WHEREAS, the opioid crisis has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans, and, on average, 130 Americans die every day from an opioid-related overdose\(^1\); and

WHEREAS, as a result, the opioid crisis was declared a national Public Health Emergency by the President of the United States and consequently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the use of proven opioid overdose-reversing drugs such as Naloxone – frequently referred to by its brand name Narcan – have been promoted by many as a vital part of the public health response to combat the opioid crisis, including the U.S. Surgeon General; and

WHEREAS, states have recognized the importance of increasing accessibility of Narcan by issuing “Standing Orders” which permit Narcan to be sold over-the-counter at a pharmacy without an individual prescription to people who meet certain criteria so that they can be in a position to save others, whether it be family members, friends, co-workers, or even strangers; and

WHEREAS, NCOIL has become aware of certain instances where applicants for life insurance have been denied coverage for carrying Narcan, even in states with “Standing Orders”; and

\(^1\) U.S. Dep’t of Health and Human Services
WHEREAS, while NCOIL understands that applying for and issuing life insurance is a detailed risk-assessment process, of which an applicant’s use of prescription drugs is a part, no applicant should be denied coverage solely for carrying Narcan; and

WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCOIL supports the use of Narcan by good Samaritans to prevent the loss of life from an opioid overdose; and

WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCOIL urges life insurers to review accordingly their current policy application review procedures/guidelines and if necessary make appropriate changes so that no applicants are denied coverage solely for having a prescription for Narcan, and so that life insurers can identify applicants who obtained a supply of Narcan because of their role as medical professionals or first responders or Good Samaritans in a state with a “Standing Order”; and

WHEREAS, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be distributed to the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI); the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC); the members of the U.S. House Financial Services Committee; the members of the Senate Banking Committee; and the Chairs of the Committees of insurance jurisdiction in each Legislative Chamber of each State.