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**Subject:** Prescription Drug Pricing; Starting STEM Early; Federal Budget Passes; Clean Power Plan

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**Issue: 34**

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### **Rising Prescription Drug Costs Point to Drug Pricing Reform**

On Sept. 21, news that Turing Pharmaceuticals raised the price of a 62-year-old drug by 4,000 percent overnight made headlines. The drug, Daraprim, is critical to the care of HIV and AIDS patients. The sharp rise in price from \$18 to \$750 per pill is part of the all-too-familiar trend of drug-price spiking in the U.S., a topic discussed by state legislators who gathered in Washington, D.C. Sept. 21-23 for the CSG Medicaid Leadership Policy Academy.  
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### **Keeping Students' Natural Curiosity Alive Starts Early**

For preschoolers, technology means using tools such as crayons, and science means peering through a magnifying glass. These simple experiences lay an important foundation, said Beth Fredericks, one author of a teaching guide intended to assist preschool educators in focusing the naturally inquisitive behaviors of children ages 3 to 5. And, she said, perhaps that foundation will lead to a career in a chemistry lab.  
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### **Outgoing U.S. House Speaker Ensures Lights Stay on in Congress**

Soon after U.S. House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio shook up Capitol Hill by announcing his retirement at the end of October, Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown by passing a budget bill that will keep the federal government operational until December. With the budget now passed, Boehner said there are several issues he hopes to revisit before his retirement begins this month.  
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### **CSG, Griffith Foundation Partner to Offer Free Webcast Series**

What do autonomous vehicles, an aging population and cybersecurity have in common? These are all policy topics in which a basic knowledge of risk management and insurance can help state leaders make better policy decisions. In collaboration with the Griffith Foundation, The Council of State Governments will address these topics and more throughout a four-part webinar series designed to provide public policymakers with a greater understanding of risk management insurance through the lens of emerging issues.  
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### **More Than 1 in 7 Americans Live in Poverty**

According to new data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the official poverty rate in 2014 was 14.8 percent, which means a total of 46.7 million people in the U.S. fell under the poverty line. The poverty threshold for a single person under the age of 65 with no children was \$12,316 in 2014. For a family of four, the poverty threshold was \$24,230.

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### **The Impact of HIV and AIDS in the United States**

This year's HIV outbreak in Scott County, Ind., refocused public attention on HIV and AIDS as an ongoing public health issue. Time magazine featured the Indiana story on its June 15, 2015, cover. About 1.2 million people in the U.S. currently live with HIV, and one in eight, or 12 percent, of those do not know that they have the virus. The primary group at risk for HIV remains gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.

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### **Risk Management Insurance Fundamentals**

Oct. 8, 15, 22 and 29 2 p.m. EDT  
Free CSG eCademy Series in Partnership  
with the Griffith Foundation

**REGISTER HERE**

**See Full Calendar**

### **Congress Hears Diverse State Perspectives on EPA's Clean Power Plan**

On Sept. 11, 2015, the U.S. House of Representatives held a hearing to examine the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan final rule. The Subcommittee on Environment reviewed recent carbon emissions regulations and potential state impacts with witnesses Craig Butler of Ohio, Dr. Bryan Shaw of Texas and Jason Eisdorfer of Oregon.

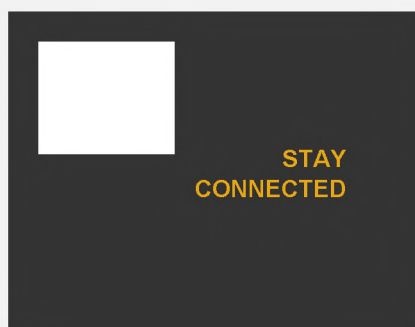
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### **CSG Co-Sponsors Voting Rights Symposium at the University of Kentucky**

CSG will co-sponsor a special symposium at the University of Kentucky Oct. 13 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. "The Foundation of a Democracy: Voting Rights, Past, Present & Future" will feature keynote speaker, Dorothy Gilliam, the first African-American reporter and later columnist at The Washington Post. Other speakers include David Becker of The Pew Charitable Trusts, Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro Cortés, North Carolina Judge Robert Hunter and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham.

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