

**NCSL STANDING COMMITTEE on LABOR AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

POLICY DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT
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CONTENTS

POLICY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2

**POLICY: FOSTERING A STRONG RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND CANADA..... 9**

26 **Arts, Culture and Economic Development**

- 27 • NCSL encourages the federal government to support arts and culture through
28 investments in State and Local programs that will promote economic
29 development, job creation and community revitalization.
- 30 • NCSL encourages collaboration and coordination among the Federal
31 Government's disparate arts, culture and economic development agencies as
32 they consider State and local programs ensure that the policy and program
33 outcomes meet the needs and goals identified by state policymakers.

34
35 **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Reauthorization & Funding**

36 State legislatures play a primary role in setting their state's workforce development
37 strategies and funding programs and initiatives to ensure education and training
38 programs meet their state's workforce needs. State legislators, as members of state
39 workforce boards, are key stakeholders in the success of federal Workforce Innovation
40 and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.

41
42 In order to train and maintain a highly skilled workforce NCSL believes that states
43 should be given flexibility to meet the broad goals set out in the Workforce Innovation
44 and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and that state discretion to establish and administer
45 workforce development services should be maintained.

46
47 A reauthorized Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act should facilitate a stronger
48 and more involved role for legislatures and legislators in all the states and territories to
49 shape the implementation of authorized programs to ensure their alignment with state
50 workforce strategies, especially those facilitated through complementary state
51 legislation.

52
53 To better support statewide coordination, WIOA should support opportunities for states
54 to coordinate and collaborate with higher education on workforce development, as well

55 as promote coordination and alignment between related federal programs such as the
56 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.

57

58 *Funding and Programmatic Uses*

59 NCSL believes that the components of an integrated WIOA system should be
60 appropriately funded in appropriation and reauthorization.

61

62 ~~Reauthorization of WIOA should not include inflexible federal mandates and restrictions~~
63 ~~on how funds can be used by states and the localities which deliver these services.~~

64

65 A reauthorized Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act should grant flexibilities to
66 states whenever possible to direct funding and develop programs in ways that advance
67 state workforce priorities and legislative strategies, especially by recognizing the
68 opportunities provided through work-based learning and registered apprenticeships.

69

70 As technological change, globalization, and industrial transitions reshape labor markets,
71 WIOA program design must recognize the importance of worker-centered, non-
72 discriminatory lifelong learning and support opportunities for workers to reskill and
73 upskill throughout their career for high-demand, high quality, market-driven occupations,
74 including through programs offered by their current employer or as part of effective
75 reentry employment training programs.

76

77 WIOA program design should also recognize workers and learners face broader
78 barriers to participation in training programs. WIOA should provide funding and flexibility
79 to allow states to use funding for wraparound services to help workers overcome
80 barriers to participation.

81

82 WIOA should allow states the flexibility to use funding for wraparound services to help
83 workers overcome barriers to participation.

84

85 NCSL believes that administrative and technological funding for One-Stops should be
86 central to WIOA appropriation and reauthorization.

87

88 *Data and Reporting*

89 Federal programs, especially Workforce Pell, increasingly require states to collect and
90 coordinate an increasing array of data points across education and workforce systems,
91 including enhanced wage records.

92

93 WIOA should support states in the development of integrated longitudinal data systems
94 that enhance states' understanding of education and workforce outcomes, while
95 protecting privacy and preventing misuse of data. Federal support for state data
96 systems should be commensurate with expectations placed on states.

97

98 Congress should provide states with funding to support WIOA data and reporting to
99 include: placement rates, wage outcomes (i.e. pre-displacement wages, post-training
100 placement rates, wage replacement ratios), benefit provision rates, employment
101 classification (full-time/part-time, permanent/temporary), and retention and
102 advancement data.

103

104 Federal grant programs that support state data systems, such as the State Longitudinal
105 Data Systems grant at the U.S. Department of Education and the Workforce Data
106 Quality Initiative at the U.S. Department of Labor, should be designed and coordinated
107 in a way that provides maximum flexibility for states to most effectively connect
108 education and workforce data systems. This could include flexibility to develop the
109 infrastructure for state or interstate talent marketplaces that utilize digital learning and
110 employment records.

111

112 Additionally, workforce development reporting should be streamlined to ensure high-
113 quality information while promoting program and administrative efficiencies.

114

115 **National Apprenticeship Act**

- 116 • NCSL supports federal funding for apprenticeship programs to provide
117 opportunities for adults to earn a wage while they learn a trade or profession.
118 NCSL supports federal grant funding to expand registered apprenticeship
119 programs in new and emerging industries.
- 120 • NCSL encourages opportunities to integrate registered apprenticeships and pre-
121 apprenticeships across federal programs, as appropriate.
- 122 • NCSL supports strengthening work-based learning opportunities established
123 under the National Apprenticeship Act, maintaining high quality programs, and
124 joint labor-management partnerships.
- 125 • NCSL encourages flexibility within federal standards to promote innovation,
126 streamline administrative burdens, and maintain high quality programs through
127 both joint labor-management partnerships and independent, employer-sponsored
128 apprenticeship models.
- 129 • NCSL supports a streamlined federal approval process that eliminates delays
130 and ensures fair, timely access for all qualified program sponsors to help expand
131 registered apprenticeship as a viable option for education and workforce training.
- 132 • The federal government should effectively communicate with state agencies on
133 their role in program oversight.

134

135 **Responsible Housing and Housing Finance**

- 136 • NCSL encourages the Congress and the Administration to support flexibility and
137 state discretion in housing programs and avoid unfunded mandates.
- 138 • NCSL encourages efforts to promote a greater state role in administering federal
139 housing programs, subject to sufficient funding and flexibility.
- 140 • NCSL is encouraged and supportive of public private partnership programs and
141 initiatives that increase the availability of financing for homeownership
142 opportunities. NCSL supports first time home buyer tax credits to promote
143 homeownership prospects, preserving the Mortgage Interest Deduction, and low-
144 income housing tax credits that produce new, affordable housing.

- 145 • NCSL strongly urges the federal government to consult state legislators and
146 other state officials as voucher program reforms are designed to ensure that they
147 will meet state needs, provide the flexibility we desire, avoid cost shifts to states,
148 and continue with ample federal funding for program and administrative costs.
- 149 • Additionally, we urge the Congress to sustain funding levels sufficient to maintain
150 existing vouchers, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development-
151 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) programs and already
152 committed project based Section 8 subsidies.
- 153 • NCSL urges the federal government to respect the primary role that states and
154 localities play in zoning and land use policy. Federal guidance or incentives
155 related to state and local zoning reform must be informed by state feedback and
156 facilitate, rather than mandate, state-led reforms.
- 157 • NCSL encourages the federal government to streamline regulations and
158 modernize federal programs wherever possible to support states in expanding
159 the supply of housing.

160

161 **The Federal Role in Career and Technical Education (CTE)**

162 The federal government should provide additional funding and support the authority of
163 states for flexibility to allocate some funds through a competitive grant administered by
164 the state in pursuit and support of innovative, high quality and effective programs.

- 165 • NCSL believes that CTE competitive grant programs should be used to
166 incentivize and modernize state and local programs in order to meet the evolving
167 needs of students. NCSL supports adequate funding for CTE competitive grant
168 programs.
- 169 • These funding decisions can best be handled at the state level rather than by
170 individual schools and/or districts.
- 171 • States should continue to have the authority to determine the split between
172 secondary and postsecondary CTE programs.
- 173 • ~~The existing CTE funding formula for the allocation of federal funds to the state~~
174 ~~should be maintained.~~

175 The existing CTE funding formula for allocating federal funds to the state should be
176 amended to include annual increases tied to core inflation.

- 177 • Each year under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins
178 V) and its predecessors, Congress appropriates approximately \$1.4 billion in
179 State formula grant funds under Title I (Basic State Grants) to support students
180 who enroll in career and technical education programs and programs of study.
- 181 • Because funding levels have not kept pace with inflation and there is a growing
182 demand for CTE education and workforce programs across the country, it is
183 essential that Congress provide increased support for Perkins Act-funded
184 programs.
- 185 • Increased funding for programs that prepare students for highly skilled jobs
186 aligns with the Workforce Pell provisions in HR 1 – One Big Beautiful Bill
187 (OBBB), allowing students to receive Pell Grants to attend high-quality, short-
188 term career and technical education programs. Previously, Pell Grants could not
189 be used for short-term CTE programs.

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COMMITTEE: LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

POLICY: FOSTERING A STRONG RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

TYPE: MEMORIAL RESOLUTION (sponsored by Oregon Senator Starr)

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States and Canada mutually benefit from a robust relationship in several areas, including but not limited to—

- Economic security;
- Energy security;
- National security;
- International security;

WHEREAS, at a time of global conflict and uncertainty,
(1) the United States enjoys sharing the world’s longest border with its close friend and ally, Canada
(2) the two nations share three oceans: the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Arctic
(3) the two nations ensure that legal trade and activity across maritime and land borders proceed smoothly, while stopping threats such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada share many cross-border cultural exchanges in fields such as athletics, music, film, and religion. These exchanges serve to enrich the relationship between the two nations; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States host hundreds of thousands of each other's students each year, and this educational exchange strengthens binational ties, cultivates a shared pool of skilled talent, and builds lasting cultural and professional connections between the two nations; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the provinces of Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec participate in NCSL's
31 International Affiliate Member Program, which provides a unique platform for both
32 national and subnational governments to strengthen ties with U.S. states, enabling a
33 deeper exchange of ideas, best practices, and mutually beneficial policies, including
34 a renewed emphasis on global economic collaboration and trade; and

35

36 **WHEREAS**, the United States is Canada's largest trading partner in goods and
37 services, and each Canadian province and territory maintains significant trade
38 relationships with individual U.S. states, including-

39 1) Alberta, whose top five trading partner states are Illinois, Texas, Minnesota,
40 Washington, and Oklahoma:

41 2) British Columbia, whose top five trading partner states are Washington,
42 California, Illinois, Oregon, and Texas;

43 3) Manitoba, whose top five trading partner states are Illinois, Minnesota,
44 Wisconsin, Texas, and North Dakota;

45 4) New Brunswick, whose top five trading partner states are Texas,
46 Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire;

47 5) Newfoundland and Labrador, whose top five trading partner states are Texas,
48 New Jersey, California, Massachusetts, and Delaware;

49 6) Nova Scotia, whose top trading partner states are Massachusetts, Illinois,
50 South Carolina, Texas, and New York;

51 7) Ontario, whose top five trading partner states are Michigan, Texas, New York,
52 Ohio, and Illinois;

53 8) Prince Edward Island, whose top five trading partner states are Texas, New
54 Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, and Florida;

55 9) Quebec, whose top five trading partner states are Texas, New York,
56 Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Ohio;

57 10) Saskatchewan, whose top five trading partner states are California,
58 Minnesota, Illinois, Montana, and Texas;

59 11) Northwest Territories, whose top trading partner states are Washington and

60 Florida;
61 12) Nunavut, whose top trading partner states are Texas and Florida;
62 13) Yukon, whose top five trading partner states are Alaska, Texas, Washington,
63 Alabama, and Illinois; and
64

65 **WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada are global leaders in technology and
66 innovation, and together, can make the North American continent the most
67 economically competitive region in the world for emerging technologies such as artificial
68 intelligence; and
69

70 **WHEREAS**, The United States and Canada;

71 (1) are equally committed to protecting global security and promoting democracy
72 across the globe.

73 (2) work together within global institutions such as the Group of 7, Group of 20,
74 the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and
75 Development, the World Trade Organization, and the Organization of American
76 States to advance democracy and human rights; and
77

78 **WHEREAS**, Canada and the US are each other's largest foreign supplier of energy.
79 This relationship allows the U.S. and Canada to not rely on adversarial nations for
80 energy security and economic growth; and
81

82 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State
83 Legislatures reaffirms its strong support for the enduring partnership between the United
84 States and Canada; and
85

86 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of
87 State Legislatures encourages continued collaboration between the two nations in
88 trade, energy development, and technological innovation to enhance mutual economic
89 growth and competitiveness; and

90

91 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of
92 State Legislatures supports ongoing joint efforts between the United States and Canada
93 to promote global security, democratic governance, and respect for human rights; and

94

95 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of
96 State Legislatures recognizes the importance of maintaining and strengthening cross-
97 border relationships at the federal, state, provincial, and local levels.

98

99 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State Legislatures
100 reaffirms its commitment to fostering a strong, cooperative, and forward-looking
101 relationship between the United States and Canada, and supports continued efforts to
102 deepen collaboration in economic growth, technological innovation, and the promotion
103 of shared democratic values.