

November 17, 2015



The Honorable James Lankford
U.S. Senate
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deb Fischer
U.S. Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez
U.S. House of Representatives
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act (S. 189/H.R. 50)

Dear Senators Lankford and Fischer and Representatives Foxx and Sanchez:

On behalf of the Big 7, a coalition of national organizations that represent state and local officials, we applaud your efforts to make improvements to the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) of 1995. Monitoring federal regulations and planning for unfunded mandates continues to be one of the most pressing issues for state and local leaders. In particular, we support strengthening the required analysis of pending legislation and your call for a strong regulatory look back process. This additional information is critical for improving both the legislative and regulatory processes.

As you know, UMRA was designed to limit the imposition of unfunded federal mandates on state, local, and tribal governments by requiring the Congressional Budget Office and regulatory agencies to provide a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the anticipated costs of legislation and certain regulations, respectively. As UMRA begins its third decade, its goal to "...curb the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on State and local governments," is even more important.

A report by the White House Office of Management and Budget stated that federal regulations and unfunded mandates cost states, cities and the general public between \$44 and \$62 billion each year. With many states and local governments continuing to face difficult economic conditions, the federal government should avoid imposing any new unfunded mandates. Moreover, federal regulatory agencies should work more closely with state and local governments and other stakeholders during the rule making process to gather input and identify practical solutions.

We commend you for your leadership in advocating the enactment of this legislation, and we look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure its passage.

Sincerely,



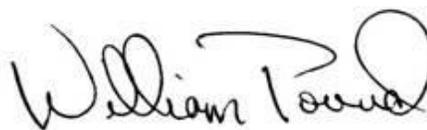
David Adkins
CEO and Executive Director
The Council of State Governments



Matthew D. Chase
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National Association of Counties



Dan Crippen
Executive Director
National Governors Association
Legislatures



William T. Pound
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National Conference of State
Legislatures



The Council of State Governments



Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Robert J. O'Neill, Jr.
Executive Director
International City/County Management Association



CC: Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives

