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Broker Bill Clears Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

(Washington, DC) – The National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) applauds the House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health for its approval of the bipartisan proposal that protects healthcare consumers and the economy by preserving the role of health insurance agents and brokers. The full committee will consider the measure sometime this month. Janet Trautwein, CEO of NAHU, made the following statement today:

“The Access to Independent Health Insurance Advisors Act of 2012 (H.R. 1206) amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) by excluding from the medical loss ratio calculation commissions paid to health insurance agents and brokers. This ensures that health insurance agents and brokers will continue to be able to help consumers find appropriate health insurance coverage, as well as use that coverage most effectively once it is purchased.

“Recognizing the negative impact the MLR provision is having on agent and brokers, subcommittee members voted via voice vote to help these small business people preserve jobs. Millions of individuals and small businesses depend on licensed agents and brokers to help them navigate the healthcare marketplace and find health plans that suit their needs and budgets.

“The bipartisan measure already has 218 co-sponsors in the House and a companion bill in the Senate (S. 2288). NAHU looks forward to its continued work with policy makers on this important bipartisan effort.”

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents 100,000 professional health insurance agents and brokers who provide insurance for millions of Americans. NAHU is headquartered in Washington, DC. For more information about NAHU, please contact Kelly Loussedes at 202-595-3074 or kloussedes@nahu.org.

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