The NCSL Executive Committee Task Force on Immigration and the States was created with the dual purpose of providing a forum for states to exchange ideas and promising practices while helping legislators understand the implications of federal immigration reform proposals on their states. Immigration affects state legislatures across a broad spectrum of policies – from education to transportation, from health care to law enforcement. Recently, state legislators have identified the need for credible research data to effectively assess immigrants’ impacts on the economy, state budgets, and tax revenues. What is the role of immigrants in local workforce supply and demand? How can state level reports – both fiscal and economic - be more robust and comprehensive? This session presents information on national and Western states’ responses to immigration challenges and the unique perspective and experience of Western states.

9:15 – 9:25  Welcoming Remarks:  
Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, Washington 
Senator Ellen Roberts, Colorado

9:25 – 9:45  Speaker:  Theresa Cardinal Brown, Director of Immigration Policy, Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), Washington, D.C.
- How the BPC Immigration Task Force members frame the immigration debate
- Economic analysis of the Senate immigration bill (S. 744)
- Fiscal and economic impacts of immigration on the U.S. and Western states
- BPC’s immigration research

9:45 – 10:00  Speaker:  Michele Waslin, Manager, Immigration and the States, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, D.C.
- Pew’s immigration research
- Demographics of immigrants with a focus on western states, including population changes by state and county

10:00-10:10  Q&A

10:10–10:30  Roundtable Discussion:  Challenges and Policy Options in the Western States