

From: [The Council of State Governments <data@csg.org>](mailto:data@csg.org)
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
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Subject: Top 5 Issues States Face in 2015: Federal Affairs

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Unfunded Mandates Continue to Top Concerns of State Legislators

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Federal regulations and unfunded mandates cost states, cities and the general public between \$44 billion and \$62 billion each year, according to the White House Office of Management and Budget. No wonder it is likely to be one of the top issues on state legislators' minds this year.

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"Unfunded mandates and regulations from the federal government will continue to be a key issue to monitor," said **Andy Karellas**, director of federal affairs at [The Council of State Governments' Washington, D.C., office](#). "In understanding the importance and potential economic impact, it is important to have strong intergovernmental relations and continuous conversations between federal regulatory agencies and state leaders."

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CSG released its annual listing of the top 5 issues legislators will face this session in **education**, **energy and the environment**, **federal affairs**, **fiscal and economic development**, **health**, **international affairs**, **interstate compacts**, **transportation** and **workforce development** policy.

Karellas outlines the top five issues for 2015 related to federalism:

- Unfunded mandates;
- Federal fiscal funds report;
- Avoiding pre-emption;
- International trade agreements; and
- Intergovernmental coordination.

To download the full list of Top 5 Issues in **federal affairs**, please visit the **CSG Knowledge Center**.

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