

**From:** The Council of State Governments <data@csg.org>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Issue: 23**

**July 13, 2015**

#### **States Raising the Bar for Long-Term Care and Support Services**

Elderly and disabled individuals comprised 24 percent of Medicaid enrollees in 2010, but accounted for 64 percent of total Medicaid expenditures in the states. States are pushing the use of family caregivers--or individuals who provide care and direct assistance to an elderly, disabled or chronically ill family member or significant other--usually at no cost.

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#### **States Using Open Data to Make Elections Run More Smoothly**

Today, the global economy is increasingly operating in an open data world. The private sector has been actively engaged in the open data space by producing large amounts of data to increase their revenue. The election policy and administration universe is catching up.

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#### **How States Draw Congressional District Lines**

Nearly half of state governments in the U.S. use a process outside of the legislature to draw congressional district lines. A recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court held that the Constitution's Elections Clause permits voters to vest congressional redistricting authority entirely in an independent commission.

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#### **How States Can Help Veterans**

In the past five years, at least 10 states have created a commission or task force to aid returning veterans. Sometimes, the solution to the difficulties veterans face is not one of creating new benefits or services, but is more in creating easier access to programs that are already available.

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#### **Insurance Issues Abound on Heels of Ridesharing Popularity**

A speaker during a recent CSG eCademy webcast, "**Rideshare Companies: Insurance and Regulatory Issues for States**," said the rise of ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft have created a host of insurance questions that the insurance industry and state policymakers are trying to figure out. The webcast was part of a collaboration between CSG and The Griffith Insurance Education Foundation.

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#### **States Considering Gun Legislation for College Campuses**

Spurred in part by recent mass shootings on school grounds, state policymakers and university officials have revisited the issue of concealed carry gun permits on college campuses in an attempt to make those campuses safer.

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## **U.S. Department of Energy Releases Inaugural Quadrennial Energy Review**

The Quadrennial Energy Review, or QER, is the federal government's analysis of energy vulnerabilities. Released in April as part of President Obama's [Climate Action Plan](#), the first installment of the QER focuses on energy infrastructure, particularly transportation, storage and distribution—or TS&D—with additional installments coming every four years.

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## **Toll Fellow Alumni Go Global**

Eleven Henry Toll Fellow alumni recently participated in a CSG Global Affairs Academy in Washington, D.C. Geared toward legislators, the academy covered a variety of topics, including foreign policy issues, international protocol, cyber warfare and global health challenges. Academy attendees also participated in a special tour of the Pentagon that included a look at the Pentagon briefing room and the Pentagon's 9-11 Memorial.

## **CSG Midwest: Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC)-70th Annual Meetings**

July 12-15, 2015

Bismarck, N.D.

**REGISTER HERE**

## **CSG South: Southern Legislative Conference (SLC)-69th Annual Meeting**

July 18-22, 2015

Savannah, Ga.

**REGISTER HERE**

## **CSG West 68th Annual Meeting**

July 28-31, 2015

Vail, Colo.

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Toll Free: 1-800-800-1910

Email: [Membership@csg.org](mailto:Membership@csg.org)

**[www.csg.org](http://www.csg.org)**

The Council of State Governments

2760 Research Park Drive

Lexington, KY 40511

Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments is our nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. This offers unparalleled regional, national and international opportunities to network, develop leaders, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships.



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