

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT

Susan Nolan  
Candace Thorson  
NCOIL National Office  
518-687-0178

## SEN. SEWARD NAMED NEW NCOIL PRESIDENT: 2009 NCOIL OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND PRIORITIES ANNOUNCED

**Duck Key, Florida, November 25, 2008**—State Senator James Seward (NY) took over the reins of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) on November 23 as its incoming president. The election slate also included the following officers for 2009: Rep. Robert Damron (KY) as President-Elect; Rep. George Keiser (ND) as Vice President; Sen. Carroll Leavell (NM) as Secretary; and Sen. Vi Simpson (IN) as Treasurer.

As his first duty as President, Sen. Seward announced 2009 Committee Chair appointments:

<i>Financial Services &amp; Investment Products:</i>	Assem. Joseph Morelle (NY)
<i>Health, Long-Term Care &amp; Health Retirement Issues:</i>	Sen. Ann Cummings (VT)
<i>International Insurance Issues:</i>	Sen. Vi Simpson (IN)
<i>Life Insurance &amp; Financial Planning:</i>	Sen. Ralph Hudgens (GA)
<i>Natural Disaster Insurance Legislation (Subcommittee):</i>	Sen. Joseph Crisco (CT)
<i>NCOIL-NAIC Liaison:</i>	Sen. Neil Breslin (NY)
<i>Property-Casualty Insurance:</i>	Rep. Charles Curtiss (TN)
<i>State-Federal Relations:</i>	Rep. Greg Wren (AL)
<i>Workers Compensation Insurance:</i>	Rep. Susan Westrom (KY)

Sen. Seward said, “There is no question that as we go through the next year, the financial meltdown is overshadowing just about everything in our personal lives, our financial lives, the priorities of NCOIL, and, of course, our states.”

He added, “We have to look out for our constituents—the insurance consumers of our various states—as well as our insurance markets and the companies that provide insurance products to our consumers and provide employment for our constituents.”

Sen. Seward cautioned that “we have to be very vigilant—more so than ever before—because there will be those that will use this financial crisis as an excuse for federal regulation of insurance.” He continued “we must make sure that one of the impacts of the financial crisis is not further federal intrusion into the regulation of insurance.”

Sen. Seward also thanked Rep. Kennedy for his service during a particularly successful NCOIL year. Sen. Seward declared that he is “very optimistic going into this next year—as tough as it may be—because NCOIL has a great team of legislators and staff.”

In commenting further on his upcoming tenure, the new president has pledged to continue educating Members of Congress regarding the strengths of the state-based regulatory system. He said that NCOIL would continue to promote state-based modernization efforts regarding speed-to-market, market conduct, and producer licensing, among other things. He also noted that he looked forward to new NCOIL investigations into the use of education and occupation in underwriting personal lines insurance; credit default swap regulation; crop insurance adjuster licensing; and healthcare reform strategies.

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](http://www.ncoil.org).

For further details, please contact the NCOIL National Office at 518-687-0178.

# # #