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Date: 4/17/2017 10:02:56 AM
Subject: Autonomous Vehicles, GASB, Tax Reform, Infrastructure, Budgeting, Employment, ESSA

Issue: 100

April 17, 2017

CSG Forums Highlight Autonomous Vehicle Policy Challenges, Opportunities

Many believe autonomous and connected vehicles, once fully deployed, could potentially save 19 out of every 20 lives lost each year in traffic crashes. But some experts are concerned that those safety benefits could be lost if overreach by state governments and the lack of a consistent national model result in a patchwork of laws around the country that stifles innovation.

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The Great GASB

One of the acronyms policymakers likely hear most often is "GASB," which stands for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. "People have said to me plenty of times, 'Who is GASB and why do we have to do what they say?'" said Jan Sylvis, vice chair to the GASB and retired chief of accounts for the state of Tennessee. "In a nutshell, GASB sets accounting and financial reporting standards for state and local governments."

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State and Local Governments Press Congress on Tax-Reform Priorities

On April 4, CSG, along with the other members of the Big 7, a coalition of state and local government organizations, sent a letter to House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady urging him to maintain two specific tax provisions of vital importance to state and local governments: the tax exemption for municipal bond interest and the deductibility of taxable income for certain state and local taxes.

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America's Infrastructure Graded as States, Federal Government Consider Investment

The March release of the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2017 Infrastructure Report Card comes at a critical time. With the Trump administration and Congress reportedly preparing to consider a plan for investing in the nation's infrastructure, states are considering gas tax increases and other measures to increase transportation funding at home during their 2017 legislative sessions.

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Following the Dollar

State governments spent more than \$1.9 trillion in fiscal year 2016. That spending is authorized by state budgets that are approved by legislatures and begin with a budget recommendation made by the governor. Through their constitution, laws and practices, each state has defined a budget process. This infographic describes some of the common practices in states' budget processes.

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Federal Funding for State Employment and Training Programs

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or WIOA, provides for comprehensive realignment of the nation's workforce development programs. For program year 2016 the federal government appropriated more than \$6.9 billion to states for the Core WIOA Program and approximately \$3.4 billion in federal formula funding for partner programs. This research brief reviews federal funding allocations to states for employment and training programs covered by WIOA.

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Department of Education Sends ESSA Update to State Education Leaders

On April 10, the U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to chief state school officers on matters concerning the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA. The letter specifically addresses the implementation timeline, school improvement requirements for the 2017-2018 school year, and stakeholder consultation requirements that apply to consolidated state plans.

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CSG Policy Academy Schedule Now Available

CSG Policy Academies provide state leaders customized training and a "deeper dig" on critical policy topics facing the states. The first two Policy Academies of the year are Autonomous and Connected Vehicles: What's Next for the Industry & State Policymakers and Medicaid 101. If you are interested in attending one of CSG's Policy Academies, please fill out an interest form on the CSG website. Space for each academy is limited.

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The Legal Landscape of Public Employee Pension Reform

Tuesday, April 18, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy webinar

REGISTER HERE

CSG 2017 Spring Business Meeting

April 20-23
Lexington, Kentucky

Workforce Development: How States are Innovating with WIOA

Tuesday, May 9, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy webinar

REGISTER HERE

Autonomous and Connected Vehicles: What's Next for the Industry & State Policymakers Policy Academy

June 12-14
Detroit, Michigan

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Medicaid 101 Policy Academy

June 28-30
Washington, D.C.

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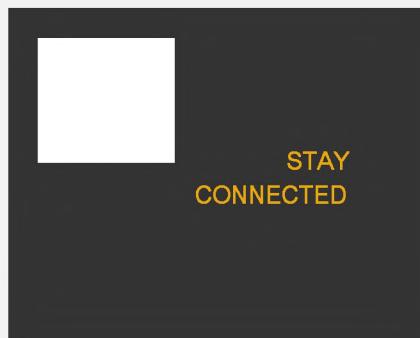
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