



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT
AUGUST 2014
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

MEMORIAL CALENDAR

COMMUNICATIONS FINANCIAL SERVICES AND INTERSTATE COMMERCE
NCSL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORKS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NCSL SUPPORTS NATIONAL HEALTH IT WEEK SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2014

1 **COMMITTEE: COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND**
2 **INTERSTATE COMMERCE**

3 **POLICY: NCSL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE**
4 **PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORKS**

5 **TYPE: MEMORIAL**

6 WHEREAS, the operations of state governments and the roles of elected officials are
7 often little understood by citizens. Yet public understanding of the institutions and
8 processes of government is critical to building public trust and confidence. State
9 governments need to bring about a better understanding of the concepts of
10 representative democracy; and

11
12 WHEREAS, a growing number of states have created or supported the creation of state
13 public affairs television networks whose charge it is to offer unfiltered, gavel-to-gavel
14 coverage of legislative sessions, committee proceedings and similar actions within the
15 executive and judicial branches. By providing an "open window" on the workings of
16 their state governments, these independent networks have increased citizen access,
17 public trust and understanding of both the governmental and the public policy process at
18 large; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the National Association of Public Affairs Networks (NAPAN) has been
21 conceived to help establish and expand nationally such noncommercial, independent
22 television networks devoted to providing citizens with fair, balanced, and unfiltered
23 access to their state governments: to foster and nurture the institutions that will help
24 create the informed electorate that will shape our democracy in the years to come.
25 NAPAN is committed to the launch and viability of networks in all 50 states.

26
27 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Conference of State Legislatures
28 supports and encourages the efforts of the National Association of Public Affairs

29 Networks in its vision for the formation and expansion of a state public affairs network in
30 each of the 50 states in the manner most appropriate for each individual state.

1 **COMMITTEE:** HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
2 **POLICY:** NCSL SUPPORTS NATIONAL HEALTH IT WEEK
3 SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2014
4 **TYPE:** MEMORIAL

5 National Health IT Week 2014 will take place September 15-19. Key public and private
6 healthcare constituents – representing the full spectrum of healthcare interests – will
7 convene in Washington, DC and around the country to address implications for ongoing
8 healthcare reform initiatives and promote understanding and implementation of ARRA
9 now.

10

11 Initiated in 2006 by The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society
12 (HIMSS), National Health IT Week has emerged as a landmark occasion for bringing
13 together diverse national healthcare stakeholders, who partner in developing neutral,
14 common ground for the advancement of health IT adoption with "One Voice, One
15 Vision."

16

17 This September, nearly 400 public and private sector organizations throughout the
18 nation will participate in the Ninth Annual National Health IT Week.

19

20 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has worked closely with HIMSS
21 and other stakeholder organizations to promote understanding among state
22 policymakers of the contributions of health IT to improving the quality and safety of
23 healthcare delivery and containing healthcare costs. National Health IT Week presents
24 an opportunity for NCSL and other stakeholders to recognize the value of information
25 technology and management systems to transform the United States healthcare
26 system, improving the quality and cost efficiency for all Americans.

27

28 NCSL encourages its members to observe "National Health IT Week 2014" in
29 appropriate ways in their respective state capitals as well as in the Nation's Capital.
30 NCSL also encourages its members to urge their respective delegations to the United

31 States Congress to join in recognizing the benefits of health information technology as
32 they act to improve health care for all citizens during National Health Information
33 Technology Week.