



NEWS RELEASE

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ACLI ENDORSES U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE AGREEMENT

ACLI President & CEO Dirk Kempthorne issued the following statement today on the U.S.-Colombia Trade Agreement:

Washington, D.C. (April 6, 2011)— “The American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI) welcomes news that disagreements holding up the Colombia-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have been resolved and the pact will soon be sent to Congress for approval.

“Free trade helps spur economic activity, which produces jobs and growth in the U.S. Expansion of overseas markets like Columbia’s will help our nation overcome the lingering economic impact of the great recession.

“The Administration reports that Colombia’s economy is the third largest in Central and South America. This comprehensive agreement will eliminate tariffs and other barriers to U.S. exports, promote economic growth and expand trade between our two countries.

“This is good news. As providers of products and services that offer financial and retirement security, life insurers could play a valuable role in helping Colombian families, as well as families throughout the world, prepare for the future.

“We hope resolution of the Colombia FTA will break the logjam that has held up other pending agreements, especially the South Korea-U.S. trade pact.”

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The American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI) is a Washington, D.C.-based trade association with more than 300 legal reserve life insurer and fraternal benefit society member companies operating in the United States. ACLI members represent more than 90 percent of the assets and premiums of the life insurance and annuity industry. In addition to life insurance and annuities, ACLI member companies offer pensions, 401(k) and other retirement plans, long-term care and disability income insurance, and reinsurance. ACLI's public Web site can be accessed at www.acli.com.