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REP. KEISER TAKES REINS AS NCOIL PRESIDENT: 2011 NCOIL OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND PRIORITIES ANNOUNCED

Troy, New York, December 1, 2010 — North Dakota State Representative George Keiser took over as President of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) at the November NCOIL Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas—dedicated to guiding state lawmakers through a challenging 2011. The slate of incoming NCOIL officers also includes Sen. Carroll Leavell (NM) as President-Elect, Sen. Vi Simpson (IN) as Vice President, Rep. Charles Curtiss (TN) as Secretary, and Rep. Greg Wren (AL) as Treasurer.

In one of his first duties as President, Rep. Keiser announced 2011 Committee Chair appointments:

<i>Financial Services & Investment Products:</i>	Assem. Joseph Morelle (NY)
<i>Health, Long-Term Care & Health Retirement Issues:</i>	Rep. Barb Byrum (MI)
<i>International Insurance Issues:</i>	Sen. Travis Holdman (IN)
<i>Life Insurance & Financial Planning:</i>	Sen. Mike Hall (WV)
<i>Natural Disaster Insurance Legislation (Subcommittee):</i>	Sen. Dean Kirby (MS)
<i>NCOIL-NAIC Liaison:</i>	Rep. Kathleen Keenan (VT)
<i>Property-Casualty Insurance:</i>	Rep. Chuck Kleckley (LA)
<i>State-Federal Relations:</i>	Sen. Keith Faber (OH)
<i>Workers' Compensation Insurance:</i>	Rep. William E. Sandifer, III (SC)

Rep. Keiser said, “As states navigate the maze of *Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act* deadlines and responsibilities, NCOIL will be a key resource for legislators considering best practices and ways to avoid pitfalls. State legislatures may have no greater priority in 2011 than laying groundwork for their health insurance exchanges, overseeing new medical loss ratio (MLR) rules, and ensuring that no other state task is left behind.”

“Next year,” Keiser added, “NCOIL also will be a leading voice for states looking to implement the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act*—including educating states on the most appropriate, SLIMPACT-based path for complying with its surplus lines provisions. We will augment our work to preserve and enhance state-based oversight and will further unite with other state officials to uniformly reject federal preemption and promote state modernization.”

The new president said he looks forward to finalizing draft aftermarket crash part, healthcare balance billing, and workers' comp trucking/courier model acts, among other NCOIL efforts. “In 2010 we were the first to develop model laws on retained asset accounts (RAAs), life insurance disclosure, market conduct protections, and other items. We will continue to be legislative leaders in 2011.”

Finally, Rep. Keiser thanked outgoing President Rep. Robert Damron (KY) for his wide-ranging efforts to promote life insurance disclosure, transparency, and accountability. “Rep. Damron,” he said, “led

NCOIL through thorny issues that demanded strong consumer protections and—in the case of our RAA model—earned us a national spotlight. He never wavered in his dedication to developing NCOIL policy.”

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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