

Atlantic Corporate Center  
2317 Route 34, Suite 2B  
Manasquan, NJ 08736  
732-201-4133  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Thomas B. Considine



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Contact: Paul Penna  
(732) 201-4133

## **NCOIL CALLS FOR GREATER ROLE FOR STATES IN THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE**

### *State Legislators Need a Greater Role in Shaping the Future*

Manasquan, NJ – As the debate unfolds about the future of the Affordable Care Act and healthcare in America, bipartisan NCOIL legislators, including New York State Assemblyman Kevin Cahill (D) and Oklahoma State Representative Glen Mulready (R), who serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the NCOIL Health, Long-Term Care and Health Retirement Committee are ready to formulate solutions to ensure consumers continue to receive care at a cost that is affordable and that the structure is strong so insurance companies can participate and thrive.

“Changing health care delivery is a complex challenge and state legislators need to participate to ensure our consumers are protected and that companies can participate and remain solvent” said Commissioner Tom Considine, NCOIL CEO. “We have an accomplished group of solutions-oriented state legislators from around the country to help solve this problem.”

NCOIL is proving to be an effective watchdog against federal regulatory agencies that ignore the purpose of existing laws. Last year, NCOIL wrote to HHS and CMS about regulations that created a “Catch-22” and hampered the use of Health Savings Accounts. Proposed regulations were changed so that HSA’s were not eliminated.

In 2010, as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance, NCOIL CEO Tom Considine wrote the Department of Health and Human Services about the Interim Final Rules for Group Health plans and Health Insurance Coverage Relating to Status as a Grandfathered Health Plan Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and warned that mandating specific coverage levels removes the choice of consumers to keep their existing health care. Time has proven that was largely correct. “If the federal government had deferred to the state legislatures on these issues, the state of affairs in healthcare would be vastly superior to where we are today.”

The NCOIL Health, Long-Term Care and Health Retirement Committee will host at committee conference call on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm ET. They will also meet on Friday, March 3 at the NCOIL Spring Meeting in New Orleans, LA will discuss a wide variety of health insurance related issues including what is happening in the insurance marketplace.

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*NCOIL is a legislative organization comprised principally of legislators serving on state insurance and financial institutions committees around the nation. NCOIL writes Model Laws in insurance, works to both preserve the state jurisdiction over insurance as established by the McCarran-Ferguson Act seventy years ago and to serve as an*



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*educational forum for public policy makers and interested parties. Founded in 1969, NCOIL works to assert the prerogative of legislators in making state policy when it comes to insurance and educate state legislators on current and perennial insurance issues.*