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Issue: 95

March 13, 2017

#### Five Questions with David Adkins, CSG Executive Director/CEO

CSG Executive Director/CEO David Adkins discusses CSG's strategies for supporting state leaders in 2017, how state officials can get involved with the organization, and some of the biggest challenges state leaders will face this year. "We believe the states have a prerogative to assert their interests," said Adkins. "We aren't a special interest in the federal government—we are a partner in governing. CSG is going to work with all state leaders to make sure their interests are represented in D.C."

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#### New Flexibility for States in Education Decisions

State education officials are being given greater control over everything from evaluating teacher performance to setting education standards, thanks to the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, which reduced the federal government's role in setting education policy, a move that education officials are hopeful will lead to strides in fixing widening achievement gaps and other issues that have plagued the nation's public schools. Implementing ESSA's requirements is a top issue on state education officials' agendas for 2017.

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## **ACA Repeal and Replace Restructures Medicaid Program**

After more than 60 attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the proposal released March 6 by House Republicans appears to be on a fast track for passage. The American Health Care Act would repeal the ACA taxes and the individual mandate, as well as provide advanceable, refundable tax credits to help low- and moderate-income people buy individual insurance. But, by far, of most interest to state policymakers is the restructuring of the Medicaid program.

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## **State Policies on Physical Activity in Schools**

This research brief, the first in a two-part series on physical activity in schools, provides a general overview of physical activity legislation in the states. Over the last 30 years, obesity has tripled among children and youth ages 6-19 years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But state leaders increasingly are focused on addressing obesity and promoting physical activity in schools through policies such as mandatory recess.

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## **My CSG**

CSG members and leaders share how CSG has shaped their careers as state officials, how they got involved with CSG, and lessons learned on their CSG journey. "The CSG is an extraordinary organization that I am proud to be associated with," said Oklahoma Commissioner and Cabinet Secretary of Public Safety Mike Thompson. "The most beneficial aspect of being a CSG Henry Toll Fellow is having the luxury of reaching out to an abundance of gifted CSG colleagues who have a wealth of experience and talent."

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## **States Spent \$45 Billion on Incentives in 2015. Was it Worth it?**

According to a new report from Timothy Bartik, senior economist at the Upjohn Institute, state and local governments more than tripled the incentives—mostly tax credits—they offered businesses in hopes of spurring economic growth between 1990 and 2015. Although spending on incentives has increasingly been a key component of state economic development strategies, state policymakers have largely been in the dark when it comes to the return on investment for those incentives.

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### **State Solutions to the Opioid Epidemic**

States are battling an unprecedented opioid epidemic. There is new agreement among the treatment community—backed by research—that medication-assisted treatment for addiction and harm reduction measures are effective. A free CSG eCademy at 2 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, March 21 will highlight innovative programs and policies focused on the prevention and treatment of substance abuse in the states. How these programs may be impacted under plans to repeal and reform the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid will also be discussed.

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### **CSG Bids Farewell to a True Statesman and Friend**

Sen. Douglas Henry Jr., the longest-serving member of the Tennessee General Assembly, died on Sunday, March 5 at the age of 90. While the passing of Henry is a profound loss to the state of Tennessee, it is also a deep loss to his friends and colleagues at The Council of State Governments. It was Henry's commitment to the states that prompted CSG to rename the "CSG Guardian of Federalism Award" to the "Senator Douglas Henry Guardian of Federalism Award" in 2008.

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### **State Solutions to the Opioid Epidemic**

Tuesday, March 21, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy webinar  
**REGISTER HERE**

### **Report Card for**

#### **America's Infrastructure 2017**

Tuesday, April 4, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy webinar  
**REGISTER HERE**

### **Attracting Investment into States**

Tuesday, April 11, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy webinar  
**REGISTER HERE**

### **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, Ky.

Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments is our nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. This offers unparalleled regional, national and international opportunities to network, develop leaders, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships.

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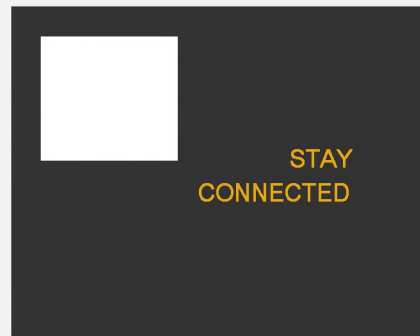
**Workforce Development: How States are  
Innovating with WIOA**

Tuesday, May 9, 2 p.m. EDT

FREE CSG eCademy webinar

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[See Full Calendar](#)



The Council of State Governments, 1776 Avenue of the States, Lexington, KY 40511

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