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NAIC Continues to Promote Role of Health Insurance Agents and Brokers

(Arlington, VA) – The National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) applauds the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) call for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create a taskforce to examine the definitions and methodologies for calculating medical loss ratios (MLR) and its effect on consumers' access to professional health insurance agents and brokers.

"We are pleased that the NAIC continues to recognize and underscore the essential role that health insurance agents and brokers serve in our health system," stated NAHU CEO Janet Trautwein. "To further their commitment to agents and brokers, the NAIC's Executive Committee unanimously agreed to establish a joint taskforce with HHS to further examine the critical role that health insurance agents and brokers play, and determine how that role can be preserved in our newly reformed health care system.

"NAHU believes that broad representation is vital to the success of the newly created taskforce. Health insurance rates for 2011 are already being established so the NAIC and HHS need to work quickly and effectively to ensure that health care consumers receive the best possible advice and service from health insurance agents and brokers in the midst of this massive health care overhaul.

"NAHU will continue our efforts to ensure that consumers have access to professional and fairly compensated agents and brokers from the point-of-sale through the life of their policy. We look forward to continuing our work with the NAIC, HHS and other regulatory bodies to put in place workable and sustainable policies to preserve access to affordable health insurance coverage."

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents more than 100,000 professional health insurance agents and brokers who provide insurance for millions of Americans. NAHU is headquartered in Arlington, VA. For more information, visit www.nahu.org.

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