

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

March 8, 2016

GOVERNORS' BILL NO. 5051: AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE
COMMISSIONERS' INTERSTATE INSURANCE PRODUCT REGULATION COMPACT

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY:

Sonja Larkin-Thorne, Consumer Advocate

Good Afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is Sonja Larkin-Thorne of Avon, CT; I am an appointed National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) Representative, a member of the NAIC Consumer Board of Trustees and since 2010 a member of the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact Consumer Advisory Committee. I retired after 30 years in the insurance industry.

I submit this testimony in support of the Governors' Bill No. 5051 "An Act Adopting the National Association of Commissioners' Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact." Adoption of this legislation will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Connecticut's Insurance Department and the way insurance products are filed, reviewed, and approved. The added efficiencies are important to the insurance modernization efforts started by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in the 90's. In 2000 the National Association of Insurance Commissioners adopted The Statement of Intent: The Future of Insurance Regulation as a blueprint for significant regulatory reforms to modernize state insurance regulation. The System for Electronic Rate and Form Filing system (SERFF) and the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact (IIPRC) are two extraordinary examples of this effort.

States including Connecticut are under increasing pressure to reduce costs and control expenses, joining "The Compact" will allow our state to improve personnel allocation thru a streamlined filing review process. Connecticut will not give up any consumer protections. "The Compact" is unique, completely transparent in their filing review and approval process while also encouraging consumer involvement with the establishment of the Consumer Advisory Committee.

The Consumer Advisory Committee is comprised of consumer representatives independent of the insurance industry. There are currently five members representing Connecticut, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Autism Speaks in Washington D.C., and AARP, with three (3) open seats available on the committee. We are engaged in all aspects of the product review process,

holding monthly conference calls with IIPRC staff, participating in the product standards committee calls, submitting comments on issues and attending all board meetings.

“The Compact” a collaborative effort of states, industry and consumers deserves your support. I encourage the committee to support this legislation and the continued efforts by the Connecticut Department of Insurance to modernize services provided to consumers and the insurance industry.

I and the other consumer committee advisory members would encourage the Connecticut Department of Insurance should this legislation be enacted to enhance their current website with a direct link to “The Compact”. This will allow consumers access to pending product filings and the opportunity to provide comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation.