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Foreign Trade, Fiscal Uncertainty Among Top Federal Affairs Issues for States

Congress finished 2015 on an unusually productive streak--at least compared to recent years--by passing a variety of legislation important to state governments, including funding the Highway Trust Fund, reforming the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (now called the Every Student Succeeds Act), reauthorizing the highly debated Export-Import Bank, extending a variety of tax incentive provisions and funding the federal government through September 2016. In 2016, state leaders will be closely monitoring congressional and executive actions to ensure they do not preempt individual state laws or add any new unfunded expenses.

CSG recently released its annual listing of the top five 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.

CSG Director of Federal Affairs Andy Karellas outlines the top five issues related to federal affairs policy for 2016:

- Fiscal uncertainty,
- Federal regulations and intergovernmental coordination,
- Election year politics and presidential transitions,
- Minimizing unfunded mandates, and
- The international trade agenda and the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.

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