

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2008  
TO: NCOIL LEGISLATORS  
FROM: MIKE HUMPHREYS  
NCOIL STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS  
**RE: BRIEFING ON HOUSE COMMITTEE 2008 INSURANCE AGENDA**

*At a briefing this afternoon the senior counsel of the U.S. House Financial Services Committee Minority staff reported on the Committee's 2008 priorities to staff members, representatives of state organizations and consumer groups. He then asked representatives of the NAIC, NCSL, Consumer Federation of America, American Consumer Institute, and me as a representative of NCOIL to briefly update members on our respective organization's priorities.*

### **2008 COMMITTEE AGENDA**

The head counsel reported that the Committee would address in the order of priority, among other things:

- **Holocaust Insurance**—The Committee will mark-up legislation to address claims that should have been paid during the Holocaust.
- **Bond Insurance**—The Committee will begin reviewing issues related to recent bond insurer downgrades on 2/14/08.
- **Credit Scoring**—This Spring the Committee plans to hold a follow-up hearing to one held last year. *Committee staff was particularly interested in this issue.*
- **Hurricane Katrina**—This Summer the Committee plans to hold hearings regarding potential conflicts of interest when insurers determine wind versus water damage.
- **Regulatory Modernization**—The Committee will continue its review of insurance regulation by holding hearings on specific strategies for reform. Hearings will address:
  - [optional federal charter \(OFC\)](#) legislation
  - [expanding the Risk Retention Act](#) from liability insurance to cover property risks
  - [agent licensing](#), and an expected federal licensing office proposal by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (IIABA)
  - [reinsurance](#), and whether a New York proposal to reduce collateral requirements is fair and financially safe
  - [auto insurance](#) and the lack of portability for policyowners
  - revisiting legislation to reauthorize [the National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\) and terrorism insurance](#)

### **NCOIL PARTICIPATION**

The NCOIL report included the facts that NCOIL:

- strongly supports the state-based system for insurance reform
- recognizes the need for modernization in several key areas including speed-to-market and producer licensing
- plans to work toward uniformity in those areas by increasing membership in the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact, and
- will consider a resolution at its Spring Meeting to urge all states to fully implement the National Insurance Producer Registry (NIPR)—an online one-stop facility where agents can satisfy all its licensing and appointment needs.
- remains available to assist the Committee as it works through the issues this year

Feel free to contact me at 202-220-3014 or at [mhumphreys@ncoil.org](mailto:mhumphreys@ncoil.org) should you have any questions.