A FAMILY TRADITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE

FERTILITY RATES AND THE FUTURE OF THE WORKFORCE

THE COST OF RAISING A CHILD

CREATING VACCINATION RULES THAT STICK
CSG celebrates the 150th Anniversary of Canada

CSG is proud to partner with five provinces in Canada to support collaboration and cooperation across borders.
ON THE COVER
Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin is the 62nd governor of the commonwealth of Kentucky. He believes too many of America’s children are slipping through the cracks, and foster care reform is imperative to creating a thriving state.

Photo Courtesy Chase Scott

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Balancing children and career can be a challenge for any working parent. But add campaigns, committees, commutes and constituents to the equation and finding work-life balance can seem almost impossible.
WHAT’S HAPPENING AT CSG?

1 CSG 2017 Toll Fellows Class Meets in Lexington, Kentucky

Members of the Henry Toll Fellowship class of 2017, representing 32 states, Puerto Rico and Guam, came together Aug. 25–30 in Lexington, Kentucky, for one of the nation’s premier leadership development programs for state government officials. Each year, Toll Fellows brings 48 of the nation’s top officials from all three branches of state government together for an intensive six-day, five-night “leadership boot camp” designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth, while providing priceless networking and relationship-building opportunities. Make plans to join us for the 2017 Toll Fellow graduation ceremony at the CSG National Conference in Las Vegas, Dec. 16. Applications for the 2018 Toll Fellowship class open Jan. 8. For more information, visit csg.org/leadershipdevelopment.

2 Seats Available at CSG Policy Academies

CSG is looking for attendees for the remaining policy academy sessions of the year. CSG Policy Academies provide state leaders with customized training and a “deeper dig” on critical policy topics facing the states. Space for each academy is limited. The Public Pensions and Retirement Security Policy Academy will take place Oct. 4–6 in Lexington, Kentucky, and the Cybersecurity and Privacy Policy Academy will take place Nov. 1–3 in San Francisco. For more information on these educational opportunities, please visit csg.org/policyacademies.

3 CSG SSL Committee Requests Legislative Submissions

The CSG Shared State Legislation, or SSL, Committee will hold its next meeting as part of the CSG 2017 National Conference in Las Vegas, Dec. 14–16. All CSG members are encouraged to submit legislation for the docket. To be eligible, the legislation must have been enacted in at least one state and address a current state issue of national or regional significance; provide a benefit to bill drafters; and provide clear, innovative and practical structure and approach. To submit a bill for consideration, please send relevant information to ssl@csg.org by Sept. 29. For more information on the SSL Committee, visit csg.org/ssl.

4 2017 The Book of the States now available

CSG’s 2017 volume of The Book of the States is now available in print and will be available in electronic format soon. Commonly known as “the encyclopedia of state governments,” the 2017 volume of The Book of the States includes more than 100,000 data points, 195 tables and 31 articles by 39 authors, and features information about state administration and management, Medicaid, elections and federalism. Since 1935, The Book of the States has provided relevant, accurate and timely information, answers and comparisons for states, commonwealths and territories of the United States. To order a copy of the 2017 The Book of the States, visit the CSG store at csgstore.org.

5 CSG Preps for the 2017 National Conference

Early registration and the hotel block for the CSG 2017 National Conference will close on Nov. 21. The conference will be held Dec. 14–16 in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center and will offer engaging policy sessions geared toward state officials in all three branches of government. The conference’s agenda features sessions on cybersecurity, occupational licensure, the future of health care, state-federal relations and more. For more information or to register, visit csg.org/2017nationalconference.
Sandra Deal
@GAFirstLady · Jun 20
I love visiting our Department of Early Care and Learning Transition Programs! Our 2nd stop today was at Sheltering Arms- Educare Atlanta!

PA Dept of Education
@PAdoptofEd · May 11
Research shows investing in early childhood provides up to 7 times a return on academics & social & emotional learning.

Candice McQueen
@McQueenCandice · Jun 20
What were kids doing @ReadtoBeReadyTN summer camp at Roan Creek Elem @FirstTNCORE today? Reading & connecting experiences to literature!

Office of the Lt Gov
@LtGovTX · Jun 3
I applaud @SenLarryTaylor for championing #schoolchoice on behalf of Texas' special needs students. #txlege

John Merrill
@JohnHMerrill · Apr 25
I was delighted to visit with and speak to the members of the Blount County Youth Leadership class this morning at the State House!

DC State Board of Ed
@DCSBOE · July 5
40 programs funded through school year 2017-2018 grants, which total $2 million, will serve children and youth, 45% of funding 📍 Ward 7/8

Juana Matias
@Juana_B_Matias · Apr 26
Great to have LHS students from the 9th grade academy visit the state house and advocate for youth Tobacco prevention programs!

KY Dept of Education
@KYDeptofEd · Jun 15
More than 2,000 KY sites will provide more than 2 million free nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks to about 30,000 kids 18 & younger.

Andrew Cuomo
@NYGovCuomo · Apr 18
With our plan for tuition-free college for middle class families, no child will be denied college because they can’t afford it.

Cyndi Stevenson
@RepStevenson · Jun 29
Girls and Boys State....great way to engage youth in the political process. Many strong leaders were part of these programs!
**Absentee Voting**
A new Delaware law means voters no longer have to get an absentee ballot request notarized. Delaware Public Media reported that the requirement for a notary verified a voter’s identity and affidavit explaining why the voter could not vote in person. State Election Commissioner Elaine Manlove said she is pushing for Delaware’s constitution to no longer require that voters need an approved excuse to vote absentee.

**Texting**
New York police are testing a new device, called a textalyzer, that could identify whether a driver was using a cellphone before a crash. The Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee studied the technology and legal concerns about privacy it may raise. The Associated Press reported that the textalyzer can be plugged into a driver’s cellphone after a crash and indicate whether certain applications were used.

**Smoking Age**
New Jersey has now joined two other states, California and Hawaii, in raising the legal minimum age to buy tobacco to 21. The law, signed by Gov. Chris Christie, was opposed by owners of convenience stores who said sales of other products would decrease. Time reports that health advocates, however, support it. New Jersey’s previous minimum age to purchase tobacco was 19.

**Vaccinations**
The number of children entering kindergarten in Maine without the required vaccines increased in the past year, reported the Portland Press Herald. In Maine, parents are able to opt out of vaccinating their children by objecting on philosophic or religious grounds and signing a form. In 2015, legislation passed the Maine House and Senate that made opting out more difficult by requiring a signature from a medical professional, but the bill was vetoed.

**Overdose Prevention**
A bill is moving through the Maine statehouse that would allow the state to certify two facilities that provide a safe location for Maine residents to administer drugs. According to WMTW Portland ME, the locations are meant to prevent overdoses after an increase in deaths from fentanyl. Each location will have trained health care personnel and staff on site to provide any medical aid, as well as information about the dangers of drug use and referrals to treatment services.

**Massachusetts’ Pregnant Worker Protection Bill Signed**
Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker recently signed a bill into law that requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant workers, according to WBUR News. The new law makes it illegal to fire a worker or turn down an applicant because of her pregnancy. Examples of accommodations include providing a stool to sit on or temporarily transferring an employee to another position in the business. 

WBUR reported that the measure would also require employers to provide time and space for mothers to pump breast milk. Baker said the requirements were “long overdue.”

During the signing ceremony, Alejandra Duarte said she hoped the new law would prevent other women from suffering like she did. Duarte testified before a legislative committee that she lost her baby at 19 weeks due to working 10-hour shifts as an industrial laundry worker. WBUR reported that Duarte requested a less strenuous position during her pregnancy but instead was given longer shifts and more jobs, including pushing 600-pound laundry carts.

Massachusetts state Sen. Joan Lovely co-sponsored the bill and House Speaker Robert DeLeo made the bill a priority for this session.

About 18 other states have similar protections for pregnant workers, according to supporters of the bill.
TRADE EXPANDING AT ALABAMA’S PORT BIRMINGHAM

Plans are underway to expand world trade at Port Birmingham, AL.com reported. Located about 22 miles from downtown Birmingham, the port represents one of the few areas with barge access, connectivity to multiple Class 1 railroads, and convenient proximity to the American highway system, according to supporters of the port’s expansion.

The Birmingham-Jefferson County Port Authority was recently formed, upon approval by the Alabama State Port Authority, to create jobs, increase tax bases, double exports, manage waterway usage, and reduce pollution and congestion in the Birmingham metro area to assist in Port Birmingham’s growth. As part of the effort, city and county officials recently contributed $675,000 to help the port become more attractive to industries that can use it to import and export their products.

Currently, Port Birmingham handles steel coils, steel plates, coal, chemicals and building materials for a global customer base. However, traffic at the port has been significantly reduced during the past two decades, from operating at full capacity in the 1990s, when 12 million to 14 million tons of commodities passed through the port annually, to only 5 percent capacity today.

With an improving economy, efforts are underway to rebrand Port Birmingham as an international commercial hub and diversify the types of products that pass through it. The recent expansion of the Panama Canal and bigger container facilities at nearby Port of Mobile will be a boon for Port Birmingham, as they are expected to facilitate an influx of shipping into Alabama. Birmingham officials are hopeful their city’s port can capitalize on these expansions in the years ahead.

BROADBAND EXPANSION
Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced the completion of the Arkansas Public School Computer Network, a high-speed broadband upgrade for every public school in the state, Arkansas News reported. Public schools, charter schools, education-service cooperatives and telecommunications providers now will have secure, high-speed broadband access. With Hutchinson’s announcement, Arkansas becomes one of only six states in the country to have high-speed broadband infrastructure in 100 percent of school districts.

FISCAL STRENGTH
A study released by George Mason University’s Mercatus Center ranked Florida as the state with the strongest fiscal condition, according to The Business Journals. Every state in the nation was evaluated on the levels of cash it maintained on-hand as well as its budget solvency, long-run solvency, service-level solvency and trust-fund solvency. Florida received superior marks in the study because of the high levels of cash it has in reserve: between eight and 10 times the amount needed to cover short-term obligations. The state’s liabilities, pension obligations and total debt also are relatively low.

DOUBLE DOLLARS
Kentucky’s popular Double Dollars program, which allows low-income families to double their buying power at farmers’ markets and retail stores, will receive a boost through a combination of $1.4 million in federal, state and private funding. According to the Lexington Herald-Leader, the program will be expanded to 22 counties around the state. Those who use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Women, Infants and Children benefits can double the value of their dollars if they purchase Kentucky-grown produce at a qualifying location.

OVERDOSE ANTIDOTE
Gov. Phil Bryant announced that every officer of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety would begin carrying naloxone, an opioid overdose antidote, according to The Clarion-Ledger. Expanded use of the antidote was one of many recommendations from the governor’s heroin and opioid task force, which was responsible for identifying effective measures to stem the continuing rise of overdose deaths in Mississippi. Officers will be required to undergo training before they are allowed to carry and administer the drug.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTY
The economic impact of agriculture and forestry in Virginia was $91 billion in 2016, up 30 percent since 2013, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported. According to the study from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, agriculture accounted for about $70 billion, while forestry contributed $21 billion. Much of the growth has come from international exports of farm and forest products, poultry and beef product markets, and the proliferation of specialty industries, such as shellfish aquaculture and craft beverages.
JOBS
In August, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced the Next Level Jobs initiative, which will pay tuition for workers to get training in high-demand fields, according to the Indianapolis Star. About $24 million will be set aside over two years to increase the number of welders, machinists and information technology specialists in the state. Some of the money will go toward covering tuition at Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University, and some of it will go toward reimbursing companies that train new hires to do high-demand jobs.

DISTRACTED DRIVING
A new North Dakota law means a driver will receive a $100 penalty if he or she violates a traffic law while also doing something considered distracting, according to The Bismarck Tribune. This includes any activity not necessary to the operation of the vehicle that could “reasonably impair” the person’s ability to drive. Supporters of the law are hopeful that it will help decrease the number of crashes.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES
According to a study by the Iowa Department of Transportation, by 2040, at least one-fifth of traffic on Interstate 80 in the state will be automated, the Quad-City Times reported. The department urged planners to take this into consideration. Higher levels of automation could mean more capacity and fewer accidents. However, although automated vehicle technologies are advancing, experts said driverless cars are still well into the future.

OPIOID CRISIS
Following a call from Ohio Gov. John Kasich for innovations to help solve the opioid crisis, the state received ideas—such as remote-controlled medication dispensers, monitoring devices for addictions and pain-relieving massage gloves—from hospitals; universities; and medical device, software and pharmaceutical developers, according to The Herald-Dispatch. The groups plan to apply for research-and-development grants and participate in the Ohio Opioid Technology Challenge, which will award a prize for solutions to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with opioid use and addiction.

VANPOOLING
The Nebraska Department of Transportation has partnered with Enterprise Rideshare to bring vanpooling to the state. According to the Omaha World-Herald, a three-year contract will allow Nebraskans to carpool in vans large enough for six to 15 people. If commuters use the vanpool service instead of driving on a 100-mile round trip to work, they could save up to $10,000 a year, according to a transportation department estimate.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATOR TRIES TO CHANGE EAVESDROPPING LAW TO HELP PARENTS
A Michigan lawmaker introduced a bill in August that would exempt parents from being charged with eavesdropping after listening in on their child’s landline phone conversation, according to the Detroit Free Press.

In Michigan, it is illegal for a third party to listen to or record a conversation, and a parent listening to their child’s phone conversation could get up to two years in prison and a $2,000 fine.

Michigan state Rep. Peter Lucido hopes to exempt parents from the law so they can better protect their children.

“How are we supposed to protect our children? If they can prevent harm from coming to the child, they should have the right,” Lucido said, according to the Detroit Free Press. “If a father or mother, or legal guardian doesn’t have the right to protect their own child, how low have we stooped to in this state?”

The issue got Lucido’s attention when a father in Macomb County was charged with eavesdropping after he picked up a phone in a different room to listen in on a conversation because he was concerned about his teenage son. The man was charged after the mother of the teenager, who was on the other end of the line, complained.

For more on CSG Midwest, visit: capitolideas.csg.org and www.csgmidwest.org.
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**SOLAR ECLIPSE**

Early estimates following the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21 show that Wyoming’s population may have almost tripled for the day, according to the Casper Star Tribune. The Wyoming Department of Transportation reported that 536,000 additional cars were on the road over the five-year average for that day, about 68 percent more than usual. A public information officer said two people to every car would mean roughly a million people. Wyoming’s population is about 585,000.

**HOMELESSNESS**

The population of homeless people in Oregon has increased about 6 percent since 2015, according to data released in August. The Oregonian reported that a federally mandated survey conducted every two years found 13,953 people were homeless in the state. The Oregon Housing and Community Services Department compiled the information meant to indicate trends federal and local officials can use to determine where to spend money and deliver resources.

**SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Student identification badges in several Arizona high schools and charter schools now display the number to Teen Lifeline crisis services. A message on the back of the card says, “Feel like giving up? Please don’t,” with the phone number (602) 248-8336, according to allthemoms.com. Teen Lifeline has operated in Maricopa County, Arizona, for 31 years.

**BIKE LANES**

California Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed a bill that will help cities to install bike lanes. According to the Los Angeles Times, restrictions under the California Environmental Quality Act, which requires projects to take car congestion into account, have stymied bike lanes for more than a decade. The law Brown signed will allow cities to sidestep some provisions of the law.

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**MONTANA PLANS TO CREATE TEXT MESSAGING RULES**

Montana state government officials have decided to create rules about preserving text messages following a public records request from a local news organization, the Associated Press reported in August.

Lee Newspapers of Montana requested text messages between state lawmakers and the state’s budget director who later said he had not kept any of the messages. It was the first time the administration had received such a request, according to Montana Gov. Steve Bullock’s spokeswoman Ronja Abel.

“We’re working to develop a framework that celebrates Montana’s dual constitutional rights to transparent government and individual privacy,” Abel said.

Abel said several state agencies were updating records retention policies because of “significant technological changes in how people communicate.”

According to AP, most states require preservation of electronic communications, but text messages are often not specifically addressed.
It is time to think beyond the K–12 pipeline. So much of the conversation about higher education today focuses on how educators can ensure more students arrive at college ready to succeed in school and in life. While future academic and professional performance depends greatly on the policies that shape our formative years, this is only one piece of a complex puzzle. This perspective overlooks an essential factor—that over the next decade, the majority of students pursuing a postsecondary credential will be older learners who exited that pipeline long ago. Ensuring that every student leaves high school ready for college, career and life might be helpful in the long term, but we need to look in other places to fill the current needs of a knowledge economy that requires a skilled workforce.

Our country’s economic future depends on increasing the number of Americans with a high-quality postsecondary credential. Fewer than half of Americans ages 25 to 64 have completed a credential beyond high school. At the same time, states have hundreds of thousands of residents who have had little to no postsecondary success. This translates to tens of millions of Americans who have valuable skills or college credit but no formal credential. Across the country, policymakers and state officials are realizing that their workforce does not have the skills or the credentials necessary to meet the economic needs of the future.

Filling gaps in our country’s talent pool requires a significant shift in our understanding of the type of learner who needs to complete a credential. That student is not necessarily 18 years old and away from home for the first time. That learner might be 40, and returning to the classroom while juggling responsibilities at work and at home.

For many of these learners, earning their “piece of paper” can make a significant difference in their professional or personal life—it may, in fact, be the achievement of a lifelong dream—but the prospect of returning to school after a long absence can present serious challenges.

We need to reorient our postsecondary system so that the student—not colleges, universities or other providers—is at the center of policy and practice. And we need a system with multiple on-ramps and degree program formats designed for students entering the system at different points in their lives.

Institutions of higher education have long used classroom seat time and grades as proxies for true achievement of subject mastery. It is important that we shift to a competency-based model—one that is focused on assessing what students know and can do and can allow students to accelerate their learning based on knowledge and skills they have gained on the job or in other learning settings.

The challenge comes in creating new pathways for adult learners. State policymakers must respond by expanding opportunities for access to meet the needs of our nation’s workforce. States such as Indiana, Oklahoma and Tennessee have taken the lead, by recognizing the demographic challenges they face. Leaders in these states recognize that prosperity depends on their ability to do two things at once: Prepare K–12 learners for life, college and career, while nurturing the talent found among older, working adult students.

Institutions have a key role to play, too, by creating an adult-friendly environment that is tailored to the needs of these learners, and state policymakers can incentivize these types of programs through legislation and funding opportunities. Many institutions are providing wraparound services, such as child care and other nonacademic supports, that can be critical for the success of adult learners.

While a college degree is often seen as a ticket to the middle class in America, the good jobs of the future will require talent backed by credentials that embody the knowledge and skills of an individual. The time has come for state policymakers to create a higher education system that works better for everyone—beginning with a focus on today’s students in all their variety.
Measuring the success of a national economy is easy: you simply look at indicators of economic success such as income and wages, unemployment rates, interest rates, inflation and gross domestic product. As the numbers rise and fall, the picture of a nation’s economic success emerges.

But how do we measure the success of our policy efforts to support children and families—who are the backbone upon which our nation and economy are built? And what are states doing to recognize and address the challenges?

For example, among developed nations, the United States is conspicuous in its lack of a national paid parental leave law. Washington and four other states have stepped up and provided coverage to parents and families, resulting in fewer seeking state assistance and more employees returning to work rather than quitting to raise children.

Likewise, state supported high-quality child care for disadvantaged children pays tremendous dividends not only for individuals later in life, but for state economies. Estimates show that for every dollar spent on this type of child care, it provides a return of between $7 and $10 per child per year through better health, socioeconomic outcomes and education with states such as Wisconsin and Massachusetts leading the way.

This issue of Capitol Ideas walks us through these issues and several others that states are addressing in order to benefit children and families, including the expansion of charter schools in the states, how states are seeking to improve foster care practice, why college tuition is on the rise, how birth rates compare around the U.S. and globally, how much it costs to raise a child in the U.S. (hint: it’s more than a quarter million dollars), and how evidence-based policymaking is changing the face of how state leaders tackle these issues.
Fertility Rates and the Future of the Workforce

by Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene
During the years when the baby-boom generation was being introduced to the population of the United States, the fertility rate equaled about three births for each woman of childbearing age. But since the mid-1960s, when the baby boom ceased, fertility rates have been dropping. By the early 1970s, the fertility rate fell below two births per woman, and it has been declining steadily for at least the last 10 years. Since then, the U.S. fertility rate has been below replacement level—the level that is needed for couples to replace themselves in the population—according to the Population Reference Bureau.

The numbers vary, of course, from state to state, with New England states, and notably Massachusetts, falling at the bottom of the list. The average number of children born to women in Massachusetts is only 1.55, according to the National Vital Statistics Report.

“Rates for teens, 20-somethings, and even 30-34 year olds continue to decline,” said Susan Strate, senior population estimates program manager at the UMass Donahue Institute. “This is likely due in part to the now broadly recognized economic challenges that younger people face today compared to generations earlier.”

It follows that the later in life women begin to have children, the fewer children they’re likely to bear.

Even some states with historically high fertility rates have seen those numbers drop. In 2007, California’s fertility rate was 2.2. The most recent available data, for 2015, put it at 1.7. That’s a very dramatic decline. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, over the same time period, the western U.S. had some of the steepest declines in fertility rates in the nation with Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah leading the list.

This data is cause for concern to many, particularly as it influences the economy of the future. “The working-age population growth rate is far below the total population growth rate,” said Diane Lim, principal economist at The Conference Board, a nonprofit research group that has done extensive work on this topic. This skews the ratio of workers to non-workers. The working population will not be able to “keep up with the demands of our society and economy,” said Lim.

Almost inevitably, the working-age population will have to contribute more to the economy—largely through automation—or both business and the government will have to go deeper into debt, according to Lim and others at The Conference Board.

“Though the fertility decline is underlying this, there are other important factors in the equation,” said Minnesota demographer Susan Brower. “For one thing, as the average age of workers in the United States goes up, the number of retirees is going to increase as well.”

As a result, “even if we had fertility rates above two, there wouldn’t be enough workers to account for those retirements going up in the future,” said Matt Hauer, an applied demographer for the state of Georgia.

Though projections of the number of retirees have generally been somewhat inaccurate over past years, there’s no question that those numbers will increase. In 2010, for example, the baby-boom generation was 46 to 64 years old. But, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, by 2030, all of the baby boomers will have moved into the ranks of the older population. This will result in a shift in the age structure. Census estimates indicate that 13 percent of the population was age 65 and older in 2010 and that number will climb to 19 percent in 2030.

“The pressure will continue to grow,” said Brower. “You don’t have large numbers of 70 or 80 year olds still working.”

Not only do the costs of the non-working population continue to weigh on states and cities, the costs of the declining number of younger people don’t necessarily go down.

“We’re going to lose 10 or 15 percent of our school enrollment in the next 10 or 15 years,” said New York’s demographer Warren Brown. “But you don’t save money on those declines, because you continue to have to support the physical infrastructure.”

It’s much like an airplane. Even if the craft goes aloft half full, the costs of staff, fuel and infrastructure don’t change much.

Of course, states can’t very well put up road signs that say, “Have a baby today.” One of the best hopes for the states is in-migration from other states and abroad. Between July 2015 and July 2016, 31 states and the District of Columbia added population via migration, according to an article in Governing magazine that indicated that Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Washington and especially Florida all had population inoculations of more than 60,000 in 2014-2015.

“I don’t think fertility rates are going to turn around soon in a way that will increase the working population,” said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution. “Immigration is the thing that states can hope will turn around for them. That’s why a state like Florida doesn’t have to worry as much about fertility. On the other hand, a lot of the Great Plains states, which don’t have as much in-migration, have to worry more about fertility rates.”

Given the decline in fertility rates coupled with the growing number of retirees, it may well turn out that the most important import this country can receive from abroad is people.

About Barrett and Greene

CSG Senior Fellows Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene are experts on state government who work with Governing magazine, the Volcker Alliance, the National Academy of Public Administration and others. As CSG senior fellows, Barrett and Greene serve as advisers on state government policy and programming and assist in identifying emerging trends affecting states.
Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in July signed into law one of the nation’s most comprehensive paid family leave programs, offering workers paid time off for the birth or adoption of a child or for the serious medical condition of the employee or his or her family member. The legislation, which will take effect in 2020, offers eligible workers 12 weeks of either parental or medical leave, or 16 weeks for a combination of both. Only four other states guarantee paid family leave: California, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island, with New York’s program beginning in 2018. The District of Columbia also approved a paid family leave program this year to take effect in 2020.

Washington state Sen. Joe Fain, who sponsored the legislation, was able to stay home for an extended period after his son was born last year because the Legislature wasn’t in session, and his wife’s employer gave her a generous leave. He said he wanted other families in his state to have the same opportunity.

“When I thought about all the things I did to give my son his best start in life, I realized most families don’t have that ability to focus solely on their new baby,” he said. “In many cases, dads are heading back to work the next day. We know from studies, anecdotal evidence and our own experience that it is critical to the family unit to have that time to adjust and bond.”

Doctors usually clear patients to return to work four to eight weeks after the birth of a baby, depending on the type of delivery and any complications that occurred. Mothers who are not offered paid leave through their employer often return to work sooner, particularly if they cannot afford to forgo their income, or cobble together a paid maternity leave using sick, personal and disability leave.

Washington’s legislation calls for both employers and employees to pay into the system, 0.4 percent of wages, with 63 percent paid by employees and 37 percent paid by employers, and weekly benefits are calculated based on a percentage of the employee’s wages and the state’s weekly average wage. An employee who makes $50,000 a year, for example, would pay $2.42 a week and their employer would pay $1.42 a week, for a weekly wage benefit of about $704.

Critics of paid family leave laws worry about how they will affect employers and how paid leave will be funded, particularly when a company must continue to pay part of an employee’s salary while also paying a temporary replacement. There are also concerns that guaranteed leave laws may force employers to cut back on other benefits or compensation; make employers hesitant to hire women in child-bearing years, particularly if the laws only apply to mothers; and make certain states less attractive to businesses looking to relocate.
Paid maternity leave available to mothers in 2016

The United States is the only high-income, developed country in the world that doesn’t guarantee paid leave for workers after the birth of a child.

Of the 193 countries in the United Nations, New Guinea, Suriname, a few South Pacific island nations and the United States are the only countries that do not have a national paid parental leave law.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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</table>

Paid maternity leave | Average payment rate
But given the relatively short leaves found in family leave laws in the states, most of these fears haven’t come to fruition, said Christopher Ruhm, professor of economics and public policy at the University of Virginia.

“The general results we are finding is that if we talk about paid parental leaves in the durations we might think about in the U.S.—or even twice as long as we think about in the U.S.—the effects seem to be pretty uniformly positive,” he said. “The labor market situation for women seems to improve, it seems to lead to higher employment rates and possibly higher wages. There is a lot of concern by employers and employer groups that these policies will be difficult or costly to implement. The evidence we have so far in the states is that once these policies are put in place it’s just not that big of a deal.”

Ruhm said the potential benefits to the larger economy are also often overblown.

“People make claims about benefits to the economy, but my belief is that these policies are really just not that big,” he said. “If we are talking about things like effect on gross domestic product, it is just negligible. I think it is a misnomer when people say it is going to increase economic growth.”

Ruhm said that despite the recent wave of high-profile companies—such as 3M, American Express and Coca Cola—implementing paid parental leave policies, he thinks legislation will be necessary if all workers are to have access to leave.

“It is true that we are seeing increases in voluntary provisions of paid leave, but for the most part we are seeing that for advantaged employ-
14 percent of U.S. civilian workers have access to paid family leave through their employer.

14 states have laws that provide protections for employees beyond those provided by FMLA.

If we believe it is important for parents to be there (right after) kids are born or for a loved one to be there during cancer treatment, we need to see if government has to have a role in that.”

— Washington state Sen. Joe Fain

Most employers said California’s program had no noticeable effect or a positive effect on productivity (89 percent), profitability (91 percent), turnover (96 percent) and morale (99 percent), according to a report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Eighty-seven percent said it has not increased costs and 9 percent said they saved money because of decreased turnover or benefit payments.

A Rutgers University study commissioned by the National Partnership for Women and Families found in New Jersey, in the year after giving birth, women who take paid leave were about 40 percent less likely to receive public aid or food stamps.

“While we have known for a long time about the maternal and infant health benefits of leave policies, we can now link paid family leave to greater labor force attachment and increased wages for women, as well as to reduced spending by businesses in the form of employee replacement costs, and by governments in the form of public assistance,” said study co-author Linda Houser.

In the U.S., there is also a philosophical debate about whether it is the government’s role to mandate paid leave.

“I’m a Republican and I am naturally hesitant to turn to the government to solve problems,” Fain said. “But at some point you have to look at the numbers and stats and see who is falling behind. ... If we believe it is important for parents to be there (right after) kids are born or for a loved one to be there during cancer treatment, we need to see if government has to have a role in that.”
In West Virginia, a state with one of the toughest vaccination laws in the country, the topic has been brought up every year for more than a decade, said West Virginia state Sen. Ron Stollings, a physician and former co-chair of The Council of State Governments’ Health Public Policy Committee.

“Every year, there’s been a strong effort to make more lax the vaccination laws in West Virginia,” he said.

During the debate, legislators gather evidence from deans of university schools of medicine on vaccines and immunization rates, obtain information from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and hear from individuals against vaccinations who argue for flexibility. The law in West Virginia has remained strict, Stollings said, but a position created in recent years under the state Bureau for Public Health reviews appeals from parents seeking exemptions.

The way vaccination laws are implemented—no matter how tough or lax—is important, said Daniel Salmon, a professor in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and deputy director of the Institute for Vaccine Safety.

All the states have laws that require vaccinations for school entry. In addition, all states allow medical exemptions. However, the steps required to receive a medical exemption vary from state to state. Furthermore, all states except three—California, Mississippi and West Virginia—allow nonmedical exemptions, including religious exemptions and, in some cases, philosophical or personal belief exemptions.

“What these laws look like on the state level and what they’re called, but more importantly how they’re implemented and enforced, really makes a big difference,” Salmon said.
Implementation strategies could include requiring educational counseling where the person seeking the exemption sits down with a doctor and talks about the risks and benefits of vaccines. States could require annual exemption renewals, taking new evidence or changes in personal belief into consideration.

“State government has a valuable role to play in supporting and maintaining high immunization coverage,” said Melinda Wharton, director of the Immunization Services Division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC.

Wharton said national immunization coverage is high. The CDC plans to publish updated coverage estimates on their website in the fall for adolescents and young children. There is variation, however, in state coverage and in local coverage.

In a report published in October 2016 about vaccination coverage among children in kindergarten, the median vaccination coverage for the 2015–2016 school year was 94.6 percent for two doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccines, or MMR. MMR coverage increased in 32 states, and 22 states reported coverage greater than or equal to 95 percent, according to the report.

“In general, coverage for the vaccines that we recommend for young children … is quite high in the United States and consistently has been for many years,” Wharton said. “We are fortunate in the United States in that the providers who take care of young children really value immunization; they work very hard to make it happen.”

For example, obtaining a religious exemption is as easy as checking a box on a form in some states, but “when a state has tried to make it hard to get religious exemptions, they get into sticky ground,” Salmon said. In one case that Salmon described, parents sued and the courts struck down a law that attempted to distinguish various religions.

“Rather than trying to distinguish between one religion and another, or religious versus personal belief … instead focus on how you implement and enforce it,” Salmon said.

“Within states, there are variations at the local level, and in communities there are variations at the neighborhood or school level,” Wharton said. Children might be at risk where coverage is not as high, and some children may be too young or have medical conditions that prevent them from receiving vaccinations.

“With measles we talk about wanting to have at least 95 percent of people immune … and that’s not to say that with 95 percent immunity, you wouldn’t have spread, it just means that you probably wouldn’t have ongoing transmission,” Wharton said.

However, someone can get measles being in a room that someone with measles was in a couple of hours prior, Wharton said. The recommended immunity rate is different for various diseases, depending on how easily the disease can spread.

The more people in the population who are immune to a disease, the likelier it is that a disease would not continue to spread after it is transmitted.

“With a high level of immunity in the population, the people who can’t be vaccinated can still be protected,” Wharton said.

ESTIMATED MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA VACCINE (MMR) COVERAGE AMONG KINDERGARTNERS—UNITED STATES, 2015–16 SCHOOL YEAR

For 2015–16, most states required 2 doses of MMR. Alaska, California, New Jersey, and Oregon required 2 doses of measles, 1 dose of mumps, and 1 dose of rubella vaccines. Georgia, New York, New York City, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia required 2 doses of measles and mumps, 1 dose of rubella vaccines. Iowa required 2 doses of measles and 2 doses of rubella vaccines.

Early Learning
Is a Smart Investment

by Elizabeth Whitehouse
High-quality early learning programs have been shown to boost educational outcomes for children, reduce rates of incarceration and lower health-care costs, according to research from economist James Heckman, winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

“Quality early childhood programs for children from low-income families have been proven to yield a significant return on investment,” said Heckman. “In fact, every dollar invested in quality early childhood development for disadvantaged children produces a $7 to $10 return, per child, per year through better education, health, social and economic outcomes and the reduced need for social spending.”

Heckman presented at last year’s Midwestern Legislative Conference, or MLC, at the request of Wisconsin state Rep. Joan Ballweg, the 2016 MLC chair. Ballweg said her time working on children’s issues in the Legislature has shown her the benefits of quality child care firsthand.

“It was almost six years ago when Wisconsin first lady Tonette Walker asked me to be a part of her Fostering Futures Initiative, and since then early childhood issues have been a main focus of my efforts in the Legislature,” said Ballweg. "Now, I serve as a member of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board and Committee on Children and Families, and I am a co-chair of the Wisconsin Legislative Children’s Caucus. Through these efforts I have learned how high-quality child care, even at a very young age, sets the foundation for their lifelong success.”

State leaders across the country are working to make high-quality learning a possibility for all children, and gaining long-term benefits in their states, while at the same time managing the ever-rising costs for families. In the past few years, many states have pursued updating or creating Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, or TQRIS, for early learning programs.

TQRIS programs implement a process for promoting high quality early learning programs through the establishment of key elements that show quality, set measurements of quality at each tier of the system, and incorporate training and consultation assistance for early learning community providers to move up through the tiers.

When going out to eat, it is easy to see the health department rating of restaurants to be able to tell if it was a clean, safe place to go, but until recently it was difficult for parents to see any rating of the quality of child care centers. Many states are leading the way in showing families the quality of early care and education programs through these tiered quality rating and improvement systems.

“Massachusetts is implementing an innovative high-quality program model through the federal Preschool Expansion Grant and the early results of this initiative are very promising,” said Tom Weber, Massachusetts’ early education and care commissioner. “We are continuing to invest in program quality supports such as the Preschool Expansion Grant program and our state’s Quality Rating and Improvement System because we know that high-quality early education and care opportunities provide children with a strong foundation for learning and a lifetime of success.”

One resource for state leaders in developing or analyzing their early care and education system is the BUILD Initiative. BUILD works with early childhood leaders within states and nationally to better prepare young children to thrive and succeed. The Early Childhood Funders Collaborative created the BUILD Initiative over a decade ago as a catalyst for change and a national resource on early childhood development and policy.

According to Susan Hibbard, executive director of the BUILD Initiative, “The U.S. Department of Education’s Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge grant provided states the funding and the mandate to advance the infrastructure for early learning quality improvement. TQRIS were initially built on child care licensing standards to improve quality and raise the floor. Today, the states leading the way in terms of quality improvement are promoting school readiness, promoting continuous quality improvement and working across child care, Head Start and pre-Kindergarten.”

Hibbard cites California as an example of a state using TQRIS to increase involvement in high-quality early learning programs. “California has focused on making sure the system is user friendly—this is important because complex systems can be too burdensome for providers and can be a disincentive to participation.”

Hibbard said Washington is also leading the nation in this arena. Washington’s Early Achievers program has created a frame of quality for all its early learning efforts. Washington leaders have been able to integrate pre-Kindergarten into the system and have, like California, worked hard to support the cultural and language diversity of the providers, families and young children.

Early care and education for children was a CSG 2017 Top 5 Issue in education. Please visit the CSG Knowledge Center at knowledgecenter.csg.org for research on early childhood education including information on program quality, affordability, access, professional development and funding.
THE COST OF RAISING A CHILD

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the average married, middle-income ($59,200–$107,400) couple with two children spent almost $13,000 per child in 2015 on expenses related to raising their children. That same couple can expect to spend $233,610 ($284,570 when projected inflation costs are included) for each child on food, shelter and other necessities through age 17.

by Jennifer Burnett

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
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* A number of expenses aren’t included in this figure, including the cost of college, which averaged $16,188 at public institutions—for tuition, fees and room and board—for the 2014–15 academic year. The costs related to prenatal care and child birth are also not included, which can vary significantly across the country.
ANNUAL COST OF FOOD BY CHILD AGE

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COST OF CHILD CARE FOR A FOUR-YEAR-OLD

AVERAGE ANNUAL COST

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COST AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEDIAN ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

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<td>17.0% to 19.9%</td>
<td>$9,000 to $10,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% &amp; Above</td>
<td>$11,000 &amp; Above</td>
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Data Source: Economic Policy Institute
Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin is the 62nd governor of the commonwealth of Kentucky. He believes too many of America’s children are slipping through the cracks, and foster care reform is imperative to creating a thriving state and nation. Bevin married his wife Glenna in 1996 and they are now the parents of nine children ages 7–18.

As a husband and father to nine children, how do you balance the demands of the governor’s office with duties at home?

GOV. BEVIN

“I have millions of constituents to look out for, but none more important than my immediate family. This is why I keep my weekends and evenings as free as possible. Sundays are reserved exclusively for family. I often bring one or two of our children with me to special events around the state and country. My job provides us with the opportunity for an ongoing, real-life civics lesson. It is important for my children to see and experience the responsibilities and human interactions necessary to effectively govern a state.

It would not be possible for me to raise a family of any size (let alone nine) and also serve as governor, if I did not have a truly remarkable wife. Glenna is wise, loving, patient and understanding of the many demands on my time. She is the anchor of our home and a gracious and engaged first lady to the people of Kentucky. I am truly blessed.”

How did your own childhood shape you as a future leader?

GOV. BEVIN

“I grew up in a three bedroom, one bathroom farmhouse and was the second of six children. We raised animals and grew crops to provide the bulk of our family’s food. It was a very financially humble home, so I learned the value and importance of hard work at a very young age. I shared a single, small bedroom with my three brothers and developed an early appreciation for the importance of teamwork. As I entered adulthood and then the military, I knew the world did not owe me anything. It was important to me that I gave to others the very best of what I had to offer. To pursue excellence, with integrity, in everything, at all times became my life’s goal.

I also learned early in life that you are only as good as the people you surround yourself with, so I’ve always tried to keep the best company. True leaders lead by example—at home and at work.”

What priorities are you focused on for Kentucky relating to children and families?

GOV. BEVIN

“My intention is for Kentucky to be the best model in America for adoption and foster care. We are focused like a laser on this mission. Seeing how many of America’s children are slipping through the cracks is one of the key reasons I decided to run for governor. There is no reason for the system to be as bureaucratic and slow as it has historically been. Our children deserve better than that.

It is imperative that Kentucky’s children must come first. Everything we do should be focused on serving the best interests of the child. Our futures are all literally dependent on the educational, emotional, physical and economic success of our children.

Strong children are best raised in strong families. Our state’s resources, tax policies, regulations and programs are being coordinated to deliver this possibility to the children of Kentucky.”

What policies have you worked to enact that will increase protections for children?

GOV. BEVIN

“Our administration and Legislature have worked diligently in recent months to pass a wide array of bills that will better protect the lives of Kentucky’s children.

Starting with protecting our most vulnerable children, Kentucky passed significant right-to-life laws, including a post-30 week abortion ban and an ultrasound bill. We passed a law providing liability protection to
those who rescue children locked in hot cars and another authorizing unannounced visits to the homes of children deemed by authorities to be in danger. To help children in Kentucky’s foster care system, we passed a fictive kin bill and legislation that allows foster children to obtain a driver’s license, a law declaring more areas (such as churches and hospitals) as safe spaces to bring children you are unable to care for, and a law helping children get the insurance coverage they need to combat special illnesses.

**Q** What education initiatives have you worked to implement to improve outcomes in your state?

**GOV. BEVIN** “In 2017, the Kentucky General Assembly passed historic legislation making Kentucky the 44th state in the nation to permit the establishment of public charter schools. Charter schools will provide education leaders in the state with another tool to help improve education outcomes for students, including achievement scores, postsecondary enrollment and success, employment, and wage earnings. Further, the new law will help to increase the number of public school options available to families across the commonwealth.

In 2016, the Kentucky General Assembly allocated $15 million to dual credit scholarships for high school students. Beginning in the 2016–2017 academic year, with my issuance of an executive order, the Kentucky Dual Credit Scholarship Program provided funding to ensure that every high school senior in the commonwealth had the opportunity to take two dual credit courses. After only a year, the state has seen dramatic increases in dual credit course enrollment and success.

Kentucky also just adopted outcomes-based funding for allocating state dollars to its state-supported postsecondary institutions. Each funding model has three basic components: student success (degree progression and completion), course completion (credit hours earned), and operational support.”

**Q** How are job training and apprenticeship programs helping Kentucky build a stronger future workforce?

**GOV. BEVIN** “During two rounds of competition in 2016 and 2017, forty applicant teams from across Kentucky were awarded $100 million in state funding for projects intended to build a highly-trained, modernized workforce, aligned with the needs of Kentucky employers. Applicants were required to apply for funds as collaborative teams that included school districts, postsecondary institutions and business and industry partners. The state’s $100 million investment leveraged private sector, secondary and post-secondary funding to provide a total of $250 million in expanded facilities and industry-relative equipment to add capacity for students and adults in career and technical education.

We also just introduced the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship, which provides grants to students of any age to earn certificates and diplomas in one of Kentucky’s top five high-demand sectors (advanced manufacturing, construction and trades, transportation and logistics, information technology, and healthcare).

Kentucky has also created a “Justice to Journeyman” program, which provides apprenticeship opportunities for incarcerated Kentuckians. This program will help reduce recidivism, giving Kentuckians a leg up as they re-enter the workforce with skills and certifications employers need.”

**Q** What is Kentucky doing to curb the opioid epidemic?

**GOV. BEVIN** “We have increased funding in our budget for fighting the opioid crisis and have also passed legislation increasing penalties on convicted drug traffickers. Changes have already come in the form of more treatment centers covered by Medicaid, increased access to naloxone, and new legislation that limits pain pill prescriptions to a three-day supply (the most restrictive in the nation), with a few exceptions.

Kentucky also recently launched the “Don’t Let Them Die” campaign, focused on spreading awareness for the dangers of opioid and heroin abuse. This includes radio and television ads, a website and an upcoming student pitch project. In my role as governor, I have personally taken this topic out into the open by highlighting my own training to administer overdose-reversing naloxone and by telling the stories of recovering addicts who have turned their lives around.”

**Q** In your opinion, how can elected officials reach out to young people to make the governing process more open and accessible?

**GOV. BEVIN** “Use social media. It is simple, but it is powerful. Never before have constituents had such a direct connection to their government officials, or vice versa. Very few young people are without instant access to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. Be engaging, be interesting, post behind-the-scenes pictures and videos, eye-catching graphics … create content that will bring young people to your page. Everyone loves access, and social media gives you the ability to show who you are—in my case, as a dad, husband and friend—while also providing a platform to show constituents your vision. If we honestly believe that we are working to create the best possible future for our young people and their children, then visitors to our social media pages should be able to see that.”

**Q** As governor, how are you working to make Kentucky a great place to have and a raise a family?

**GOV. BEVIN** “We choose to live in Kentucky because it is already a great place to raise a family. At every turn, I challenge each Kentuckian to take pride in our commonwealth and to become the very best version of themselves. Treating everyone the way we want to be treated is a great way to live.

My vision is to make Kentucky the epicenter of economic and social excellence in America and to sparkle as the crown jewel we are for all the world to see. We are doing this by strengthening our economy and fiscal foundation, transforming our education system, refreshing tourism, overhauling our foster and adoption care systems, and so much more.

There is something almost magical about life in Kentucky. This is a special place with a quality of life that is unparalleled. Once individuals and families discover our gracious hospitality, four seasons, low cost of living, core American values, great work ethic, stunning natural beauty and geographic advantages, they can’t imagine living anywhere else on earth. As Daniel Boone said upon discovering this territory, “Surely, heaven must be a Kentucky kind of place.”

"
REGISTRATION

Registrants and guests of the CSG National Conference will have full access to the following:

• Admission to all CSG 2017 National Conference sessions (unless designated “invitation only”)
• Admission to all sessions presented by CSG’s National Center for Interstate Compacts
• Admission to any CSG Policy Academy sessions
• Breakfast and lunch provided Thursday-Saturday
• Four evening receptions, including tickets to see Michael Jackson ONE by Cirque du Soleil
• Access to the CSG 2017 National Conference app

CSG CONFERENCE APP

The 2017 CSG Conference app will be available for download at csg.org/2017csgapp. The 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 in Las Vegas!

HOTEL

CSG has reserved rooms for the 2017 National Conference at the Mandalay Bay Resort. Please make your reservations by calling 702-632-7777 and asking for the CSG room block or by visiting the https://aws.passkey.com/go/scsg17 to receive the group rate. In order to receive the CSG group rate, reservations must be made by Nov. 21, 2017.

CSG cannot guarantee the group rate after Nov. 21. Rooms with the CSG room block are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are only open to registered attendees of the CSG 2017 National Conference. Individuals reserving rooms who are not registered for the conference will be removed from the CSG block.

All reservations must be accompanied by a one night’s deposit for room and tax. Deposits are refundable, provided notice of cancellation is received 72 hours prior to reserved date of arrival.

Mandalay Bay Resort
3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Phone: 702-632-7777

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

7 A.M.-5 P.M.
CSG Registration/Information Desk Open

7-9 A.M.
Buffet Breakfast

8 A.M.-5 P.M.
Hiring and Retaining Workers with Disabilities

8 A.M.-5 P.M.
Making Waves with State Water Policies

8 A.M.-NOON
CSG Shared State Legislation Part I

8:30-4:30 P.M.
Growing a Consensus on Marijuana Policy

10 A.M.-NOON
CSG Investment Subcommittee

NOON-1:30 P.M.
CSG National Conference Committee Working Lunch
(invitation only)

1:30-5 P.M.
CSG Leadership Council
(invitation only)

5-6 P.M.
CSG Executive Committee Reception
(invitation only)

6 P.M.
Evening Event

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:30 A.M.-5 P.M.
CSG Registration/Information Desk Open

7:30-8:30 A.M.
Buffet Breakfast

8:30-10 A.M.
CSG Finance Committee

8:30-10 A.M.
Steps to Success with the Every Student Succeeds Act

8:30-10 A.M.
The Who, Watt, When of Power Grids

8:30-10 A.M.
Developing a Cybersecurity Strategy

10-10:30 A.M.
Break

10:30 A.M.-NOON
CSG Associates Advisory Committee

10:30 A.M.-NOON
Professional Licensing from Plumbers to Physicians

10:30 A.M.-NOON
The Business Incentives Trap

10:30 A.M.-NOON
All Trade is Local

NOON-2 P.M.
Opening Session & Luncheon

2-2:30 P.M.
Break

2:30-5:30 P.M.
CSG Shared State Legislation Part II

2:30-4 P.M.
The Uncertain Future of Health Care

2:30-4 P.M.
CSG Interbranch Committee

2:30-4 P.M.
Nevada Drives Transportation Policy into the Future

4-6:30 P.M.
CSG Henry Toll Fellow Alumni Session & Reception

6:30-8:30 P.M.
Evening Event

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

7:30 A.M.-4 P.M.
CSG Registration/Information Desk Open

7:30-8:30 A.M.
Buffet Breakfast

8:30-10 A.M.
CSG Campaign Against Hunger Service Project

10 A.M.-NOON
Midwestern Legislative Conference Executive Committee

10-10:30 A.M.
Break

10:30 A.M.-NOON
Improving the State and Federal Connection

10:30 A.M.-NOON
Increasing Voter Participation Overseas

NOON-2 P.M.
CSG 2017 Toll Fellow Graduation and Luncheon

2-2:30 P.M.
Break

2:30-4 P.M.
CSG Executive Committee

4-4:30 P.M.
Break

4:30-5:30 P.M.
Regional Receptions

5:30-7 P.M.
CSG 2018 Kentucky Kick-off Event

7-9 P.M.
Nevada Closing Event
Michael Beschloss is an award-winning historian, best-selling author of nine books, New York Times columnist and Emmy-winning contributor to NBC News and the PBS NewsHour.

The New York Times Book Review has called Beschloss “easily the most widely recognized presidential historian in the United States.” Beschloss also serves as the NBC News presidential historian—the first time any major TV network created such a position.

Beschloss earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the Harvard Business School, where he studied leadership and business history. He has served as an historian at the Smithsonian Institution, a resident scholar at Oxford University and a senior fellow of the Annenberg Foundation.

Keynote Address, Toll Fellow Graduation and Luncheon

People struggle with hunger in every state in our nation. According to Feeding America, 394,910 people are struggling with hunger in Nevada, and of them 149,460 are children. That is why at this year’s national conference, CSG will host a Campaign Against Hunger event to benefit people struggling with hunger in Nevada. Join us as we package meals for the hungry with fellowship and plenty of fun.

We can’t wait to see you there!

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017
8:30–10 a.m.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER
SERVICE PROJECT
A strong education system is essential to growing the next generation of leaders and decision-makers, but there is a growing voice for more choice in education, particularly in the form of charter schools. Two state leaders heavily involved in charter school legislation, Massachusetts state Sen. Marc Pacheco and Utah state Rep. Jefferson Moss, spoke with CSG regarding student performance, lessons from other states, school governance and charter research.

How are students performing in charter schools compared to traditional public schools?

Moss: When you break out subgroups, such as students with disabilities, English learners, minority students or low-income students, charters are performing higher than district schools. Demographics obviously have a direct correlation to outcomes, but when you isolate within that subgroup there is noticeable improvement. I see charters as a choice of the best option for each student. Some do better in different environments, although that may not be reflected in the year-end testing.

Pacheco: In Massachusetts, if you look at the system as a whole, traditional public schools outperform charter schools on average. As a state we lead the nation in many categories of student performance. Why should Massachusetts be interested in changing and heading to an alternative with so many unknowns?
What do you believe are some of the factors that determine the success or failure of a charter school?

**Moss:** The charters that are performing well generally have parents that are engaged, have a board that has a clear vision for the school, and have teachers that are treated as professionals. As a result, they have high demand and generally do well on assessments. Those that struggle generally don’t have strong leadership when the charter is launched, don’t have parents that have made the commitment to make the school successful, don’t provide a unique educational experience and they struggle to fill their classrooms with students so they become financially insolvent.

**Pacheco:** This issue comes down to answering the question: How do we best utilize the public dollar to provide the best outcomes for students? Scratch beneath the surface and you’ll find that successful charters are due to their financing, funding, quality of staff and curriculum development, wrap around services, and the availability of before/after school programs. We should focus on implanting these elements in existing schools, rather than making new schools.

What are some advantages and disadvantages of how charter schools are governed in your state?

**Moss:** The main advantage to the governance structure of charters is that they are more flexible in how they manage their school. They can make adjustments more quickly and don’t have the challenges of ongoing negotiations with the teachers union. With the right board and parent involvement, this can lead to great results.

**Pacheco:** We have a strong governance structure in our system that keeps conflicts of interests out of public schools. In charters, you could have a direct business conflict where your goals and interests are split between the student body doing well and your corporation staying in business.

Is the push to expand charter school options justified by research?

**Moss:** I look at charters as what they were originally intended to be, laboratories of innovation. I expect them to have a broad spectrum of outcomes, depending on the purpose of the charter. For instance, a charter that is focused on a specific area, like refugees, or the arts, or science, could be providing the right experience and learning environment for those students but may not do as well on the overall subject assessment outcomes.

**Pacheco:** Certainly there are charters that have excellent outcomes and there are others that have been terrible. It comes down to which charter you are talking about. A lot of school systems have been finding that their budgets are suffering because their statewide pie continues to shrink. The more money given to charters means less for traditional school systems. If we expand charters in Massachusetts, that means the amount of resources for students in traditional public schools shrinks.

What lessons have you learned from charter school implementation in other states that could be applicable for your state?

**Moss:** We’ve noticed a significant increase in the number of minority students enrolling in charter schools, so we’ve been looking at ways other states have been effective in helping support minority students. I think we have learned having choice for students, whether at charters or online, is a good thing. Not every student learns the same way and some kids really need a different option than traditional district schools. I think we’ve learned how important it is to thoroughly vet each charter as it is being launched. We can’t afford to continue taking funding out of district schools unless the charter is led by a strong team and provides a unique and innovative learning experience.

**Pacheco:** In Massachusetts, there is too much connection to private interests and profit. Charters are now making public schools pay for the curriculum they develop when the taxpayers paid for the charter schools to exist in the first place. We must utilize the precious resources we have to invest in children to make sure they have before and after school programs, tutoring and other educational alternatives in their public schools. The initial charter philosophy was to take models of curriculum that are working in charters and share them with the public school system for broader implementation. Charters should be the laboratories of education not the standard.
Parents play the most essential role in a child’s life, but when families struggle or break down, states often become responsible for providing a safe and secure home base. There has been a shift in focus, however, to help families overcome challenges so that more parents and children can be reunited.

According to Tennessee state Rep. Raumesh Akbari, there is a real commitment in her state to stabilize children in need, but there is also an effort to stabilize the parents so the family can ultimately be reunited.

While state foster care agencies will always focus first on protecting children, providing assistance for families has shown positive outcomes. There has been an increased focus on providing new techniques to strengthen parents and foster parents. Many states are now implementing projects that help provide training and capacity-building programs for families.

Nevada is one of a handful of states using a new tool called the Quality Parenting Initiative, or QPI. Developed by the Youth Law Center, QPI is an approach to strengthening foster care and enhancing a foster parent’s ability to meet the tremendous challenge of caring for kids.

Reesha Powell, deputy administrator of child welfare with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, said QPI empowers child welfare agencies to better partner with foster parents, but also partners foster families with the child’s family to assist with the reunification process or long-term solutions for the kids. QPI achieves this by creating relationships between agencies and foster parents to help build capacity and ultimately better care for the kids.

“It’s really about putting a team around that child to get them to reach permanency more timely,” Powell said.

According to Powell, QPI represents a significant change from past practice.

“When I first came into this practice, there was this belief that children were better served if they were in foster care and removed from their family … and I think nowadays we do a much better job of trying to keep children in their birth home or in their family home and try to work with the family to mitigate whatever circumstances exist within that family that are causing neglect or abuse to occur. So it’s a paradigm shift for us,” Powell said.

However, Powell said the paramount concern is for the welfare of the children. “Obviously if there is an immediate risk of danger to a child or what is called ‘present danger’ to a child, we have the ability to immediately remove them.
The bottom line is that foster care is supposed to be a temporary help. What we want to make sure is that the child—who has probably encountered some sort of trauma in being removed from the home—is in the best possible position.”

» Tennessee state Rep. Raumesh Akbari

State court systems are also stepping up to help children, especially those who are victims of the opioid epidemic.

"Everything we know about opioid addiction tells us that an addicted parent will be unlikely to move from addiction to safe parenting, or achieve sobriety, within the timeframes set for children to have a proper nurturing home." Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor said.

"Recovering in time to meet the normal permanency timeframes is extremely difficult for parents with opiate addictions. Why? Because the paths to recovery can be long and often there’s a scarcity of resources to support addicts. Permanency planning must be based on the best interests of the child, and the child’s needs and the parent’s recovery paths usually don’t line up when it comes to opioids."

The Ohio court system is working to tackle this issue with Family Dependency Treatment Courts, or FDTCs, O’Connor said.

"Currently, 30 of Ohio’s 88 juvenile courts have an FDTC that’s certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio," she said. “The number of FDTCs has grown in the last few years, yet we need to recruit more counties to launch FDTCs. National research findings have demonstrated better results for families when substance-abusing mothers participate in a family drug court."

According to O’Connor, early identification of cases involving substance use disorder, immediate access to treatment services and support and more judicial oversight to ensure accountability of all parties can lead to better outcomes for families.

Nationally, the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, or ICPC, is working to catch up with the states. The Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, or AAICPC, is working to pass a new interstate compact that will address the deficiencies of the current compact, which was established in 1960.

As the AAICPC notes in a policy brief issued in 2013, “While the 20th century welcomed the current ICPC as a novel and useful process for negotiating interstate placements and sustaining care and well-being of children placed beyond a state’s borders and its jurisdictional authority … the current ICPC at best, provides for a fragmented system that breeds an inefficient and sometimes ineffective use of time and resources on the part of state and county governments, the courts, and stakeholders ….”

Particularly important is the new ICPC’s approach to the interstate placement of children.
While technology has opened new doors for teachers, the use of innovative technology in the classroom has resulted in the collection of sensitive student data. Many state lawmakers are now acting to secure vulnerable student information, while also allowing for the educational edge technology provides.

According to the Data Quality Campaign, 110 student data privacy bills were introduced in 2014, 180 student privacy bills were introduced in 2015, and 112 student data privacy bills were introduced in 2016—all at the state level.

“Technology is an important component in today’s classroom,” Kentucky state Rep. Steve Riggs said. “But it’s imperative that policies and procedures are in place to protect students vulnerable to data breaches.”

Kentucky House Bill 232, sponsored by Riggs in 2014, requires consumer notification when a data breach reveals personally identifiable information and prohibits cloud computing service providers contracting with educational institutions from processing student data for advertising purposes, or selling, disclosing or processing student data for any commercial purposes.

“The bill originally just focused on cyber liability insurance policies,” Riggs said. “When it came to our attention that some companies were mining student data, an amendment was proposed to further extend the issue of data security to include data collected from students.”

From names and addresses to family income, record keeping has always been a practice for schools. As these records moved from pen and ink to the virtual cloud, data has not only become more useful, but also more vulnerable.

The federal government initially took on privacy of student education records with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, in 1974. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents rights to their children’s education records, and these rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18.

According to the U.S. Department of Education’s website, schools must obtain written permission from the parent or student in order to release information from a student’s record. However, schools may disclose information such as a student’s name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance without prior consent.
Many parents had had enough of the intrusion. This information is available to school officials to protect students vulnerable to data breaches.

According to Finchem, claims that student data collection help improve education are not enough to justify the practices that were in place. “Education was never meant to be a factory,” Finchem said. “The real mission is to provide a quality education.”

While some lawmakers and parents are fearful of the intrusion into their lives and were not comfortable with the amount of information being collected, Finchem said. “Parents were asking, ‘Where does this stop?’”

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In fact, a 2013 summary of research from the Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center on the role of technology in student learning found that while no single research study can address the general question of whether technology improves student outcomes, there is evidence that technology can boost student knowledge and skills.

The summary referenced a report from Johns Hopkins University Center for Research and Reform in Education that analyzed 84 studies to compare the impact of various technologies on K-12 reading achievement and found that computer-assisted instruction, along with other activities in a reading program produced the largest improvements in reading scores.

In addition, a 2013 report from the McKinsey Global Institute showed the exchange of educational data could add as much as $1.2 trillion to the economy through more efficient, effective instruction.

One example of how technology in education is producing outcomes is AT&T’s Aspire program. It has invested $400 million since 2008 to support student success through developing educational applications and curriculum, creating online educational pathways to industry-relevant skills and providing young people across the country with mentoring by AT&T employees.

“Education has always been an important part of what we want to invest in. Because we want a great workforce coming along, we want to continue being an innovative company and you can’t do that without having young people prepared with the skills to go in and do it,” said Nicole Anderson, president of the AT&T Foundation. “That is why we invest in education and one of the best ways you can invest in education is through technology.”

AT&T expanded this program to the Aspire Accelerator program that aims to enhance education by supporting and mentoring promising and innovative startups in education technology. The companies from the first two classes of the AT&T Aspire Accelerator have reached more than 4 million students and are exceeding industry growth rates.

“Folks in the education space are very comfortable with technology in the classroom. There is a rapid acceptance and adoption in using these tools,” Anderson said. “It’s become more commonplace for people to have these tools. Technology is advancing rapidly and I think the kids are driving this change as well.”

And it’s not just state lawmakers who are stepping up to protect kids’ data. AT&T along with companies such as Microsoft, Apple and Blackboard have recently signed on to the Student Privacy Pledge.

The pledge, now with 316 signatories, requires school service providers to not collect, maintain, use or share student personal information beyond what’s needed for authorized educational purposes, to not sell student personal information, to maintain a comprehensive security program, and other steps that aim to keep students data secure.

“Since AT&T is a tech company, we know that the best way to get to underserved and at-risk populations, and distribute and scale quality education, is to do that through technology and take our core competency and put it forward,” Anderson said. “So, by being interested in that space and putting our philanthropic mic there, we also want to be sure we are safeguarding—and the groups we work with are safeguarding—the information of the students while also helping them improve their academic outcomes in that space. Student privacy is something we take seriously and that’s why it was important for AT&T to sign the Student Privacy Pledge and to be part of that conversation.”

“Technology is an important component in today’s classroom, but it’s imperative that policies and procedures are in place to protect students vulnerable to data breaches.”

» Kentucky state Rep. Steve Riggs

“STUDENT PRIVACY IS SOMETHING WE TAKE SERIOUSLY AND THAT’S WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR AT&T TO SIGN THE STUDENT PRIVACY PLEDGE AND TO BE PART OF THAT CONVERSATION.”

» Nicole Anderson, president of the AT&T Foundation
Policymakers want to improve outcomes for children and youth but often struggle with how best to allocate limited resources. In recent years, many have turned to evidence-based policymaking—the systematic use of high-quality research in decision-making—to help address this challenge. Extensive analysis, for example, has demonstrated that some interventions achieve outcomes that benefit children and youth—such as reducing child abuse and juvenile recidivism rates. But policymakers need access to these findings to identify, fund and sustain these proven programs.

A report released in January by the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative assesses the prevalence and level of data-driven policymaking across a spectrum of human services, including child welfare and juvenile justice, in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The report, which involved an extensive review of over 5,000 state laws and documents, analyzed the degree to which states engage in six evidence-based policymaking practices: defining an “evidence-based program”; inventorying the programs in their state that meet this standard; comparing program costs and benefits; targeting funds to evidence-based programs; reporting outcome data in the budget; and requiring these actions through state laws, codes and rules.

While the report found that the majority of states have used some form of evidence-based policymaking, few have taken the actions necessary to identify the evidence behind their child welfare and juvenile justice programs, assess these programs’ expected returns on investment, and steer funding to those proved to work. By not taking these critical steps, government officials miss the opportunity to focus limited resources on cost-effective programs, identify and reduce funding for ineffective programs, and improve outcomes for children and youth.

But, two states—Florida in juvenile justice and Ohio in child welfare—demonstrate how evidence-based policymaking can help lawmakers make better investments in programs targeting children and youth.

States Turn to Research to Improve Outcomes for Children and Youth

By Sara Dube and Darcy White

How can states better engage in evidence-based policymaking?

To help other states expand their evidence-based policymaking over the long term, the Results First report identified several approaches that states, in addition to Ohio and Florida, have adopted.

First, states can increase their commitment to using evidence and data to guide decisions. For instance, New Mexico’s Legislative Finance Committee partnered with Results First to expand its use of evidence to direct resources to the most effective programs. When possible, the committee uses the Results First cost-benefit model to identify interventions that would achieve high returns on investment and uses the results, along with evidence on program
effectiveness, to inform the annual budget recommendations it develops for legislators. The Legislature has used these recommendations to appropriate $161 million to evidence-based programming for adult corrections, behavioral health, child welfare and early education.

Second, states can invest in strengthening the infrastructure needed to make their agencies’ data systems compatible and enable staff to conduct analyses that identify cost-effective programming.

For example, South Carolina’s Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office created a centralized administrative data warehouse that includes information from multiple agencies that oversee numerous policy areas, including child welfare and juvenile justice. The central database links data on individuals that are collected by various agencies (such as a juvenile offender whose case information is listed in both a state’s correctional and human services databases) using unique identifiers to protect each individual’s identity. The fiscal affairs office provides guidance on sharing and using this data so researchers can study how to improve outcomes for youth.

Finally, states can expand their staff capacity to identify and implement programs shown to be effective. In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated funds over two years for the state’s Management and Budget Office to hire two full-time employees to inventory programs and analyze returns on investment. Since then, the staff has conducted cost-benefit analyses of corrections and adult mental health programs to inform policymakers on which evidence-based programs would provide the best returns, and the staff is conducting similar analyses on juvenile justice programs.

With the growing data on how to build a better future for children and youth, policymakers can expand their engagement in evidence-based policymaking by strategically investing in public programs proved to deliver strong returns on taxpayer dollars.

**FLORIDA**

With a mandate to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, or DJJ, has for several years championed an evidence-based policymaking approach to improve outcomes for this population.

For instance, in 2011, participation in the Juvenile Justice Improvement Project—an initiative to improve youth outcomes—spurred the department to use the nationally recognized Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol to identify how well the state’s juvenile justice programs adhere to key principles of evidence-based interventions. The department also created a supplementary model that compares programs based on how effective they are in reducing recidivism relative to their operating costs. These efforts enabled program providers to identify which programs lower recidivism rates while increasing the return on investment for taxpayers.

In 2015, the DJJ expanded its use of data-driven tools when Florida Gov. Rick Scott issued an executive order directing several human service departments to collaborate on improving mental health outcomes for youth. It also—along with the Department of Corrections—partnered with Results First to implement evidence-based budgetary tools to assess the cost-effectiveness of the state’s juvenile treatment programs.

As part of the effort to engage stakeholders in evidence-based policymaking, the DJJ hosts Common Definitions, an annual conference for legislative and departmental staff, researchers, and contract service providers to review and offer feedback on analyses of treatment programs and share the latest research findings on improving outcomes for juveniles. Departmental staff members have reported that the conference builds trust, transparency and collaboration.

**OHIO**

In 2010, the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund—a government entity that is a dedicated funding source for child abuse and neglect prevention programs, led by a 15-member board representing the governor’s office, Legislature, state agencies and the public—turned to evidence-based policymaking to attract private-sector funders and introduce more accountability into how the state’s limited resources are spent.

The trust fund used research clearinghouses—databases that provide information on the effectiveness of various interventions—as sources of evidence-based programs it would consider funding. To allow for some flexibility, program providers can implement an intervention that is not listed in a clearinghouse if the intervention meets certain evidence criteria set by the trust fund or the regional prevention councils that administer contracts with child welfare program providers. Providers also must work with program developers on any modifications of a program’s delivery to make sure these changes do not limit the program’s effectiveness.

Since shifting funds to evidence-based programming, the number of children entering the child welfare system due to abuse and neglect has declined in Ohio. Kristen Rost, executive director of the trust fund, credits strong leadership, the ability to support decisions with data and a commitment to providing technical support for the state’s success with evidence-based policymaking.

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**About the Authors**

**Sara Dube** directs the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative, a joint effort of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Dube manages Pew’s work to advance evidence-based decision-making by states and counties, including the use of an innovative cost-benefit analysis tool that helps government leaders direct investments in programs and policies that generate the best outcomes while making the most of limited resources. In doing so, she brings to state and county partners the latest research on data-driven programs and analytical tools to help assess the true costs and benefits of these taxpayer-funded initiatives.

**Darcy White** is an officer with the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative at The Pew Charitable Trusts. In this capacity, White manages research projects to promote evidence-based policymaking in state and county governments. Prior to joining Pew, White worked at the Public International Law and Policy Group, where she conducted research and policy analysis on good governance, and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenya’s Deaf Education sector. She has a master’s degree from American University’s School of International Service and has published on government performance.

“Back in 2014, in a conversation with my 24-year-old daughter, we were lamenting about a lack of representation from our legislators. I told her she should run and if she put the good ol’ fashioned work ethic to use, she would maybe even win! Her victory on Election Day meant she was the youngest female legislator in South Dakota. But that was just the beginning; she recruited me two years later! We ran as a team, celebrated our victories together and pursued legislation that makes South Dakota great. There were times when we would have differences in positions, but good-natured ribbing resolved those differences. It was hard to leave my position as speaker pro tem to join Americans for Prosperity because my time serving in the legislature with my daughter was so gratifying. I’m so proud that she had the courage and the will to step up as a young woman and serve in our legislature.”

Rep. Cynthia Thielen has served the 50th District in the Hawaii State Legislature since 1990 and is the assistant minority floor leader.

“I am extremely proud of my daughter, Democrat Sen. Laura Thielen, who ‘outranks me’ in the Hawaii Legislature. I gladly reach across the aisle as a Republican representative to work cooperatively with Laura on issues affecting our districts and state. Recognizing the importance of involving students in government, we host a ‘Legislative Road Show’ in local schools. Students study bills that are currently being heard in legislative committees, prepare supporting or opposing testimony and testify before us, responding to questions, in mock committee hearings. Students particularly enjoy seeing a mother-daughter team with different party affiliations who actually get along, commenting that family dinners must be lively!”

Sen. Laura Thielen, Rep. Cynthia Thielen’s daughter, represents District 25 of the Hawaii Senate. She was first elected in 2013.

“Our family spent many dinners talking about current events. We often disagreed, but because we loved and trusted one another—we—usually—respected the disagreements and continued the conversation. Our mother was the center of the family, and she showed how to keep people working together despite disagreements. Watching her use that same approach when dealing with other legislators and the public was a great education. She taught me that it’s possible to tackle controversial issues in the short term, while preserving relationships in the long term. So, it’s true when they say that having dinner with your children is critical to raising responsible adults.”
Rep. John Viola is a member of the Delaware State House of Representatives. He represents the 26th District, and he has been serving the district since 1999.

“Engaging youth gives young people a place in the decision-making process, builds a broad base of long-term citizen involvement and creates stronger communities with active community members. I believe it’s the responsibility of the current leaders and policymakers to recognize the benefits that youth offer to our communities, assuring that their fresh perspective matters.”


“Empowering youth to get involved not only in the political process but in civic engagement is crucial in cultivating the next generation of decision makers. We need to let young people know that policymakers value their opinions by giving them useful roles and allowing them to become invested in their own community. They need to know that giving back is crucial in keeping our communities engaged.

From a very young age, I remember my father being involved and giving back. Whether it was serving in the military, being a volunteer firefighter, coaching a little league team, teaching CPR, or leading a civic group, he has always been engaged in the community. It wasn’t until years later that he ran for political office and he continued his desire to give back to his community. I believe growing up with this type of influence has inspired me to do the same. I have been involved in many community service initiatives prior to running for office and continued since being elected.”

Sen. Bryan Simonaire has been representing District 31 in the Maryland Senate since 2007.

“Especially in today’s political environment, it is so important to have the younger generation engage in the political arena. Decisions made today are going to directly impact our younger generation and they need to be part of the conversation.”

Delegate Meagan Simonaire, Sen. Simonaire’s daughter, was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in November 2014 and represents District 31-B.

“My father is a true public servant, and that gave me a greater understanding of how one person could have a positive impact in a county, state or even country. My father inspired me to enter politics so I could serve the people. He said that young people can make just as big an impact in our community as older people. I took his challenge and now I know he was right: young people can change our world.”

Rep. Kim Koppelman represents District 13 of the North Dakota House of Representatives. He was first elected to the chamber in 1994.

“I’ve always had an interest in patriotism, public policy and public service and those are the kinds of priorities we hope to pass on to our children, but I never dreamed that I’d serve with one of them in the State Legislature! What a rare opportunity and one which I’ll always treasure. Of course, I appreciate serving with my son, but I also value his unique perspectives and priorities, which makes serving together an even richer experience. His independence, talent and creativity not only make him an effective legislator, but also make one of his colleagues a proud father!”

Rep. Koppelman serves with his son, Rep. Ben Koppelman, who represents District 16 of the North Dakota House of Representatives. He was first elected to the chamber in 2012.

“It has been a privilege to have the opportunity to serve with my father in the legislature. When I was first elected, I think my colleagues had the expectation that I would be just like my dad as a legislator. As time went on, I think they realized that although we share the same core beliefs, my personality, style, interests and areas of expertise are very different. Although we don’t serve on the same committees, it’s always fun when we can be a tag-team on the floor of the House during debate. I definitely value the rare experience of being able to serve with ‘the other Rep. Koppelman.’”

families who serve together
Postsecondary education is expensive and students are paying more and more for college each year. Amid concerns about rising tuition, state legislatures have become increasingly active in tuition policy even though there’s only one state legislature—Florida’s—that has the authority to set tuition in the four-year sector and two legislatures—Florida’s and California’s—that have the authority to do so for two-year institutions. In most states, legislatures have adopted statutes that grant the authority to set tuition to campus- or system-level boards.
“Our legislative tracking indicates that states aren’t trying to gain or regain the responsibility to set tuition rates—but that doesn’t mean we aren’t seeing an increase in concern about rising tuition among our commissioners,” said Jeremy Anderson, president of the Education Commission of the States. “Instead, recent state sessions have produced a new set of policy ideas that take indirect aim at controlling tuition rates.”

Anderson highlighted bills from California, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota and Virginia, which proposed ideas ranging from setting variable tuition rates by areas of study, to a rebate of state appropriations directly applied to student bills, to controlling non-resident tuition revenue streams.

Capping or freezing tuition, the most common solution surfacing in statehouses, is also losing promise as a viable option for tuition control. Research from Illinois, where state law requires that public, four-year institutions set the same tuition price for a student for four consecutive years, demonstrates possible shortcomings of the approach.

Under the policy, growth in both tuition and student fees have outpaced the growth among peer institutions in other states, negatively impacting affordability for all students. Perhaps counterintuitively, it seems that the freeze is making college more expensive, quite possibly because institutions raise tuition and fees more for each incoming class than they might have otherwise. The breadth of policy ideas when it comes to tuition-setting seems to be wide; however, the possibility of enacting meaningful tuition reform is much narrower. Recognition that increases in tuition are happening against a backdrop of decreasing state appropriations to higher education coupled with relatively flat investments in state financial aid programs nationwide is lacking. As with any state system, higher education requires resources. The prevailing preference across the country has been to seek these resources from tuition revenue in place of robust state appropriations and targeted financial aid. A promising strategy to reverse the trend is to restore public support for higher education.

The state of Washington provides a useful example. After freezing tuition in 2013, the state made it possible for institutions to not just freeze but reduce tuition through an increase in direct appropriations in 2015. The 2017 budget redirected the funds enabling lower tuition to fulfill a court order to fully fund K-12 education, leading to an anticipated tuition increase for students enrolling next fall. While short-lived, this example illustrates that state support to postsecondary institutions can in fact have a direct impact on the tuition costs students face. Policy leaders’ concerns about rising tuition are well-placed; however, as with many areas of policy, proven solutions cost money.

“Balancing whether the resources for public higher education come from higher education institutions in the form of losses in instruction and services, from students paying higher tuition, or from legislatures providing increased appropriations will certainly play out differently in jurisdictions across the country,” Anderson said. “At the same time, all states can benefit from an increased understanding of how their policy architecture and funding decisions ultimately impact the tuition prices that students pay. Education Commission of the States is committed to supporting states in advancing effective college affordability policy, both through our research and reports, and through convenings and personalized counsel.”

Sarah Pingel joined the Education Commission of the States in February 2014. Pingel supports states by providing analysis tailored to student financial aid and college affordability policies. A data wonk at heart, she also prepares research, authors reports and organizes convenings designed to help policy leaders learn from one another. Prior to working at Education Commission of the States, Pingel held various positions within three institutional financial aid offices. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, a master’s degree from Bryn Mawr College and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Denver.

$29,411
To pay for the growing cost of college, the majority of 2015 graduates took out loans, borrowing $29,411 on average.

$18,700
In 2016 the average net price paid by the typical student at an in-state public college was about $18,700, up roughly 3 percent from the previous year.
For the past three issues of Capitol Ideas, CSG has followed four freshman legislators as they have navigated their first year in office. Now, with autumn approaching, it is back to school time for our four legislators and so we’ve asked them to give a quick review of what they’ve learned so far during their time in office.

How have you used technology in your new legislative role?

**CASKEY**  If it wasn’t for technologies like my calendar app, I would never know where to be! Technology has always been a part of my life, so I’m comfortable with it. The change has really been in my need to communicate to a massive audience. I try to communicate on social media regularly, and while each platform is very different, I’m most vocal on Twitter (@micahcaskey). Twitter can be an echo-chamber, but when things are really moving, it’s conducive to getting a message out quickly. South Carolina’s statehouse website lets us track legislation organically, so I don’t use an app, but if somebody makes an app, I’ll certainly give it a shot.

**MAH**  I made a pledge to be highly visible, responsive and accessible to my constituents, and technology does help a great deal with that. I have an active public Facebook page, where I post daily with events, announcements and issues that concern the district. My staff and I prepare an electronic newsletter that is sent out every two weeks. We track constituents’ contacts and cases using Google forms and spreadsheets. I track legislation using the existing system on our state’s general assembly website, but perhaps an app might be helpful. My colleagues and I often communicate via text message, but I have often thought that it would be nice to have an app that uses maps and location information to help with identifying whose district we might find ourselves in as we travel around the state.

**NIOU**  We are the People’s House and I take that very seriously, particularly as I try to make sure that my constituents have a voice in every step of our government’s process. Of course we track our bills, do research, and write to our constituents using email and other online technologies. I think some of the things that we do a little differently is that I am on Twitter (@yuhaline), Facebook, and I also try to post YouTube videos so my constituents know some of the things we are going through in Albany when I’m not in the district. I think most people feel like government isn’t something that they can affect or touch, and I want to break that myth. It’s most important to me that we are making government accessible and transparent with every tool that we have.

**SYMS**  Technology is very important for both my legislative work and constituent communication and outreach. With respect to day-to-day research, drafting and review of proposed legislation, technology is a useful tool that assists me in formulating better policy and tracking existing legislation. It also provides an efficient means of communicating with my constituents so they are informed of the work I am doing. Leadership is only as good as the feedback we receive from the people we represent. Technology provides the platform for that important sharing of ideas between constituents and myself.
What type of training/resources do you think freshman legislators could benefit from during their first few months in office?

**CASKEY** This is a question that I polled a lot of the seasoned representatives about when I first arrived in Columbia. As chairman of the Freshman Caucus, we’ve hosted subject matter experts in a year-long program that dives into many of the topics most daunting to rookies: the budget process, ethics law, parliamentary procedure, time management, etc. There’s so much to learn, I think the only path to success is a sustained, purposeful approach to professional development. Because, after all, there’s a steady stream of all-new faces to learn, too!

**MAH** Our Legislature provided a weeklong orientation for freshman legislators and it was crammed full of information, all very helpful. I think that it would also be helpful to have a list of all of the existing organizations and conferences that allow legislators to meet and exchange ideas throughout the year. I had been contacted about the various conferences and educational opportunities specifically for legislators, but a compilation of the times, locations, deadlines and scholarship opportunities all in one place would have been tremendously helpful. During this past year it was a challenge to juggle and plan for participation in the various meetings and travel opportunities, and I wondered if we could have been given an overview or reviews of the upcoming opportunities by legislators who had participated in them in the past.

**NIOU** Our conference leadership actually gave us a pretty comprehensive orientation that all new members had to go through. I think that a good resource would be a timeline on when things move and how they move. I’ve had many years of state legislative experience before becoming a state legislator, but I think having a map of when certain things get done would still be a helpful reminder for anyone coming into the state legislature. A good resource I have is some really amazing mentors. Perhaps a built-in mentorship program pairing new legislators with more senior members would be a great idea to help new members acclimate faster.

**SYMS** Many of my colleagues shared the feeling that they were “drinking from a fire hose” during their first month on the job. With all the new administrative information freshmen are attempting to learn, the overall legislative goals and agenda of the session could take a back seat to learning the basics of a new job. I think freshmen would benefit from having leadership set out the four or five objectives of the session and provide an overview of the plan and strategy to get there.

What do you know now that you wish you’d known on your first day as a legislator?

**CASKEY** The federal government is much worse than I ever imagined. As a conservative, it feels like I was born with a distrust of government, but my experience over the last year has proven that instinct to be woefully incomplete; it is as if the federal government has its tentacles woven into everything. Got a funding stream? The federal government has strings attached. Got a new project? The feds will mandate your planning process. Want to rehabilitate a polluted river? See you in federal district court! I’m not sure what I would’ve done differently, but I wish I had known, nonetheless.

**MAH** That it takes a lot of planning and forethought to maintain healthy eating habits in the capitol. Many times, we have back-to-back meetings or our legislative sessions begin at noon or a couple hours before and the schedule is not conducive to having a healthy midday meal. Non-perishable foods that can be kept in our desks in the chamber tend to be junk food like packaged snacks. If I had known this earlier, I might have figured out how to have avoided eating junk food so often during session!

**NIOU** How to use my desk’s microphone on the floor! I made an absolute fool of myself when I was doing my introduction, and several of my colleagues came up to me afterwards telling me that I didn’t need to bend over or lean in to the mic when speaking. It was probably the funniest and most awkward moments on my first day, but I also really got to know how my colleagues are just incredibly helpful and willing to help me with whatever I need.

**SYMS** With so much vitriol in the recent national political dialogue, I think there is an incorrect perception that the legislative process is too polarized to accomplish anything. I found it to be more collaborative and bipartisan than I expected. People are often surprised that legislators agree more than they disagree, but the differences receive the most media attention. My five bills that were signed into law by the governor this session all received substantial bipartisan support. We can accomplish great things for the people we represent by continuing to find common ground.

Keep following our freshman legislators’ journey in the November/December issue of Capitol Ideas.
Balancing children and career can be a challenge for any working parent. But add campaigns, committees, commutes and constituents to the equation and finding work-life balance can seem almost impossible. We asked three parent-legislators to give us a little insight into how their respective families have “made it work” and how being a parent has shaped, influenced and informed their legislative service.
Be a Parent First

In 2006, I announced I would seek election for state representative. My daughter, Mary Alex, was only seven while my son, Davis, was five. I knew this was a serious decision that would greatly affect my family. We sat down over the course of several weeks and discussed the opportunity and the many sacrifices. In January, I will begin my 12th year of service to our great state, so my children have grown up with their mom spending much time away from home. Thankfully, my husband, Doug, extends unwavering support to ensure all their needs are met when I am away. His help, along with that of my extended family, has been one of the primary reasons I have been able to serve. As I reflect back to when we made this decision, I am filled with pride because of who my children have grown to become. They are my greatest champions. Each election season, I ask if this is something I have their blessing to do again, and I always receive a resounding, “Yes Mom! You have to do this!”

Undeniably, there are times when it is difficult to balance various roles, but I am a mother above all. I have always ensured I did not miss important milestones in their lives. After all, they only have one childhood, so it was crucial to ensure they were my top priority; however, I also recognized I was not raising them for childhood alone. I am preparing them to be leaders in our community throughout their entire lives.

When I look at my children today, I know we made the right decision because of the leaders they already are. They have a heart for serving our community and a burning desire to make a difference. As a mom, I could not be more proud and am so very thankful for the opportunity to serve in such an incredible capacity.

Communication is Key

My oldest, now 18, was in middle school when he asked me not to run for school board again. He said it wasn’t fun to have a mom in charge of school. I thought that was fair; it was his world. Two years later, I ran for the Vermont General Assembly and won. He thought it was good to have a mom who would make laws given how well I did it at home. The first piece of legislation I worked on was focused on natural burial. The teenage boys I live with still refer to this as the zombie bill.

We are a citizen Legislature in Vermont. We meet mid-January through mid-May, which covers both ski and lacrosse seasons at my house. This means that while I am their mom and a public servant, I also have a career. It can be quite a juggling act and there are days when balls drop. My first term was hard. That first year, all parties in my life were excited and proud to be supporting me in my new role in the Vermont House. During year two, all parties had a clear understanding of what this actually looked like and competing priorities became demanding and at times challenging. Fortunately, I have partnered well and as a family we made it work. The key for us has been a comprehensive and well organized kitchen calendar; time management with all concerned parties; and solid, clear, quality communication.

We made the commitment to be expressive, letting each other know how we were feeling and what we needed from each other. While I am away at the capitol, we work hard to be present for each other. Twenty-first century technology has been a valuable tool. We make sure we have “learning conversations” every night about our day and our work whether it be about the pre-calculus exam, friend or caucus drama, or what the focus of my committee work was that day.

Recently a constituent asked my younger 15-year-old son, “What’s it like to have your mom in politics?” His response was, “She’s away a lot and sometimes I miss her.” The response for the voter was, “I’m sure. Thank you for sharing her with us; she works hard for Vermonters.” My son stood a little taller, a little prouder, smiled and said, “I know she works hard for me every day.” My children know that committing to public service impacts our family. This commitment makes a difference for our community and our state. They know they have contributed to making that happen. The boys know that their mom will be standing at the polls outside their high school with our name plastered all over town on Election Day. From their perspective, it is good to have a mom who is a lawmaker. Besides, there is something to be said for having your mom on the ballot the first time you vote.

Keep it in Perspective

They say everything changes when you become a parent. They’re right. As legislators, we know the honor and humility we feel when we’re elected to public service. But the honor and humility of becoming a parent has no equal. Politics, like parenting, can be exciting and challenging, frustrating and fun.

As a young parent and a young legislator, I’m developing more of an appreciation for the ups and downs in both those areas. I’ve always tried to keep my eye on the big picture and not get caught up in the heat of the political moment. I was reminded of the big picture in a very personal way recently. I came across an article that talked about future generations, and I was struck by the fact that my daughter Katherine, born in December 2016, will likely be alive in the 2100s. That seems so far away, yet it’s in her lifetime.

As policymakers, we often struggle with the speed bumps of today versus the path we’re headed on for tomorrow. Our children and grandchildren are reminders to us of our duty to make decisions that are in the public interest for years to come—and to avoid short-term solutions at their expense. As we all do for our children, I want to make the world a better place for Katie. As legislators, we can be inspired by our children’s energy, life and love to make the right decision for today and for years to come.
CSG EXAMINES STATE USE OF ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

CSG has developed an advisory group to examine the increase in electronic payments and the implications it has for states. This year, CSG is updating and expanding a previous report to evaluate electronic payments both to and from states. The report will be released in December at the CSG 2017 National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

CSG JUSTICE CENTER RELEASES PUBLICATION ON MENTORING IN REENTRY

With support from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Reentry Resource Center worked with researchers, practitioners, correctional officials and more than 150 organizations that have been awarded Second Chance Act mentoring grants to develop five broad, field-based considerations for incorporating mentoring into reentry programming. Each section of the newly released Mentoring as a Component of Reentry: Practical Considerations from the Field is intended to serve as a building block for reentry programs that are currently using or contemplating using mentors for an adult population.
NEW RESOURCE FOR STATE LEADERS ENHANCES INTERACTION WITH FEDERAL ENERGY AGENCIES

The Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies and The Council of State Governments have released a new resource, States at the Table: Engaging Energy and Environmental Opportunities with Federal Advisory Committees. This comprehensive resource for state leaders from all three branches of government will create opportunities to interact with federal energy and environmental agencies through advisory committees.

CSG JUSTICE CENTER UNITES WITH GOVERNORS TO LAUNCH FACE TO FACE INITIATIVE

In August, the National Reentry Resource Center and the CSG Justice Center—in partnership with the Association of State Correctional Administrators, JustLeadershipUSA, and the National Center for Victims of Crime—launched Face to Face, a call to action for policymakers to connect with people closest to the correctional system. Launch events included both Republican and Democratic governors and other policymakers who met with people impacted by the system in their respective states. The Face to Face initiative is made possible with funding support from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance.

To learn more, visit www.csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/face-to-face/.

CIVIC EDUCATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Council of State Governments and the National Center on Learning and Civic Engagement, or NCLCE, jointly convened a leadership team of state officials from across the country to develop a toolkit around civic education. The first draft of the toolkit was completed in July, and the Civic Education Leadership Team convened for a call to review the draft. The toolkit will focus on the three branches of state government and incorporate actionable policy tools for state leaders to implement or strengthen civic education initiatives in their state. The toolkit is expected to debut at CSG’s national conference in December.
Many people spend Labor Day weekend relaxing by the pool or attending cookouts with friends and family. The annual holiday, however, is more than that. Labor Day is a celebration of those in the workforce and few know the origins of the holiday that marks the unofficial end of summer.

**In September 1882**

The unions of New York City decided to have a parade to celebrate their members and show support for all unions.

**By 1887, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Oregon had established Labor Day as a state holiday.**

The tradition of not wearing white after Labor Day comes from the Victorian Era when wearing white meant you were still on vacation.

12-hour days seven days a week

The eight-hour workday was established in 1916.

Two members of rival unions with similar names are credited with the creation of Labor Day: Peter McGuire, a carpenter and Matthew Maguire, a machinist.

President Grover Cleveland and the U.S. Congress made Labor Day a federal holiday in 1894.

The Saturday before Labor Day is an unofficial holiday called International Bacon Day.

More than 30 years ago, Virginia passed its Kings Dominion Law, prohibiting city and county schools from starting before Labor Day weekend so that families can attend popular theme parks in the state.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Americans consume about 7 billion hot dogs, according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council.

In the early years of Labor Day, Americans worked 12-hour days seven days a week.
Thank you!

CSG’S 2017 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CSG’S ASSOCIATES PROGRAM AND LEADERSHIP CIRCLE, PLEASE CONTACT

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**THE CHANGING FACE OF AMERICA**