## Mike Villines Announces Plan to Improve California as Insurance Commissioner

Releases Policy Papers on Job Creation, Keeping Insurance Rates Low, Protecting Consumers & Natural Disaster Response

## Sacramento -

**9/29/2010** - Mike Villines, Republican candidate for Insurance Commissioner, today released an agenda for improving California through focus on four priorities: job creation and economic recovery, reducing health care costs, improving natural disaster response, and containing workers' compensation costs.

"I have traveled up and down the state explaining my priorities to every Californian I meet with," said Villines. "I



encourage all Californians to go to my website and see where I stand on the key issues in this race. If I am elected Insurance Commissioner, I will begin working day one to create jobs and make insurance more affordable."

Villines' agenda for creating jobs and improving California's economy concentrates on keeping insurance affordable and accessible for individuals and businesses by increasing competition and controlling costs. He advocates cutting barriers to competition, using alternatives to litigation and cutting costs through efficiency in Department operations. For more details on Vilines' jobs plan click <u>here</u>.

Villines' plan to improve health care includes measures to reduce costs and to provide more affordable health care choices. Villines believes the use of health savings accounts, plans tailored to individual's needs and the ability to shop for insurance across state lines will help Californians purchase insurance within the confines of their budget and ensure insurance companies provide a range of options to consumers. To view Villines' list of health care reforms click <u>here</u>.

Villines promotes improvements to California's natural disaster response through expansion of earthquake policy options and quick response capabilities. For specifics on these proposals click <u>here</u>.

Another core issue for Villines is controlling workers' compensations costs and keeping benefits affordable. Villines believes this can be done by keeping

keeping benefits affordable. Villines believes this can be done by keeping benefits objective and consistent across the state, working to fight fraud and profiteering, and utilizing best practices from other states. To view Villines' plan for workers' compensation insurance click <u>here</u>.

Villines said, "These four policy papers build upon my law, AB 1887, signed by the Governor earlier this year, that provides some of the strongest protections in the nation to consumers and patients with pre-existing medical conditions."

Details on California's new Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan created by AB 1887 are available at <u>http://www.mrmib.ca.gov/</u>.

"Insurance literally impacts nearly every man, woman, child, and business in our state. It is critical that we have an Insurance Commissioner who puts the interests of the consumers and our working families first. As California's next Insurance Commissioner, I will not rest until we make insurance more affordable and accessible to all Californians," Villines said.

To read any of the four policy papers visit <u>www.MikeVillines.com</u> and select "Issues."

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