
The following compilation features published news stories during the week of May 29-June 4 that highlight experts and/or research from The Council of State Governments. For more information about any of the experts or programs discussed, please contact CSG at (800) 800-1910 and you will be directed to the appropriate staff. Members of the press should call (859) 244-8246.

Does cutting mental health care increase the prison population?
Thursday, June 2, 2011
The Washington Post

State-supported mental health care, like many social services, has been especially vulnerable in the recent rounds of budget cuts. Over the past two years, some $1.6 billion has been slashed from non-Medicaid state spending on mental health, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. But a growing number of law enforcement officials — along with mental health advocates — are voicing concerns that such cutbacks not only hurt mental health beneficiaries but also overburden the country’s prison system. More... [2]

Military education compact bill passes
Monday, May 30, 2011
Omaha.com (Omaha World Herald)

Nebraska will join an interstate compact requiring schools to streamline transferring, enrolling and placing military children who move from one state to another.

State lawmakers voted 43-0 on May 10 to send Legislative Bill 575 to Gov. Dave Heineman, who signed it May 16. Nebraska formally will join more than 36 other states with the signing of the compact on July 1, 2012. More... [3]

Six Ideas for Fixing the Nation's Infrastructure Problems
Friday, June 3, 2011
Governing

By most accounts, transportation infrastructure in the United States is in serious disrepair. As roads and bridges across the country continue to age and deteriorate, governments at all levels are struggling to pay for maintenance and upkeep -- not to mention investments in much-needed upgrades and new projects. Since the federal Highway Trust Fund was established in the late 1950s, total combined highway and transit spending as a share of gross domestic product has fallen by about 25 percent, according to the federal National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission. Without changes to current policy, the commission projects a federal highway and transit funding gap totaling nearly $2.3 trillion through 2035. More... [4]