

March 13, 2018



The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
Washington, DC 20510



The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
Washington, DC 20515



RE: The Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act (H.R. 50/S. 1523)

Dear Senators Johnson and McCaskill and Representatives Gowdy and Cummings:



On behalf of the Big 7, a coalition of national organizations representing 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, the goal of curbing “the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on State and local governments” is even more important.



A past report by the White House Office of Management and Budget stated 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 facing revenue restrictions and growing local financial burdens, 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
Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Scott Pattison
Executive Director
National Governors Association



William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures



Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



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



Marc Ott
Executive Director
International City/County Management Association

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