WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments has launched a Federalism Task Force to conduct a two-year effort to explore options for improving the state-federal relationship; and

WHEREAS, unfunded federal mandates place unreasonable demands on limited state resources; and

WHEREAS, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) was adopted to limit these mandates by requiring accurate cost estimates of federal legislation and rule making; and

WHEREAS, loopholes in the original legislation have prevented the intent of the legislation from being fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, independent regulatory agencies were exempt from the requirements of UMRA; and

WHEREAS, requiring cost estimation requirements to legislation that alters the conditions for receiving already existing federal grant assistance, such as changes to Medicaid under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and No Child Left Behind Act, would fulfill the intent of the UMRA.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments encourages Congress to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act to give states a more accurate picture of the cost of federal programs.

Adopted this 22nd Day of September, 2013 at CSG’s 2013 National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.