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**NCOIL INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ADVANCES EFFORTS REGARDING
COORDINATION AND TRANSPARENCY AND TRADE AGREEMENTS**

Boston, Massachusetts, July 13, 2014 — In line with a resolution regarding global capital standards, the NCOIL International Issues Task Force unanimously voiced its strong support for establishing guiding principles related to international insurance discussions and for preservation of state sovereignty in global trade negotiations. The Task Force advanced its positions during its July 10 session at the Boston Summer Meeting.

NCOIL President Sen. Neil Breslin (NY), who chairs the Task Force, stressed after the meeting that “State legislators need to be heard in international dialogues, particularly when it comes to initiatives that may be imposed upon the states, since legislators are the officials who effect insurance laws that govern markets around the country. Acting on behalf of state legislators, NCOIL will continue to press the importance of this with state, federal, and international entities ongoing.”

The *Resolution Regarding Guiding Principles for U.S. and International Insurance Regulatory Discussions* was sponsored by Sen. Jason Rapert (AR), chair of the Task Force’s Coordination and Transparency Working Group. The resolution notes that the U.S. system of insurance oversight is transparent and accountable to the public and calls for similar openness and due process in international insurance dialogues. The resolution urges creation of a meaningful mechanism for state legislators to input into global discussions, and it commits NCOIL to engaging with federal and global officials, as well as with state officials and others, in the future.

Sen. Rapert said, “For over 150 years the insurance industry in our nation has been regulated by each of the individual sovereign states. It is vitally important that state policymakers and regulators be included in all discussions dealing with proposed federal or international regulations affecting capital standards and the insurance industry. NCOIL is committed to ensuring that the state-based regulatory mechanisms in place are not compromised to the detriment of consumers or U.S. insurance companies.”

Sen. Rapert added that “As chair of the Coordination Transparency Working Group and Vice Chair of the International Insurance Issues Committee, I am fully committed to developing relationships with the Federal Reserve, Federal Insurance Office, Department of Treasury, and members of Congress to ensure that our state-based system is protected.”

The *Resolution Concerning Principles of State Sovereignty in International Trade*, sponsored by Trade Agreement Working Group Chair Rep. Kathie Keenan (VT), asserts that extreme caution is needed in international trade negotiations to avoid preempting state-level decisions regarding insurance and reinsurance. The resolution notes that state legislators are largely unheard in the context of international trade negotiations, and it calls for expanded and continuous legislative involvement. The resolution also,

among other items, urges more transparency and due process with regard to conflict resolution proceedings.

According to Rep. Keenan, “The Task Force took a very clear stand on international issues at this meeting. Our position on trade reflects the experiences that states have had going back decades, starting with Bretton-Woods and going all the way through NAFTA and CAFTA. I can tell you that international trade is very important to my home state of Vermont, as it is to many others, so it’s only right that states are represented in trade negotiations. We have been left silent for too long.”

In addition to its resolutions on coordination and transparency and trade activity, the Task Force on July 10 adopted a resolution, later amended during a July 11 International Insurance Issues Committee meeting, that cautioned against imposing global capital standards on U.S. insurers. The NCOIL Executive Committee unanimously adopted all three Task Force resolutions on July 13.

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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