

For Immediate Release  
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**Rep. Straus To Speak at  
National Conference of State Legislatures Regarding Financial Privacy**

State Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett) will be speaking to a forum on financial privacy of the National Conference of State Legislature national meeting in Boston later this week. The panel, entitled: Financial Privacy: You and Your Personal Information, will be held this Saturday at the NCSL Spring Forum in Boston, MA.

The session will discuss options and approaches by the states and federal government to protect financial privacy.

“I am honored that the NCSL asked me to participate in this important panel discussion. With the number of identity thefts rapidly increasing, I believe this timely discussion needs to address the issue of allowing consumers to control who accesses their private information,” stated Straus. “If a Massachusetts resident wants to give up their privacy to these companies, they can. The presumption in my proposal is that information on a financial transaction is to remain a private matter between the consumer and their bank, or insurance company” added Straus.

Rep. Straus filed legislation (H. 285) which utilizes an “opt in” approach to consumer consent to information sharing by financial institutions. “Opt in” requires financial institutions to first obtain the consumer’s affirmative consent before sharing consumer information. Rep. Straus has been an advocate for privacy issues during his service in the state legislature; earlier this year, his “No Call List” legislation to restrict telemarketers became law.

The National Conference of State Legislators provides a variety of services to help lawmakers tailor policies for their states. NCSL provides a forum for advancing ideas in

each state; for promoting information-sharing, one-on-one and collectively; and for providing people with knowledge and resources.