



“Simplifying Regulation for Agents and Brokers...”

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## **Agents for Change Strongly Supports “The National Insurance Consumer Protection Act”**

Agents for Change strongly supports H.R. 1880 “The National Insurance Consumer Protection Act (NICPA)” and commends Representatives Melissa Bean (D-IL) and Ed Royce (R-CA) for their continued dedication to easing barriers of entry in the insurance marketplace.

Peter Ludgin, the executive director of Agents for Change, stated, “Insurance agents and brokers continue to jump through unnecessary hoops to serve their customers. Whether it is redundant licensure forms and fees or a lack of speed to market of products the bottom line is insurance consumers are shortchanged by the antiquated mandatory state-based system.”

Ludgin continued, “The NICPA will open insurance markets and increase choice and competition. It will decrease bureaucracy for producers who are licensed in multiple states and better protect consumers. It will be the law of the land.”

Over 7,000 members of Agents for Change look forward to the day when they can receive one national insurance license to serve their customers no matter where they live (or move). Consumers continue to be stymied as they do not have access to the same products across state lines. Moreover, we are long overdue for free market pricing of property & casualty products.

Ludgin explained, “Rather than proposing ideas to address licensure reform and speed to market of products opponents of modernizing insurance regulation hide behind the cloak of consumer protection. Today, under the patchwork state-based system, some consumers endure under weak protections solely by virtue of where they live. The NICPA will correct this by providing a consistently high level of protection for all Americans.”

Agents for Change is particularly pleased with section 105 of the legislation which calls for the National Insurance Commissioner to establish an office of the Division of Consumer Affairs in each state, a centralized call center, and an internet address to receive and act upon questions and complaints from consumers. The NICPA is clearly designed to enhance consumer protections.

Ludgin noted, “Unfortunately this has turned into a turf war. Opponents see this as a threat to their revenue and jurisdiction. They also sense that relationships built up over several years will cease yielding benefits. They are in for the fight of their life but they need not worry. The advantages of insurance regulation reform will flow to everyone that buys or sells an insurance policy.”

*Agents for Change is a trade association of insurance agents and brokers from across all lines of insurance. Members of Agents for Change offer expert advice to public policy makers as they move forward to modernize insurance regulation to allow producers the option of being regulated at either the federal or the state level. Agents for Change has over 7,000 members nationwide.*