

# GENERAL MEDIA ADVISORY

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# CITIZENS HEALTH TO ADDRESS NCOIL SUMMER MEETING

**Albany, New York, July 17, 2002** – In an ongoing program to educate state legislators on what they can do about rising prescription drug costs, the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) welcomed Pat Norton, Vice President of Business Development for Citizens Health, to its 2002 Summer Meeting in Boston on July 12.  Ms. Norton, a former Massachusetts First Deputy Commissioner of Insurance,addressed the Committee when NCOIL met at the Sheraton Boston from July 11 through 14.

Former U.S. Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II launched the Citizens Health initiative in 2001.  Citizens Health is a nonprofit buying club designed for people with no insurance or whose insurance does not include prescription drug coverage.  The Citizens Health plan provides a discount card that consumers can currently use at pharmacies in three states— Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.  It costs $12 a year for individuals to join, and $28 a year for families.  Citizens Health is an offshoot of Citizens Energy, a nonprofit corporation Kennedy heads, which provides low-cost home-heating oil to seniors and the poor.

### Rep. Brian Kennedy (RI), Chair of the NCOIL Health Insurance Committee, said, “NCOIL legislators are interested in different solutions to the prescription drug cost crisis.  They are searching for what works best, in order to take those ideas back to their respective states.  Citizens Health offers one option.  A wide range of pharmacies accept the plan’s discount card, making prescriptions much more affordable for the elderly and uninsured.  Citizens Health also provides regional outreach coordinators to inform and educate people about the plan’s savings.  We are pleased that the organization was able to address NCOIL in Boston.”

NCOIL is an organization of state legislators whose main area of public policy concern is insurance legislation and regulation.  Many 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 on the Citizens Health plan is available by calling the Citizens Energy office at 617-338-6300.  More information on prescription drugs is available on the NCOIL Web site at [www.ncoil.org](http://www.ncoil.org/).

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