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Subject: Disability Employment Strategies; Student Mental Health; Risk Management & Insurance; ACA and Medicaid; Overtime Rules; Zika Prevention

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States Help Remove Employment Barriers for People with Disabilities

In advance of a report designed to help state leaders make policies that improve the lives of people with disabilities, the National Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities held a series of CSG eCademy webcast sessions in November that highlighted the task force's research and the barriers people with disabilities face in employment.

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States Work to Combat Mental Illness in Public K-12 Education

Despite different beliefs about the goals of state-funded K-12 education, there is a general consensus that students cannot achieve those goals if their basic needs aren't met. A child who is hungry, sick or distressed does not have an equal opportunity to be successful in the classroom. Mental health is a component of student wellness that is gaining more public awareness as schools, districts and states try to overcome obstacles to student success.

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State Employee Mileage Reimbursement Rates, 2016

The Internal Revenue Service sets the federal mileage reimbursement rate based on an annual study of fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile each year. The federal reimbursement rate in 2016 is 54 cents per mile, down 3.5 cents per mile from the 2015 rate but up 9.5 cents over the rate 10 years before—44.5 cents per mile on Jan. 1, 2006. Thirty-five states have a reimbursement rate that is the same as the federal rate. For those 15 states whose rates differ from the federal rate, reimbursement rates range from 31 cents to 52 cents per mile.

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Experts Explain Risk Management and Insurance Through Emerging Issues

To the individual, insurance coverage may offer some peace of mind in case mayhem strikes but is often forgotten in the meantime. To David T. Russell, professor of insurance and finance at California State University Northridge, however, insurance is so much more. "This is an area that covers virtually every area of financial services and risk management for consumers and businesses," he said during a recent CSG eCademy webcast on insurance regulation and legislation. "And this is something state governments, since insurance is regulated at the state level, need to be aware of."

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Uncertain Future: Affordable Care Act and Medicaid in the States

Health policies and programs in the states face an uncertain future with the election of Donald J. Trump. During Trump's campaign he vowed to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Currently, 73 million Americans are enrolled in the Medicaid program, a federal-state partnership program for which the federal government pays 62 percent of total expenditures. A Medicaid block grant, one proposal under discussion, might provide the states more flexibility but also might transfer more financial responsibility, especially in the long term, to the states.

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Overtime Rules On Hold: States Granted Nationwide Injunction

A Texas federal district court issued a nationwide injunction preventing new overtime rules from going into effect. These rules would have made it more likely states and local governments would have had to pay more employees overtime pay. Twenty-one states and a number of business organizations sued the U.S. Department of Labor. The rules were to go into effect on Dec. 1.

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Interstate Groundwater Disputes and the U.S. Supreme Court

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2 p.m. EST

FREE CSG webinar presented by CSG West and CSG South/Southern Legislative Conference

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NIH and GlaxoSmithKline Pursue Vaccine for Zika Virus

An increasingly globalized society has created unparalleled opportunities for Americans. But as travelers embrace the ease of mobility and venture more frequently abroad, diseases have buckled up along with them on flights back home. The latest threat is the Zika virus, which is spread primarily through mosquito bites.

GlaxoSmithKline has teamed with the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institutes of Health to study a new vaccine technology called self-amplifying mRNA.

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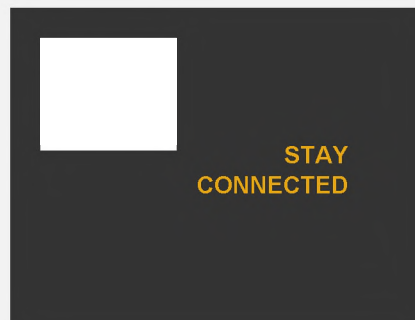
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