



“Simplifying Regulation for Agents and Brokers...”

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## **Agents for Change Welcomes Introduction of Legislation to Create an Office of Insurance Information**

*The Bill will Further the Debate on a Comprehensive  
Overhaul of Insurance Regulation*

Agents for Change congratulates Chairman Paul Kanjorski (D-PA) for introducing legislation to create a federal Office of Insurance Information (OII). The Insurance Information Act of 2009 (H.R. 2609) would create an OII within the Department of the Treasury to provide advice and expertise on insurance regulation to the Administration, Congress, and public.

Peter Ludgin, the Executive Director of Agents for Change stated, “Producer groups, industry, and consumer organizations all recognize the need to modernize insurance regulation. When it comes to reform the question is no longer “if” but “when” as evidenced by a hearing held by Chairman Kanjorski on May 14 titled, ‘*How Should the Federal Government Oversee Insurance.*’

“While Agents for Change congratulates Chairman Kanjorski on furthering the discussion, H.R. 2609, cannot be used as an excuse to put off a larger debate on the comprehensive overhaul of insurance regulation.”

Agents for Change strongly supports the bipartisan National Insurance Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 1880) which will: (1) provide agents and brokers the option to receive one national insurance license to serve their clients no matter where they live (or move); (2) improve speed to market of products; (3) enable competition through decreased regulatory barriers; and, (4) implement free market pricing for property & casualty products.

Importantly, H.R. 1880 would provide broad reform while leaving the existing state system intact for producers who choose to remain licensed at the state level, and for consumers who want to do business with an agent, or company that only operates locally.

If the federal government extends its reach into insurance regulation under H.R. 2609 it must also provide efficiency and uniformity for producers to enable them to best serve their customers.

Ludgin further explained, “The proposed OII should not get in the way of or be seen as a replacement to comprehensive reform. To the extent that H.R. 2609 helps consumers and the federal government better understand the hoops agents have to jump through to serve their customers it will help us accomplish our ultimate goal of across-the-board modernization.”

Today, insurance is solely regulated at the state level providing no federal expert on the issues that are important to producers, insurers, and consumers. The federal tax code recognizes the important role that life insurance and annuity products play in protecting the financial well being of Americans. Yet, insurance is the only segment of the financial services industry that does not have a national advocate to serve as an expert resource on insurance issues in which Congress and the Administration are involved. It is crucial to build additional knowledge of insurance policy, both in the public and private sectors.

The current regulatory framework for insurance was developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; over 135 years later insurance producers need a comprehensive 21<sup>st</sup> century modern regulatory structure to best serve insurance consumers.

*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.*