term Care &amp; Health Retirement Issues:</i>	Rep. Susan Westrom (KY) Del. Harvey Morgan (VA)
<i>International Insurance Issues:</i>	Rep. Frank Wald (ND) Rep. Craig Eiland (TX)
<i>Life Insurance &amp; Financial Planning:</i>	Sen. Joseph Crisco (CT) Rep. Michael Ripley (IN)
<i>Natural Disaster Insurance Legislation (subcommittee):</i>	Sen. Steven Geller (FL) Sen. Dean Kirby (MS)
<i>NCOIL-NAIC Liaison:</i>	Sen. Ralph Hudgens (GA) Rep. Larry Taylor (TX)
<i>Property-Casualty Insurance:</i>	Sen. Robert Dearing (MS) Sen. David Bates (RI)
<i>State-Federal Relations:</i>	Rep. Greg Wren (AL) Rep. Robert Damron (KY)
<i>Workers' Compensation Insurance:</i>	Rep. Kurt Olson (AK) Sen. Ann Cummings (VT)

Rep. Kennedy said, “These legislators have demonstrated commitment to NCOIL and to the promotion and modernization of state insurance regulation, and I have great confidence in their ability to guide NCOIL during this time of unprecedented interest in preempting state authority.”

“We are at a crucial stage in the regulation of insurance,” Rep. Kennedy added. “The threat of an optional federal charter (OFC) gets stronger each year and we, as an organization of state legislators, must continue to advocate against an OFC and must tell our federal counterparts in the House and Senate that an OFC represents bad public policy—that it would be detrimental to our constituents and our state governments.”

The new president pledged to continue advocating for inclusion of legislators in important insurance policy decisions. He also said he had appointed a subcommittee, consisting of NCOIL officers and past presidents, that will meet regularly at future NCOIL meetings to discuss implementation of groundbreaking recommendations contained in the just-released Phase II of a *Study on State Authority*. The report, Rep. Kennedy explained, takes an aerial view of state regulation, identifies where it works well, and lays out strategies for necessary state reform.

Rep. Kennedy also thanked Sen. Alan Sanborn (MI), outgoing NCOIL president, for his service during a particularly successful NCOIL year.

NCOIL is an organization of state legislators whose main area of public policy concern is insurance legislation and regulation. Many 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](http://www.ncoil.org).

For further details, please contact the NCOIL National Office at 518-687-0178.

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