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**NCOIL SUPPORTS POLICYHOLDER PROTECTION ACT
AS WAY TO SAFEGUARD CONSUMERS, PRESERVE STATE AUTHORITY**

Troy, New York, March 18, 2015 — In line with their long-standing efforts to preserve state insurance authority and to highlight its effective consumer safeguards, NCOIL legislators today wrote in support of the federal *Policyholder Protection Act of 2015*—calling it a “commonsense” approach in today’s challenging financial services environment.

“In a world where financial services firms are diverse and complex,” the NCOIL letter—signed by the NCOIL officers—said, “the *Policyholder Protection Act* is a commonsense way to ensure that funds meant for policyholders are available for policyholders.”

The legislation “would preserve state insurance regulators’ critical and proven ability to safeguard insurance policyholders when complex financial firms become unstable,” the NCOIL officers asserted, and “makes clear that state regulators have the final say in whether the assets of an insurer, however it is structured, should be used to strengthen the finances of an affiliate or other related entity.”

After reiterating NCOIL’s belief that “state officials are the most appropriate arbiters of insurers’ financial strength and ability to pay claimants,” the NCOIL letter commented that the *Policyholder Protection Act* “wisely recognizes” that caring for consumers should be paramount and that the legislation “holds true to the belief that insurers with strong balance sheets should not be required to shore up, at their own hazard, the finances of less prudent corporate relations.”

The letter was signed by NCOIL President Sen. Neil Breslin (NY), Vice President Sen. Travis Holdman (IN), Secretary Rep. Steve Riggs (KY), and Treasurer Sen. Jason Rapert (AR) and was sent in advance of an anticipated March 19 introduction of the *Policyholder Protection Act*.

NCOIL issued its letter to the legislation sponsors: Senator David Vitter (LA), Senator Jon Tester (MT), Congressmen Bill Posey (FL), and Congressman Brad Sherman (CA).

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.

For further details, please contact the NCOIL National Office at 518-687-0178 or at snolan@ncoil.org.

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