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Rep. Leon Stavrinakis Pre-files Bold Insurance Reform Legislation.

Earlier today, state Representative Leon Stavrinakis, announced he had pre-filed landmark legislation to reform the Department of Insurance. The legislation would fundamentally transform the agency by converting its leader to a statewide elected position. “The people of South Carolina deserve to have a Department of Insurance that cares more about helping them protect their homes and pocketbooks than it does about the profits of big insurance corporations. The only certain way of ending business as usual for insurance corporations is to make the Secretary of Insurance directly accountable to the voters of South Carolina.”

Representative Stavrinakis noted the continuing trend of higher rates, higher deductibles and more coverage exclusions in property insurance available to residents across South Carolina and particularly in coastal regions. “Like my constituents, I am tired of the rate increases, stories of unreasonably denied claims, outrageous deductibles and warnings of cancellations if legitimate claims are filed. Likewise, I have talked to local insurance agents who are having a hard time serving their customers because of insurance industry tactics being allowed by the department. The time for bold change is upon us.” Stavrinakis also pointed out that all of our neighboring, hurricane vulnerable states, including North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana, have heads of insurance who are elected statewide.

Though many of the best known insurance industry problems exist in the area of property insurance, Rep. Stavrinakis pointed out that auto, life and health insurance consumers would also greatly benefit from having the department directly accountable to them as voters.

Representative Leon Stavrinakis serves portions of the City of Charleston, West Ashley, James Island, Johns Island, and all of Kiawah and Seabrook Islands in the South Carolina House of Representatives.

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