



1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004-1701
202/638-3690
Fax: 202/638-0936
<http://www.reinsurance.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2008

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Reinsurance Association of America
Barbara W. Carroll
202-783.8390
carroll@reinsurance.org

RAA TESTIFIES ON KANJORSKI'S INSURANCE INFORMATION ACT OF 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 10, 2008) – The Reinsurance Association of America (RAA) today testified before the House of Representatives Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises in support of H.R. 5840, “The Insurance Information Act of 2008.” The legislation, introduced by Paul Kanjorski, Chairman of the Subcommittee, will create an Office of Insurance Information (OII) to assist Congress and the Federal government to make better decisions regarding international and national insurance policy and to enforce international agreements uniformly across the U.S.

In her opening testimony, Tracey W. Laws, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the RAA told the Subcommittee, “The RAA supports the spirit and purpose of the legislation and applauds Chairman Kanjorski and the other cosponsors for their leadership on regulatory reform issues.” Ms. Laws commented that “The fragmented U.S. regulatory system is an anomaly in the global insurance regulatory world. An informed Federal voice with the authority to establish Federal policy on international issues is critical not only to U.S. reinsurers, who do business globally and spread risk around the world, but also to foreign reinsurers, who play an important role in assuming risk in the U.S. marketplace.”

Ms. Laws went on to say, “It is critical that the Treasury Department be authorized to ensure the international policy it creates, including those policies that are reflected in international agreements, are uniformly respected throughout the states by preempting any inconsistent State insurance measures.” “To do anything less,” Ms. Laws commented, “would perpetuate a patchwork system of regulations and undermine the ability of the U.S. to effectively participate in the international arena, including the ability to reach international agreements on insurance policy issues.”

In concluding her remarks, Ms. Laws strongly urged the Subcommittee to consider amending the legislation as written to ensure the OII is given the preemptive powers necessary to fully effectuate its authority and eliminate any possibility of misinterpretation by the States. “To do otherwise,” she suggested, “leaves a gap and would allow States to have laws, regulations and policies that conflict with Federal policy so long as the Federal policy is not embodied in an international agreement.”

The RAA will work with the Subcommittee as it considers this important legislation.

The RAA, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit trade association of domestic property and casualty reinsurers and reinsurance intermediaries. RAA underwriting members and their affiliates write more than two-thirds of the gross reinsurance coverage provided by U.S. professional reinsurance companies.

[End]