



Policy Directives and Resolutions for Consideration

2021 Legislative Summit
Tampa, Florida

DEBATE CALENDAR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Budgets & Revenue Committee

SUPPORT FOR THE INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES ACT 2

Labor & Economic Development Committee

APPRENTICESHIP 3

Law, Criminal Justice & Public Safety

IMMIGRATION REFORM 5

Natural Resources & Infrastructure Committee

REAL ID 11

WATER CARRIER SUBSIDIES 12

1 **COMMITTEE: BUDGETS & REVENUE COMMITTEE**

2 **POLICY: SUPPORT FOR THE INVESTING IN OUR**
3 **COMMUNITIES ACT**

4 **TYPE: RESOLUTION**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, advance refunding of tax-exempt municipal bonds can be a financial tool
7 that saves state and local governments billions of dollars by allowing them to provide
8 more comprehensive savings at lower costs to taxpayers; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the refunding of tax-exempt municipal bonds is a mechanism by which
11 states and localities finance infrastructure projects, utilities, education, and other
12 general purpose bonds; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, a refunding occurs when the proceeds from one bond are used to pay off
15 another bond, typically at a lower interest rate; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the Investing in our Communities Act as introduced in the 116th Congress
18 restores the ability for states to advance refund their tax-exempt municipal bonds, which
19 was eliminated by the Tax Cuts and Job Act of 2017; and

20
21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Conference of State
22 Legislatures urges Congress to pass legislation that restores the ability of states to
23 finance public infrastructure that is cost-effective and consistent with NCSL principles of
24 preserving fiscal viability and tax reform.

1 **COMMITTEE: LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

2 **POLICY: APPRENTICESHIP**

3 **TYPE: RESOLUTION**

4

5 **WHEREAS**, the continuing COVID pandemic has contributed to a significant dislocation
6 and displacement of the workforce, and

7

8 **WHEREAS**, the potential for an expanded registered apprenticeship program in the
9 United States can help workers reconnect to the economy while enhancing their skills
10 and opportunities, and

11

12 **WHEREAS**, , innovative new registered apprenticeship programs in non-traditional
13 economic sectors such as health care, technology, and personal services will open
14 pathways for increased diversity and inclusion in those occupations, and

15

16 **WHEREAS**, the traditional “earn while you learn,” approach of registered apprenticeship
17 will reduce economic barriers to higher skilled occupations that currently are limited to
18 paid tuition and fee based courses, and

19

20 **WHEREAS**, the traditional “on-the-job” learning requirements of registered
21 apprenticeship are a successful learning style for many students who prefer learning
22 skills through hands-on experience in addition to tradition classroom coursework, and

23 **WHEREAS**, providing incentives to employers to participate in registered
24 apprenticeship programs in non-traditional sectors through tax policies and apprentice
25 utilization agreements, when combined with long-term employer commitments, will
26 establish a sustainable future for apprenticeship programs, and

27

28 **WHEREAS**, the success of traditional registered apprenticeship programs that are
29 financially sustainable and jointly managed create tens of thousands high wage and

30 high skilled jobs to ensure future generations of skilled apprentices for high demand
31 occupations in our country, and

32

33 **WHEREAS**, replicating the success of traditional registered apprenticeship programs to
34 non-traditional occupations will take significant resources and support from the United
35 States Department of Labor,

36

37 **WHEREAS**, there are very successful apprenticeship programs in the United States
38 and throughout the world,

39

40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCSL support federal initiatives and
41 funding to expand state registered apprenticeship programs into non-traditional
42 occupations and careers, considering best practices and policies found in other
43 countries.

1 **COMMITTEE: LAW, CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY**

2 **POLICY: IMMIGRATION REFORM**

3 **TYPE: POLICY DIRECTIVE**

4 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) recognizes the contributions
5 immigrants and refugees make to our state economies, cultures and communities while
6 also recognizing the challenges facing our country in matters related to immigration.
7 Federal immigration policy must strike a balance among core principles of our
8 democracy: preserving the safety and security of our nation, encouraging the economic
9 strength of our states and communities, and recognizing our history as a nation of
10 immigrants. The impact of the federal government’s immigration policy
11 decisions is directly felt by the states who not only implement programs required by
12 federal law but also encourage the integration of immigrants into the economic, social
13 and civic life of their adopted communities. States bear the costs of immigration in many
14 areas including education, health and law enforcement systems, with limited federal
15 reimbursement.

16

17 **Immigration Reform**

18 State legislators call on Congress and the Administration to enact immigration reform
19 that enhances our border security and addresses the imbalance in the state-federal
20 relationship. Immigration reform and implementation requires true collaboration between
21 state and federal leaders. Our nation’s immigration laws must not contain unfunded
22 mandates nor preempt areas of existing state authority. Federal immigration reform will
23 not be comprehensive unless it addresses the fiscal and economic impact of
24 immigration on the states.

25

26 Federal immigration reform legislation must also provide a path to citizenship
27 for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigrants and immigrants who were
28 brought to the U.S. as children (DREAMers), have lived most of their lives in the U.S.,

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

29 and Identify as American. These immigrants have contributed to our economy through
30 work and have paid taxes and have been productive members of society.

31

32 **SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

33 **Border Security & Enforcement**

34 Securing all of America’s borders, ports, and airports is essential to preserving our
35 national security and maintaining the safety of all Americans. NCSL urges the federal
36 government to fulfill its responsibilities with regard to border security and encourages
37 a renewed state-federal cooperation in countering human trafficking, weapons and drug
38 smuggling. NCSL urges the federal government to increase its enforcement of these
39 crimes.

40

41 NCSL supports full, federal funding for increases in Department of Homeland Security
42 border enforcement systems and processes where they are most needed
43 and necessary to create a plan for the effective use of new technologies and
44 infrastructure at the borders.

45

46 **The Role of State and Local Law Enforcement**

47 NCSL is strongly opposed to any efforts to shift enforcement of civil immigration law to
48 state and local law enforcement agencies. State legislators believe that enforcement of
49 federal civil immigration law is a federal responsibility and that state involvement in
50 immigration enforcement activities should be discretionary with each state.

51 NCSL opposes efforts to criminalize violations of civil federal immigration law in an effort
52 to shift federal enforcement responsibilities to state and local law officers. State and
53 local government law enforcement and public safety personnel must already
54 incarcerate, detain and transport illegal immigrants who have committed crimes, without
55 adequate federal funding. NCSL strongly supports full reimbursement to states for the
56 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). NCSL also opposes any effort to
57 coerce state participation in enforcement of federal immigration law by withholding
58 SCAAP program funds.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

59 **EMPLOYMENT RELATED MIGRATION**

60 **Workforce Visa Reforms**

61 NCSL supports workforce immigration reforms that improve the current worker visa
62 programs, increase the number of H-1B visa admissions based on need, streamline the
63 employer sponsorship process, and guide the nation towards economic recovery. Many
64 states rely on migrant labor for key industries such as agriculture and farm work. The
65 federal government should implement immigration reforms that provide temporary or
66 permanent legal status to these workers in order to stabilize the workforce in
67 these affected industries.

68

69 **Worksite Enforcement**

70 NCSL believes that while worksite employment verification is a critical component of
71 overall immigration enforcement, it is an area that requires reform and improvements in
72 order maximize effectiveness and efficient use of resources. NCSL opposes federal
73 efforts to treat state governments differently from the private sector in meeting federal
74 requirements designed to identify workers who are not authorized to work, as well as
75 employers who knowingly hire unauthorized workers.

76

77 **Enforcement Activities**

78 NCSL believes that federal enforcement activities – at the worksite or in communities -
79 must be coordinated with state and local government. NCSL urges the federal
80 government to be mindful that the states bear the primary responsibility for the children
81 who are separated from their families as a result of federal enforcement activities. NCSL
82 supports federal coordination with child welfare and law enforcement agencies to end
83 the policy of family separation, take swift action to locate and reunite families, including
84 families that may have been separated by deportation and-guarantee that children are
85 not endangered.

86

87 **ELIMINATING COST-SHIFTS TO THE STATES**

88 **State Impact Assistance**

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

89 NCSL supports the provision of flexible federal financial resources to states in order
90 to implement and execute immigration reform efforts. While states have been able to
91 serve immigrant populations with COVID-19 stimulus resources for health care,
92 cash assistance, and food assistance, these funds are temporary. State impact grants
93 continue to be an important component of the state-federal partnership in immigration
94 reform as these represent a reliable, guaranteed funding stream for the provision of
95 public health services, education, and English language acquisition to immigrant
96 populations. State impact grants require state legislative appropriation, while providing
97 needed flexibility and accountability.

98

99 **PERMANENT, TEMPORARY IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

100 **Temporary Worker Program**

101 NCSL supports comprehensive immigration reform that includes a temporary worker
102 program and the creation of an earned legalization program for immigrants currently in
103 the country without authorization. Such reform would increase productivity and
104 wages for our entire economy, stimulating job growth and increasing tax revenue NCSL
105 opposes outright amnesty as well as federal efforts to deny benefits to legal immigrants
106 and to citizens who are foreign born.

107

108 **Refugee Assistance**

109 NCSL supports federal efforts to assist individuals and families forced to flee their native
110 land in fear for their personal safety. The United States has a long history of welcoming
111 refugees and is one of the largest refugee resettlement countries in the world.

112 Federal support to states is critical for the provision of income and medical assistance,
113 social services, education, employment and training and other services as needed.

114 NCSL believes that funding should be more flexible to allow states to respond to
115 changing needs.

116

117 The federal government should provide English and citizenship instruction as well as job
118 training to refugees, where possible, before they arrive in the United States.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

119 NCSL strongly urges the federal government to avoid further placements in areas that
120 are already heavily impacted with refugee or Entrant populations, experiencing a
121 shortage of rental housing for low-income households, and experiencing overcrowding
122 in the local school system. NCSL supports refugee placement policies that promote
123 successful integration of refugees in the placement community. Placement should
124 be tailored to give refugees economic, affordable housing, educational, language
125 access, and community engagement opportunities in their new area. NCSL urges the
126 federal government to continue to work with states on the issue of secondary
127 migration.

128
129 NCSL urges the federal government to continue the health screening that is currently
130 provided to the refugees, where possible, before they arrive in the United States and to
131 improve follow-up such as providing instruction for continued medical care to refugees
132 in the home and increasing outreach to bridge language and cultural differences.
133 State health screening support is critical and should not be eliminated.

134
135 NCSL urges the federal government to coordinate and consult with state and local
136 governments as an integral component of a successful placement policy and we urge
137 the federal government to improve its efforts in this area. It is equally important to have
138 the voluntary agencies and organizations representing refugees participate in this
139 coordinated effort. NCSL supports extended protection for victims of trafficking, victims
140 of domestic violence, and unaccompanied minors. NCSL supports continuing trafficking
141 and domestic violence victim assistance programs through VOCA and other federal
142 grants.

143 144 **CITIZENSHIP AND INTEGRATION**

145 **Naturalization and Integration**

146 NCSL supports the promotion of citizenship and reducing institutional barriers
147 to citizenship as national priorities. Delays in citizenship applications are unjustified and
148 costly to applicants. The federal government should allocate sufficient resources for

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

149 more efficient citizenship adjudication and integration processes. The costs of becoming
150 a citizen are excessive and a barrier to those working families who seek citizenship.
151 NCSL strongly urges the federal government to assist the states in their efforts to
152 promote naturalization and to address all barriers to naturalization.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1 **COMMITTEE:** **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2 **POLICY:** **REAL ID**

3 **TYPE:** **DIRECTIVE**

4

5 NCSL urges Congress and the administration to continue to work with NCSL and its
6 members on implementation of REAL ID that recognize national security but do not
7 impede the sovereignty of state licenses of place a federal agency or agent as
8 permanent and ongoing authority for determining state license uses and
9 requirements. NCSL supports efforts to extend existing deadlines until obstacles to
10 implementation are addressed. In addition, NCSL supports the use of waivers by the
11 Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, for states that have adopted other
12 forms of compatible identification.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

2 **POLICY: WATER CARRIER SUBSIDIES**

3 **TYPE: RESOLUTION**

4

5 **WHEREAS**, Island states and territories across the United States, including those in the
6 Indo-Pacific Command (Indo-PACOM) Region, are mostly dependent on the import of
7 goods.

8

9 **WHEREAS**, Island communities rely on transport by water carrier, the majority of these
10 goods are transported as waterborne cargo, unlike communities in the continental U.S.
11 that possess alternative means of transporting goods by truck and rail

12

13 **WHEREAS**, current agricultural specific and aircraft to remote destination subsidies
14 exist within the USDA and USDOT, respectively,

15

16 **WHEREAS**, subsidies do not currently exist for general cargo transport to and within
17 U.S. island states and territories.

18

19 **WHEREAS**, due to these island communities' dependency on the import of goods,
20 maritime support in the form of federal water cargo subsidies is necessary to ensure
21 localized economic security.

22

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
24 (NCSL) urges Congress to fund a broad subsidy for trans-Pacific, trans-Atlantic, and
25 interisland waterborne cargo to improve the affordability of imported goods,

26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NCSL requests that U.S.
28 Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, the most appropriate federal

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

29 agency, develop and implement such a federal waterborne cargo subsidies program
30 and that sources of any subsidies may be from existing or newly created federal
31 programs.

[BACK TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)