

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

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

5 **TYPE OF POLICY: MEMORIAL RESOLUTION - DRAFT**
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.

12 WHEREAS, a growing number of states have created or supported the creation of state
13 public affairs television networks whose charge it is to offer unfiltered, gavel-to-gavel
14 coverage of legislative sessions, committee proceedings and similar actions within the
15 executive and judicial branches. By providing an “open window” on the workings of
16 their state governments, these independent networks have increased citizen access,
17 public trust and understanding of both the governmental and the public policy process at
18 large.

19 WHEREAS, the National Association of Public Affairs Networks (NAPAN) has been
20 conceived to help establish and expand nationally such noncommercial, independent
21 television networks devoted to providing citizens with fair, balanced, and unfiltered
22 access to their state governments: to foster and nurture the institutions that will help
23 create the informed electorate that will shape our democracy in the years to come.

24 NAPAN is committed to the launch and viability of networks in all 50 states.

25 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Conference of State Legislatures
26 supports and encourages the efforts of the National Association of Public Affairs
27 Networks in its vision for the formation and expansion of a state public affairs network in
28 each of the 50 states in the manner most appropriate for each individual state.