Resolution Opposed to Office of National Insurance Proposal (Title V) in Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee Print of Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2009

Adopted by the NCOIL State-Federal Relations Committee on March 5, 2010, and Executive Committee on March 7, 2010.

Sponsored by Rep. Greg Wren (AL)

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs on November 19, 2009 began markup of the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2009, and such committee is planning to resume its markup very shortly, and

WHEREAS, Title V of the committee print of the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2009 would create an Office of National Insurance (ONI) in the U.S. Treasury Department; and

WHEREAS, Title V would grant the ONI the authority to recommend to a new Agency for Financial Stability that it designate an insurer for regulation as a “specified financial company,” and give ONI an open-ended responsibility to “perform such other related duties and authorities as may be assigned to the Office by the Secretary”; and

WHEREAS, this broad mission would permit the ONI to duplicate and interfere with state insurance regulation, impose burdensome and unnecessary data requests on insurers through subpoena, and preempt state solvency regulation through its unilateral power to enter into International Insurance Agreements on Prudential Matters, all to the detriment of the protection of insurance consumers and healthy insurance markets;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCOIL opposes the ONI language in Title V of the committee print of the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2009 in its current form; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to state legislative leaders and other state officials, Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Members of the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services and the U.S. Treasury Department.

© National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL)
K: NCOIL/2010 Documents/2006816a.doc