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## NAHU's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Capitol Conference Stand Up and Be Heard

(Washington, D.C.) – The National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) held its 25th Annual Capitol Conference on February 23-25 in Washington, D.C. The theme of the meeting was “Stand Up and Be Heard!” Over 850 health insurance professionals from across the country did just that by promoting resolutions for healthcare issues to congressional leaders.

Rebecca Connel attended this conference, both for the opportunity to learn more about healthcare reform and its impact on healthcare consumers, as well as to communicate the role of the agent and brokers to Congress. She visited with Congressman Tom Cole from Oklahoma. Connel has been a NAHU member for 9 years; this was her 3<sup>rd</sup> Capitol Conference. Rebecca Connel serves as the President of the Oklahoma Association of Health Underwriters, one of over 200 NAHU chapters across the country. She also works at an independent insurance agency in Broken Arrow that has been serving insurance consumers for 10 years.

Capitol Conference guest speakers included key congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle charged with implementing the healthcare reform law. Other presentations addressed the scope and structure of the state-based exchanges, individual mandate, essential health benefits, tax credits and penalties, Medicaid expansion, consumer protections and how businesses need to adapt to the new market reality.

“It is important that we continue to provide our members with the tools they need to stay informed about health reform and what has been implemented, while also giving them a voice to have an impact on regulations that have yet to be made,” said NAHU CEO Janet Trautwein. “We are educating agents and brokers so they know what to expect and how to best prepare and assist their clients.”

“It was an honor to get to speak to Congressman Cole and his staff about important issues that affect health insurance consumers. When asked what we could do as agents to help him and his staff, he replied, ‘Doing what you are doing now. Coming to our office and sharing with us what it is like out there on the front lines really helps us understand better the difficulties both the insurance consumer as well as the agent are having with this new healthcare law and what we need to do to improve it’, said Rebecca Connel”

*The National Association of Health Underwriters represents 100,000 professional health insurance agents and brokers who provide insurance for millions of Americans. For more information, please call **Rebecca Connel, 918-455-0554, [rconnel@flippoinsurance.com](mailto:rconnel@flippoinsurance.com)***

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