House Insurance Committee January 14, 2015

3:30 p.m. - Room 152-S

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Two days ago, I was sworn in as the 25th Insurance Commissioner of Kansas.

I am looking forward to the job ahead of us.

I hope that you will find it very easy and pleasant to work both with me personally and with the department in general during my tenure.

The Kansas statutes that govern this department are in Chapter 40. It clearly identifies that the department's responsibilities are:

- 1) To educate consumers and advocate for them,
- 2) To regulate insurance companies, and,
- 3) To license insurance agents.

My job, and the department's job, is to perform the regulatory and administrative functions related to the insurance industry as prescribed by law.

We do not create law. You do. We regulate and administer law that has been passed by you and signed by the Governor.

Clark Shultz has kindly agreed to serve as our Government Affairs Director. The department will be responsive and helpful when you need information on the legislative issues before you and help with consumers and their insurance concerns.

Departmental changes will be forthcoming beginning with:

- Redesigning our website for easier use by the consumer and
- Creating a formalized disaster response plan in conjunction with Adj. General Lee Tafanelli.

Our goal will always be to be as business like and as professional as possible. This means being as responsive, as innovative, as productive and as efficient as we possibly can be with the consumer, industry and the legislature.

We will work actively to recruit more insurance and insurance related companies to locate and operate in Kansas.

We will look for ways to reduce the regulatory burden on companies, NOT for ways to increase it.

We will be an open book, transparent, and helpful with a balanced approach to regulation.

I would welcome your questions, your thoughts and your input!

Thank you!