

1 **COMMITTEE: COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCIAL SERVICES &**
2 **INTERSTATE COMMERCE**

3 **RESOLUTION: NCSL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE**
4 **PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORKS**

5 **TYPE: MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

6
7 WHEREAS, the operations of state governments and the roles of elected officials are
8 often little understood by citizens. Yet public understanding of the institutions and
9 processes of government is critical to building public trust and confidence. State
10 governments need to bring about a better understanding of the concepts of
11 representative democracy; and
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13 WHEREAS, a growing number of states have created or supported the creation of state
14 public affairs television networks whose charge it is to offer unfiltered, gavel-to-gavel
15 coverage of legislative sessions, committee proceedings and similar actions within the
16 executive and judicial branches. By providing an “open window” on the workings of
17 their state governments, these independent networks have increased citizen access,
18 public trust and understanding of both the governmental and the public policy process at
19 large; and
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21 WHEREAS, the National Association of Public Affairs Networks (NAPAN) has been
22 conceived to help establish and expand nationally such noncommercial, independent
23 television networks devoted to providing citizens with fair, balanced, and unfiltered
24 access to their state governments: to foster and nurture the institutions that will help
25 create the informed electorate that will shape our democracy in the years to come.
26 NAPAN is committed to the launch and viability of networks in all 50 states.

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28 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Conference of State Legislatures
29 supports and encourages the efforts of the National Association of Public Affairs

30 Networks in its vision for the formation and expansion of a state public affairs network in
31 each of the 50 states in the manner most appropriate for each individual state.