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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
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Subject: Medical Licensure Portability; Natural Gas; Budget Deal; Solar; State Trade Offices

Issue: 39

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Journey to License Portability Crosses an Important Threshold

A long sought-after pathway for medical doctors to treat patients across state lines moved one step closer to reality with the inaugural meeting of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission—or IMLC—held Oct. 27-28 in Chicago. As the 22 commissioners from 11 states convened the first meeting of the commission, they were both excited and realistic about the work that lay ahead.

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Shifting the Balance in Natural Gas

According to some experts, the United States may have more natural gas than ever anticipated. By itself, that's good news, but it comes at a time when new technologies for extraction mean that it can be recovered more cheaply, fueling a revolution for the industry.

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The President and Congress Come to Terms on America's Budget

In late October, outgoing Speaker of the House John Boehner of Ohio announced his intention to "clean the barn" as much as possible before his successor took the gavel. In keeping his promise, Boehner succeeded in brokering a bipartisan, two-year budget deal to avoid a government shutdown and prevent a government default on its debt.

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Experts Review State Options for Clean Power Plan Compliance

During a recent CSG eCademy webcast, "EPA's Clean Power Plan and Interstate Trading Options," experts discussed potential compliance options for states through the trading of emissions credits. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's final Clean Power Plan was released Aug. 3 and aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired power plants by 32 percent from the 2005 levels by 2030.

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State International Trade Offices

According to the State International Development Organizations', 2015 survey of state trade directors, 40 states operate a collective 199 trade offices overseas. States support international trade and investment by maintaining or contracting for overseas international trade offices that promote the state's trade interests and facilitate trade and investment with potential international

Solar in the States

The solar industry is growing rapidly in the United States. With more than 7,000 megawatts of capacity installed in 2014, the total installed capacity in the country climbed to over 20,000 MW, enough to power more than 4 million American households.

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Transportation Funding Wins Approval

Nov. 3 was a big Election Day for transportation in a number of places around the country. Statewide ballot measures, for example, won approval in Maine and Texas and local measures were approved in Seattle, two Colorado towns and a handful of Utah counties. But transportation policy wasn't just a focus at the ballot box. The U.S. House of Representatives worked their way toward passage of a long-term transportation bill.

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SSL Docket Now Available

The Suggested State Legislation Committee will hold its next meeting Dec. 10 and 12 as part of the upcoming 2015 CSG National Conference in Nashville, Tenn. The docket of legislation to be considered is now available on the CSG website.

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Federalism & the U.S. Judicial Branch
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m. EST
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
REGISTER HERE

State Strategies for Shaping Effective Teacher Preparation Programs
Thursday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m. EST
Presented by CSG South/Southern Legislative Conference
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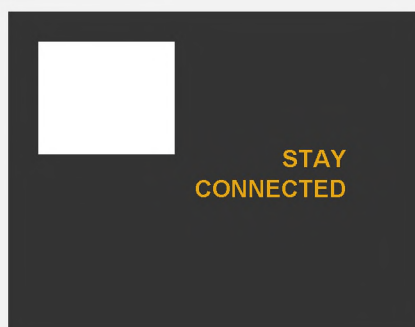
School Accountability Measures for States and Communities
Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. EST
Presented by CSG West
REGISTER HERE

SLC State Pensions: Latest Developments
Thursday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m. EST
Presented by CSG South/Southern Legislative Conference
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See Full Calendar

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