NCSL on the Hill

NCSL Helps Secure State Funding in 2 Major Federal Relief Packages

As the nation’s capital was shutting down to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus, NCSL’s staff ramped up advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., to ensure states had the federal resources needed to battle the pandemic.

The unprecedented public health emergency posed a behemoth challenge to states, requiring NCSL to leverage relationships at the federal and legislative levels and with coalition partners. Even as staff adapted to a “tele-advocacy” environment, they produced a flurry of forms, including letters to Congress and the Trump administration, Big Seven coalition statements of position and virtual meetings with congressional members and staff—all with the goal of securing flexible, direct resources to states on the front lines of the pandemic.

NCSL successfully helped to secure funding for states in both the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the $2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Within hours of enactment of the response packages, NCSL staff released an analysis and initiated a series of webinars for members distilling all the major policy areas affected, including education, emergency management, fiscal and health services.

In addition to launching more than a dozen webinars, staff also conducted multiple state-focused briefings for legislative leadership. In lieu of in-person gatherings, large-scale virtual engagements continue at a feverish pace with no signs of slowing as Congress and the administration produce new legislation and regulatory guidance affecting recently passed laws.

NCSL will continue to be the states’ advocate in D.C. as the next phase of COVID-19 response develops.

D.C. FLY-INS

Carlucci Talks Privacy, Consumer Protection

In early March, New York Senator David Carlucci (D) visited Washington, D.C., to help NCSL showcase state leadership in privacy and consumer protection. Carlucci met with staff from the Senate Commerce and House Energy and Commerce committees, both of which have released bills or proposed legislation on privacy.

Although neither chamber currently has scheduled hearings on comprehensive privacy legislation, progress on a federal bill continues.

Carlucci also met with Federal Communications Commission representatives to discuss spoofing and robocalls, state-federal collaboration and the agency’s proposed three-digit mental health hotline.

D.C. Fly-Ins: As the voice of state legislatures in Washington, D.C., NCSL brings legislators to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress, the administration and other players involved in crucial state-federal issues.

ON THE RADAR

Data delay: NCSL is working on behalf of states forced to amend redistricting laws after the U.S. Census Bureau pushed its data delivery date to July 31, 2021.

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