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From: Mayko, Fran <fmayko@aaanortheast.com>
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To: INSTestimony
Subject: AAA Northeast Testimony in support of HB 7024 - An Act Regulating the Offer and Dissemination of Travel Insurance
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Attached/below is testimony in support of **HB 7024** – An Act Regulating the Offer and dissemination of Travel Insurance for the 2/21 hearing



AAA Northeast
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**Testimony from Fran Mayko, Public Affairs Specialist
AAA Northeast before the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee on
HB 7024 – An Act Regulating the Offer and Dissemination of Travel Insurance
February 21, 2017**

On behalf of AAA Northeast, I write to express AAA Northeast's strong support for **HB 7024 – An Act Regulating the Offer and dissemination of Travel Insurance**.

We at AAA Northeast offer travel services, including travel insurance as a key member benefit; we believe that HB 7024 is a consumer-friendly bill that would better serve and protect the traveling public, including a million AAA members in Connecticut.

There are several reasons for our support:

First, HB 7024 will allow travel agents and travel insurance providers to serve Connecticut consumers **and** out-of-state consumers alike. Presently, non-Connecticut residents can't purchase travel insurance from a Connecticut agent or provider, unless the seller is licensed in the consumer's home state or if the consumer's home state has implemented similar legislation.

Second, the bill brings uniformity to Connecticut's producer licensing requirements for travel insurance. As you're well aware, travel insurance licensing laws are complicated and vary from state to state. It also would help resolve regulatory inconsistencies that are now problematic for travel insurance providers and agents in Connecticut when dealing with other states. Upon passage, Connecticut will join 42 other states and the District of Columbia where similar measures or statutes are in place. The remaining states are presently considering similar measures.

And finally, the language of HB 7024 would protect consumers by requiring new, clearer accountability of regulators. The bill sets requirements providing consumers with more information that will enable them to make better-informed decisions when it comes to the purchase of travel insurance.

We urge Connecticut to join with the majority of states that have now recognized the value of these reforms, and pass House Bill 7024.

Thank you for your consideration of this vitally important issue.

-AAA-

Regards,

Fran

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