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**Subject:** Equal Pay; Public Health Priorities; State Medal Count; Electric Grid; Violent Crime Rates; Health Care Jobs

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**Issue: 73**

**Aug. 15, 2016**

#### **Closing the Gap: Massachusetts Pioneers Equal Pay Legislation**

Massachusetts took an innovative approach to closing the wage gap between men and women with first-of-its-kind legislation barring employers from asking job applicants about their salary history. Bill S.2119, or An Act to Establish Pay Equity, was signed into law by Gov. Charlie Baker on Aug. 1 and will go into effect July 1, 2018.

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#### **Opportunities to Save Lives, Many at a Time**

According to the National Academy of Sciences, the average life expectancy is lower in the United States than in other nations with advanced economies. In fact, for some groups—including poor, white Americans—as a result of suicide, drug addiction and chronic illness, life expectancy is now actually falling. It is no surprise that political leaders across the ideological spectrum increasingly are asking what can be done to protect and promote the health of their communities.

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## **State Medal Count: CSG Salutes Team USA!**

In the first week of competition at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the 554 athletes representing the United States are bringing home the gold, and lots of it. Here's a state-by-state look at the number of men and women of Team USA who are coming home with a medal. CSG salutes the men and women of Team USA!

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## **Building the Grid of the Future: Technology Can Help**

As the nation's electric grid ages and the ways in which consumers and utilities are interacting with the electric grid are changing, policymakers and regulators face the challenge of ensuring the continued efficiency, reliability, affordability and ease of operation upon which the grid was initially built. Tune in Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 2 p.m. EDT to learn how new technologies can help meet energy reliability and affordability objectives and the role regulators and policymakers can play in formulating policies to help ensure the grid continues to meet consumer demands now and in the future.

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## **Violent Crime Rate Hits 20-year Low in 2014**

Over the past 20 years, violent crime has decreased considerably—down 35 percent from 1995. The violent crime rate fell precipitously over this period, from 684.5 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants to 365.5 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants. In 2014, there were about 1.2 million violent crimes nationwide; in 1995 there were 1.8 million, despite the fact that the U.S. population grew by approximately 21 percent over this period.

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## **Health Care Drives Job Growth**

The U.S. spends more on health care than any other country and that has a big impact on jobs in the health care field. Employment in the health care field has grown significantly in recent years and will likely continue to grow at a strong pace in the next decade. In the six years after the recession, health care added 2.1 million jobs to the economy—more than the next three industries (leisure and hospitality, professional services, and education) combined.

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## Party Platforms Reveal Different Visions for Infrastructure

While not likely to be a major issue in the fall campaign, the future of the nation's infrastructure did receive some attention in the party platforms released last month in advance of the Republican and Democratic presidential nominating conventions. The platforms reveal very different philosophies that could guide the federal government's approach to infrastructure in the years to come and have a huge impact for states seeking to meet their future infrastructure needs.

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## 2016 CSG National Conference Mobile App Now Available

The 2016 CSG National Conference App provides session times, room assignments, maps and conference documents at your fingertips while keeping you informed in real time about conference events. With more than 40 different sessions on the agenda, downloading the app will ensure you don't miss any of the important events CSG has planned. Get the app and make your plans to join us Dec. 8-11 in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia--where America began!

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### Building the Grid of the Future: How Technology Can Help

Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast

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### Autonomous Vehicles & Insurance: Public Policy Considerations Ahead

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2016, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast presented in partnership with the Griffith Insurance Education Foundation

**REGISTER HERE**

### How Permanent Trust Funds Help States Save for the Long Term

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy presented by CSG West

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### Adopting Medicaid Policies to Encourage Long-Acting Reversible Contraception

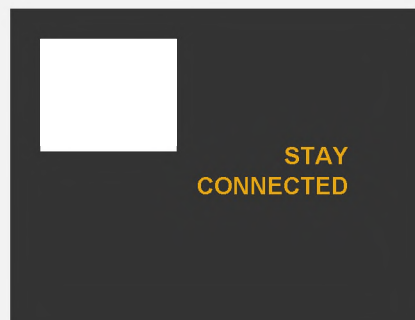
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast

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