



SENATOR STEVE WILSON
Ohio's 7th Senate District

Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee
Senator Steve Wilson
September 19, 2017
Senate Bill 169

Good morning Chairman Hottinger, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Brown and members of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 169, which will regulate the offer and dissemination of travel insurance in Ohio.

Senate Bill 169 mirrors the uniform standards for travel insurance found in a model act adopted by the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) as well as consistent licensing standards adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Similar reforms are currently in place in 47 other states, and this legislation would bring Ohio up-to-speed and in line with the rest of the country.

Specifically, Senate Bill 169 will resolve problems of regulatory inconsistencies that face the travel insurance providers and travel agents by updating the licensing process to reflect today's current marketplace operations. Additionally, the bill will provide consumer protections by requiring new, clearer accountability and notice provisions with respect to who is responsible for the sale of travel insurance. Finally, by adopting the uniform standards that are already used across the nation, Senate Bill 169 will enable reciprocity among these states.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.