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**NCOIL TO CONGRESS: STATES WELL ON THEIR WAY TO IMPLEMENTING MEANINGFUL REGULATORY REFORMS**

             **Washington, DC, November 5, 2003** - New York State Sen. Neil Breslin, Chair of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) State-Federal Relations Committee, told a Congressional panel today that the states are making meaningful and measurable progress to improve state insurance regulation for the benefit of consumers and the industry.

            “I am here to say that insurance regulatory modernization is well on its way.  By the end of this year, NCOIL will have adopted model laws, or passed resolutions in support of NAIC model laws, addressing four areas of insurance regulation requiring immediate improvement,” said Breslin in testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises.

Senator Breslin said NCOIL has made a priority of improving market conduct regulation, product approval processes, and agent and company licensing.  He said NCOIL has stated formal support for the NAIC *Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact* that once enacted by the states will expedite the review and approval of life insurance and related products.

            Sen. Breslin said, “We have and are developing model laws that would give regulators the proper statutory authority to carry out needed reforms and, at the same time, would ensure a level of uniformity that will provide insurers with regulatory certainty.”

            Sen. Breslin said that NCOIL efforts are nearing completion to provide the states with model law guidance in the area of market conduct regulation.

            “NCOIL will consider a *Market Conduct Surveillance Model Act* when legislators convene at the NCOIL Annual Meeting November 20 through 23 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.  The model act would provide a statutory framework for market conduct regulation, with a strong focus on market analysis and uniform examination procedures,” said Breslin.

            Sen. Breslin, who serves as the Ranking Minority Member of the New York Senate Finance and Insurance Committees, said he expects the NCOIL and NAIC model laws to be the foundation for much of the insurance modernization legislation that will be up for consideration in state legislatures in 2004.

            Breslin said, “State legislators know that more work needs to be done, and we will get it done.  State legislators and state regulators are working together to create uniformity in the key areas of insurance regulation.”

            “State legislators are acutely aware of the forces at work to create an optional federal charter for insurance companies.  Our heads are not in the sand.  We understand that political and marketplace realities demand that we improve state regulation.  We understand that the status quo is not an option,” concluded Breslin.

             NCOIL is an organization of state legislators whose main area of public policy concern is insurance and insurance regulation.  Legislators active in NCOIL either chair or are active members of the committees responsible for insurance in their respective state legislative houses across the country.

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