



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

November 6, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Curtis Bramble**  
*Senate President Pro Tempore*  
*Utah*  
*President, NCSL*

**Karl Aro**  
*Director of Administration*  
*Department of Legislative Services*  
*Maryland*  
*Staff Chair, NCSL*

**William T. Pound**  
*Executive Director*

Dear Speaker Ryan:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), we are pleased to offer you our congratulations and our best wishes on your election as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. As legislative leaders, we understand the challenges that you face, especially in restoring the people's confidence in the legislative branch of government. We have a shared responsibility to our mutual constituents that the government for which they pay taxes must work and work well. We welcome the opportunity to join with you and the congressional leadership on a cooperative state-federal partnership.

NCSL's States' Agenda guides our advocacy before Congress, the administration, and the federal courts and must be consistent with support of state sovereignty and state flexibility and protection from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal preemption. There are several bills pending in Congress that embody these tenets and we respectfully request that you ensure action on these state-federal priorities this year:

- Conference the House and Senate Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) bills and produce a bipartisan reauthorization that restores the state-federal partnership in education;
- Enact the Remote Transaction Parity Act (RTPA) or similar legislation that will establish a level playing field for all sellers regardless if they are on Main Street or online, by allowing the states to require remote sellers to collect and remit the sales taxes that are already owed; and
- Adopt a long-term, fully-funded agreement on surface transportation funding as part of a multi-year reauthorization.

State legislatures play an indispensable role as policy innovators and as partners with the federal government in addressing the country's critical policy challenges. We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Senator Curt Bramble  
President Pro Tem, Utah Senate  
NCSL President

Senator Michael Gronstal  
Majority Leader, Iowa Senate  
NCSL President-elect