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CONTACT:
Kathleen Gmeiner, 614-456-0060

Ohioan Among New NAIC Consumer Liaison Representatives *Consumer Health Advocate, Kathleen Gmeiner, named as Liaison*

Columbus, OH—Today, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) named 28 consumer liaison representatives for 2012. Fortunately, Ohio consumers, as well as consumers nationally, will have a voice through Kathleen Gmeiner, who was tapped as a new consumer liaison.

The 28 consumer representatives begin their terms Jan. 1, 2012. Twenty of the consumer representatives participated in the program in 2011, while eight, including Gmeiner, are new to the NAIC program. Established in 1992, the program promotes consumer interaction with NAIC members, the insurance industry and interested parties through the individuals' dedication and commitment to serving the public interest.

"It is truly an honor to have been selected to represent consumers at the NAIC, which makes significant decisions about insurance policy that impact Ohio and the nation," said Gmeiner. "Consumer voices will be needed more than ever as federal health care reform is implemented in 2012."

Gmeiner currently serves as Project Director of Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage, an initiative led by UHCAN Ohio. Prior to joining the staff at UHCAN Ohio, Gmeiner was a consultant for several health related organizations, worked for the Ohio Department of Health and for the Ohio Primary Care Association (now Ohio Association for Community Health Centers). Before returning to Ohio in 2000 she directed the Comprehensive Community Health Models of St. Clair County Michigan. She practiced law in Ohio and Michigan between 1976 and 1992. In addition to her Juris Doctor she has a Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan.

Joining Gmeiner, are the following 2012 NAIC consumer liaison representatives:

- **Elizabeth Abbott:** Project Director, Health Access
- **Amy Bach:** Executive Director, United Policyholders
- **Deeia Beck:** Public Counsel, Office of Public Insurance Counsel/Texas
- **Brendan M. Bridgeland:** Director, Center for Insurance Research
- **Bonnie Burns:** Training and Policy Specialist, California Health Advocate
- **Sabrina Corlette:** Research Professor, Georgetown University Health Policy Institute
- **Brenda J. Cude:** Professor, University of Georgia
- **Joseph P. Ditre:** Executive Director, Consumers for Affordable Health Care
- **Timothy Stoltzfus Jost:** Professor, Washington and Lee University School of Law
- **Karrol Kitt:** Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin

- **Peter Kochenburger:** Executive Director, Insurance Law Center, University of Connecticut School of Law
- **Sonja L. Larkin-Thorne:** Consumer Advocate, Avon, CT
- **Sarah Lueck:** Health Policy Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- **Jennifer Mishory:** Deputy Director, Young Invincibles*
- **Andrea J. Routh:** Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance*
- **Daniel Schwarcz:** Associate Professor of Law, University of Minnesota Law School
- **Barbara Yondorf:** President, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
- **Birny Birnbaum:** Executive Director, Center for Economic Justice*
- **Stephen Finan:** Senior Director of Policy, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- **Carrie Fitzgerald:** Senior Policy Advisor for Health, First Focus*
- **Howard Goldblatt:** Director of Government Affairs, Coalition Against Insurance Fraud
- **Marguerite Herman:** Consumer Advocate, Project Healthcare*
- **Adam Linker:** Health Policy Analyst, North Carolina Justice Center*
- **Stephanie Mohl:** Government Relations Manager, American Heart Association
- **Lynn Quincy:** Senior Policy Analyst, Consumers Union
- **Stuart Spielman:** Senior Policy Advisor and Counsel, Autism Speaks
- **Cindy Zeldin:** Executive Director, Georgians for a Healthy Future*

** New NAIC consumer representative in 2012*

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is the U.S. standard-setting and regulatory support organization created and governed by the chief insurance regulators from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. Lt. Governor and Insurance Commissioner Mary Taylor represents Ohio on the NAIC.

Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage is a nonpartisan coalition uniting the diverse consumer voice with the goal of achieving affordable, high quality health care for all. Our membership includes AFSCME Council 8 AFL-CIO, American Cancer Society East Central Division, Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, National Alliance for Mental Illness of Ohio, National Multiple Sclerosis Society Ohio Chapters, Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, The Ohio Association of Centers for Independent Living, Ohio Council of Churches, Progress Ohio, Service Employees International Union District 1199, Toledo Area Jobs with Justice Coalition, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1059, UHCAN Ohio, and We Are The Uninsured.

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