

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON PANDEMIC FLU PREPAREDNESS**

WHEREAS, influenza pandemics occurred three times in the previous century, and history suggests that the United States will face at least one pandemic in this century;

WHEREAS, pandemics can cause severe illness, death, economic and social disruption throughout the country and the world, with outbreaks occurring in many different locations at once;

WHEREAS, preparing for an influenza pandemic requires coordinated actions at all levels of government – federal, state, and local – and all sectors of society, including business, schools, faith-based and community organizations, families and individuals;

WHEREAS, the federal government is leading the nation’s efforts to prepare by monitoring outbreaks, providing funding and technical assistance to foster state and local preparedness, stockpiling and distributing vaccines and treatments, developing new treatments and coordinating the national response;

WHEREAS, states and local communities are responsible under their own authorities for responding to an outbreak within their jurisdiction and having comprehensive pandemic preparedness plans in place to protect their own citizens; and these plans must be continuously exercised and updated to achieve a stronger level of preparedness;

WHEREAS, pandemic preparedness strengthens state and local governments’ ability to respond to any type of public health emergency which has lasting benefits for the health of our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments encourages the federal government to allow flexibility in program requirements during response to a pandemic flu outbreak, to continue funding and technical support for state and local responses, and to provide effective communications to states on priority response actions. Additionally, federal agencies need to coordinate their efforts to facilitate regional sharing of services and support between states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges states to implement, test and review pandemic preparedness plans for both the state and local jurisdictions to protect the health of citizens as well as the social and economic infrastructure, and to improve the ability to respond to any type of public health emergency. State legislators are encouraged to be leaders in this process, to become familiar with state and local preparedness plans, and to participate in testing of state and local plans including communications with emergency planners and constituents.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON PASS ID**

WHEREAS, Congress passed the REAL ID Act as part of the 2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act (P.L. 109-13), creating burdensome and untenable national standards for the issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards (DL/ID); and

WHEREAS, unless Congress passes legislation or DHS extends the deadline or grants waivers to states for implementing REAL ID requirements, states must demonstrate material compliance as set forth by the REAL ID Act and the implementing regulations by December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, beginning January 1, 2010, state issued driver's licenses and identification cards (DL/ID) that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determines not to be materially compliant the REAL ID Act will no longer be deemed acceptable forms of identification for federal purposes; and

WHEREAS, Congress has introduced the Providing for Additional Security in States' Identification (PASS ID) Act of 2009 (S. 1261 / H.R. 3471), which would repeal Title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005 and would address many of the obstacles states face to implementing a more secure DL/ID system; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges the Congress and the administration work with CSG's members on developing alternatives to REAL ID, such as PASS ID, that will allow states to actively participate in the development and implementation of a more secure and sustainable DL/ID system.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges the Congress and the administration to work with CSG and CSG's members as PASS ID moves through the legislative process to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that the legislation includes increased privacy protections, minimizes the cost burden to states, and continues ongoing and substantive stakeholder coordination.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Meeting in La Quinta, CA.



Gov. Joe Manchin III
CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis
CSG Chairman

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON RATING AGENCY
REFORM AND PRESERVING THE TOWER AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, state governments and other levels of government rely on the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to finance the construction of critically needed infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, bond ratings have a direct impact on the interest rates at which governments can issue their bonds, and therefore the debt service their taxpayers must support; and

WHEREAS, three rating agencies – Fitch, Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s – assign the great majority of ratings used in the municipal bond market and, therefore, their rating methodologies play an important role in determining the cost to taxpayers of investing in infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, because the three rating agencies have a profound impact on the municipal bond market, there is an important public purpose in ensuring that bonds are rated fairly and appropriately; and

WHEREAS, both Moody’s and Fitch acknowledge they have applied a stricter rating standard to the rating of municipal bonds compared to the rating of corporate bonds; and

WHEREAS, the primary obligation of an issuer of bonds is to pay the debt service on the bonds on time and in full; and

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments adopted a resolution at the 2007 CSG Spring Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, entitled “Resolution Opposing Amendment or Repeal of the Tower Amendment” which opposes the extension of federal disclosure laws to state and local government issuers; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments acknowledges the recent dialogue rating agencies have conducted with state treasurers and other issuers in this regard and recommends that: (1) rating agencies should utilize a single rating scale for all debt instruments such that a rating applied to a municipal bond indicates the same credit risk as that same rating applied to corporate bonds, while also recognizing the need for relative ratings amongst municipal issuers; and (2) ratings should measure the ability of an issuer to meet its obligation to investors as promised in the bond documents, such obligation primarily being to pay debt service on time and in full.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges the Congress and the administration not to take any action that would preempt state and local finance authority and state oversight of the debt issuance process through revision or repeal of the Tower Amendment or enactment of legislation to subject state and local government issuers to federal disclosure laws.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE
LEGISLATIVE MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUSES**

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to one's overall health and well-being and will strike one in five adults each year regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

WHEREAS, the costs of mental health disorders is more than \$150 billion each year, including the costs of treatment, social services and disability payments, lost productivity and premature death; and

WHEREAS, the indirect costs of mental illnesses are estimated at \$79 billion, \$63 billion of that due to lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, more than half of all prison and jail inmates have a mental health problem; and

WHEREAS, thousands of youth are placed each year in child welfare or juvenile justice systems due to unmet intensive mental health needs; and

WHEREAS, research has established that most mental disorders are as treatable and manageable as general medical conditions, and, with proper treatment, persons with mental illness have at least a 75 percent rate of recovery compared to coronary disease which has only a 50 percent success rate; and

WHEREAS, people with mental illness who are in recovery can lead full, productive lives in the community; and

WHEREAS, when treating mental illness, it's important to know that each individual patient responds differently to the different treatment options; and

WHEREAS, due to the similar symptoms among the diseases that comprise mental illness – schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder and others – making an accurate diagnosis can take time; and

WHEREAS, accurate diagnosis of bipolar disorder can take up to 10 years, with 31%-69% of bipolar patients being potentially misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, misdiagnosis of bipolar disorder can lead to increased healthcare costs, higher hospitalization rates and increased suicide rates, inappropriate treatment, with potentially misdiagnosed patients costing nearly \$5,000 more per patient per year than correctly diagnosed bipolar patients, thereby highlighting the important role of early and appropriate diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, nationally the economic costs of alcohol and drug abuse is well over \$254.7 billion annually with \$97.7 billion due to drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the children involved in the foster care system have parents with drug or alcohol related problems; and

WHEREAS, approximately ten million Americans have co-occurring addictive and mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, substance use and mental health conditions are widespread among persons with other health conditions including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, individuals with mental health conditions are more likely to suffer from hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and acute respiratory disorders than the general population; and

WHEREAS, the effects of substance abuse and mental health issues influences all branches of state government including public health, children and family services, criminal justice, housing, employment, and other services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments commends those state legislatures that have created state mental health caucuses as a venue for legislators to learn about important mental health issues affecting the residents of their states and to ensure those residents are best served; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, given the scope of mental health issues facing states and the challenges that exist in current systems of care, the Council of State Governments urges other state legislatures to form a mental health caucus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments urges the state legislative mental health caucuses to develop a strong message about the priority of mental health and wellness, finding solutions that bridge unmet needs, improve the quality and outcomes of care, and strengthen local communities and states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments urges the state legislative mental health caucuses to work to ensure that mental health treatment and services, including community support systems , are funded at appropriate levels; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that that the Council of State Governments encourages the state legislative mental health caucuses to work with public and private providers, non-profit groups such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Mental Health Association and other mental health patient advocacy groups, as well any other private or public entities with an interest in mental health issues in order to educate the legislature and the public on mental health needs and services in their states.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE SECURITIES REGULATION**

WHEREAS, there is now a crisis in the United States and world financial markets which demonstrates the need for strong, effective securities regulation; and

WHEREAS, the losses suffered in the financial markets have damaged confidence in those markets, and have greatly harmed small and retail investors; and

WHEREAS, financial and property market crashes have created the need for government bailouts and financial rescue packages, and the cost of these bailouts will be borne by all taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, federal securities regulation has repeatedly proven to be inadequate to police the financial markets and protect investors; and

WHEREAS, the state securities agencies have effectively filled the gaps left by other regulators and have energetically protected retail investors; and

WHEREAS, CSG favors preserving a diversity of financial regulators, state and federal, that can act independently when such independence is warranted; and

WHEREAS, the financial services industry wishes for the regulatory authority of the states to be diminished or preempted because the states have regulated effectively and aggressively;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Council of State Governments urges that the United States Congress and the President of the United States maintain and enhance the ability of the states to protect the investors and consumers residing in their states taking no action that would jeopardize, diminish, or preempt the existing authority of the states to investigate and prosecute investment fraud and other illegal investment activities by broker-dealers, investment advisers, their agents and representatives, financial planners, and any other persons or entities, whether licensed or unlicensed, engaged in activities in connection with the offer and sale of securities within a state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to each member of the United States Congress and to the President of the United States.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABILITY OF
MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND THEIR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, the President, in two executive orders, E.O. 13423, January 26, 2007, and E.O. 13514, October 5, 2009, has adopted sustainability as the policy of the Federal government in order to “promote energy security, protect the interests of taxpayers and safeguard the health of the environment”, and has directed Federal agencies and federal facilities to lead by example;

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and the military services, are acknowledged leaders within the federal government on incorporating sustainability into their vision and mission. For example, the Army has incorporated sustainability into the foundation of its new strategy for the environment with the goal to address both present and future needs of the Army while strengthening community partnerships to help improve the Army’s ability to organize, equip, train and deploy Soldiers as part of a joint force. This Army strategy seeks to benefit from the sustainability interrelationships of mission, the environment, community and economy and has become a model for all of the services;

WHEREAS, military installations and their surrounding communities share the environment around them, including watersheds, air sheds, as well as transportation and energy infrastructure, and installations have found that, to develop a successful installation sustainability plan, the active involvement and support of the surrounding community, including all levels of government, is essential;

WHEREAS, long-term sustainability of military installations in a state and local community provide a variety of benefits to the state and community, including economic, social, cultural, professional, civic, environmental, recreation, etc.; and

WHEREAS, many diverse communities across the United States have embraced some or all of the concepts of sustainability to help achieve the best possible quality of life for the members of those communities, both now and in the future; and a wide and a diverse range of businesses have recognized that some or all of the tenets of sustainability make good business sense for them and have incorporated them into their business model.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, CSG expresses its support and commitment to promoting partnerships with state, federal, local and tribal governmental entities, as well as non-governmental organizations, academia and industry to promote and advance sustainability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force are encouraged to establish a task force of military and civilian leaders with members of CSG's Energy & Environment Task Force, CSG Associate members, and members of CSG's Executive Committee to identify and promote innovative public policies that enhance energy, water, and natural resource conservation efforts at military installations and in surrounding communities, that support compatible development around military installations, that support installation and mission sustainability as well as protection of training capability, and that support partnerships between installations and communities to identify and implement mutually agreeable sustainability programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CSG encourages the military Services to make it a priority for its uniformed leadership to participate in state legislative and regulatory hearings and local

government meetings in order to explain how proposed laws and ordinances will benefit or inhibit the installation's sustainability and mission capability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CSG encourages the Department of Defense and its Regional Offices to coordinate interactions between military installations and state and local public officials regarding the sustainability of the military mission and to continue to work with CSG leadership and staff to advance the objectives of this resolution.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Meeting in La Quinta, CA.



Gov. Joe Manchin III
CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis
CSG Chairman

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON OPEN AND RECIPROCAL TRADE**

WHEREAS, the States of the United States and the Provinces of Canada are the largest trading partners in the world; totalling \$742 billion in trade in 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments celebrates this and promotes free, open and reciprocal trade as it will strengthen the economies of both nations; and

WHEREAS, trade between the United States and Canada supports 7.1 million American jobs; and

WHEREAS, Canada is a larger market for U.S. goods than all 27 countries of the European Union combined, whose population is more than 15 times that of Canada; and

WHEREAS, Canada is the leading export destination for 35 states, and ranks top three (3) for another 10 States; and

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments believes it is important that the U.S. and Canada maintain their commitment to keeping their respective markets open and accessible to Canadian and American producers of goods and services as this advances the goal of North American competitiveness and will help strengthen the economic structure within both countries.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments encourages local, state, federal and provincial governments to adopt open procurement policies between our two countries.

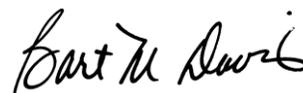
NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments undertake concerted efforts to build awareness and appreciation for the mutual benefits of the open two-way trade system that exists between Canada and the United States.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to appropriate local, state, federal and provincial officials.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION MAINTAINING OVERSIGHT AND REGULATION OF 529 COLLEGE
SAVINGS PLANS WITH THE MUNICIPAL SECURITIES RULEMAKING BOARD**

WHEREAS, oversight and regulation of the 529 college savings plans has resided in the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board since the inception of such plans; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board is overseen by the Securities and Exchange Commission and offers comprehensive regulation and oversight of 529 college savings plans; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board has established a satisfactory working relationship with the states in providing oversight of 529 college savings plans; and

WHEREAS, 529 college savings plans do not traditionally fall under the definition of a “consumer financial product” and are not involved with activities such as brokering home mortgages, providing check guaranty services, engaging in debt collection, providing real estate settlement services, acting as an agent in leasing property, money transmitting, or extending credit; and

WHEREAS, 529 college savings plans are municipal fund securities and are established under state aegis and are offered to the public by municipal brokers and dealers who have entered into specific selling agreements to do so; and

WHEREAS, states currently provide consumer protection oversight for 529 plans, thus obviating the need for additional federal oversight of such plans.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments opposes any effort to remove or transfer oversight and regulation of the 529 college savings plans from the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board to any other federal entity, including any organization that might be established to provide oversight and regulation of consumer credit.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF THE 2010 CENSUS**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the Constitution of the United States of America to conduct a count of the population and provides an historic opportunity for The Council of State Governments to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy;

WHEREAS, The Council of State Governments is committed to ensuring every resident is counted;

WHEREAS, more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities, and decisions are made on matters of national and local importance based on census data, including healthcare, community development, housing, education, transportation, social services, employment, and much more;

WHEREAS, census data determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils, and voting districts;

WHEREAS, the 2010 Census creates hundreds of thousands of jobs across the nation;

WHEREAS, every Census Bureau worker takes a lifetime oath to protect confidentiality and ensure that data identifying respondents or their household not be released or shared for a period of 72 years;

WHEREAS, a united voice from businesses, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educators, media and others will allow the 2010 Census message to reach a broader audience, providing trusted advocates who can spark positive conversations about the 2010 Census;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments supports the goals and ideals for the 2010 Census and will disseminate 2010 Census information to encourage participation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments asks its affiliates and membership to partner together to achieve an accurate and complete count.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments encourages its members to participate in events and initiatives that will raise overall awareness of the 2010 Census and increase participation among all populations.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAXIMIZE
STIMULUS SUPPORT FOR BROADBAND INTERNET USE AND ADOPTION**

WHEREAS, among the approximately 92 percent of American households that have access to broadband Internet services, only about 61 percent of U.S. households subscribe;

WHEREAS, research shows that a “lack of interest” in broadband is one of the main reasons certain populations do not seek out broadband services;

WHEREAS, research also shows that many non-broadband households view broadband as being either irrelevant or difficult to use, and nearly half of the population that does not subscribe to broadband says it does not need such a connection;

WHEREAS, Americans that do not have broadband at home are disproportionately lower-income and older than average and fewer than one-quarter of such Americans have broadband at home;

WHEREAS, the Council of State Governments believes that widespread efforts to promote broadband adoption, use, and digital literacy are critical to improving the nation’s long-term competitiveness in a global market, and to achieving certain socioeconomic improvements in the quality of American life;

WHEREAS, expanding adoption, use and digital literacy skills will allow a greater number of Americans to fully take advantage of the benefits of broadband based applications such as tele-health, energy management and education opportunities online; and

WHEREAS, the broadband funding programs established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dedicate significant resources to promoting broadband awareness, adoption, use, and digital literacy by these populations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments calls upon the federal agencies distributing the broadband funding included in the ARRA to expressly mandate that broadband awareness, adoption, use, and digital literacy programs receive funding priority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments calls upon the federal agencies implementing the broadband funding included in the ARRA to follow Congress’ clear legislative intent with respect to broadband adoption, use, and digital literacy treat the mandated minimum expenditure of \$250 million for these purposes as a threshold level with a maximum limited only by the size of the broadband stimulus program itself.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to members of Congress, the Administration, and the relevant federal agencies implementing the broadband funding programs including but not limited to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Rural Utilities Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments calls upon all levels of government to work cooperatively with the private sector, nonprofits, and academia to develop robust broadband awareness, adoption, and use programs.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED FEDERAL EXPORT PROMOTION LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, small businesses represent approximately 97 percent of all exporters - merely one percent of small firms are currently exporting. This fraction makes up only one quarter of the country's export volume; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2006 World Bank study, every additional dollar spent on export promotion yields a 40-to-1 return in increased export sales; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. is being outspent on export promotion on a per capita basis by our major trading partners by as much as 20-to-1; and

WHEREAS, combined the 50 states spend approximately \$100,000,000 annually on trade promotion programs and employ approximately 1,000 trade specialists; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in Congress that would assist state trade professionals in the form of a pilot program, The State Trade and Export Promotion Program (STEP), delivering \$15 million in grants to state activities that help small businesses to export.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments recognizes the important role trade has to play in America's recovery and supports efforts at the federal level to create a more export focused U.S. economy.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Council of State Governments urges Congress to adopt legislation that supports and enhances state investments in export promotion.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HEALTH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS, health information technology is the use of computer applications to aid in the practice of medicine, including the use of electronic medical records-keeping, databases for clinical decision-making and electronic prescribing of medications;

WHEREAS, research has shown that effective use of electronic health records can reduce costs by avoiding duplicate medical tests, reducing the use of unnecessary services and increasing efficiency in billing;

WHEREAS, electronic prescribing and medical records have the ability to reduce medical errors and dangerous drug interactions;

WHEREAS, health information technology can support drug monitoring programs aimed at preventing prescription fraud and abuse;

WHEREAS, data collected through the widespread use of health information technology could be used to promote the most effective medical treatments at the lowest costs;

WHEREAS, consumers are calling for strict privacy provisions to ensure that their personal medical records are secure;

WHEREAS, the widespread adoption of health information technology was estimated to create \$80 billion in cost savings in a 2005 study by the RAND Corporation;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Veterans Health Administration has been successfully using health information technology for nearly a decade and has improved quality and outcomes for its patients;

WHEREAS, adoption of health information technology is currently a financial burden for many physicians' offices and hospitals;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments applauds provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that provide funding for states to support the adoption of health information technology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments calls on the federal government to continue to lead the effort to implement a nationwide network of health information technology systems and devise standards that ensure private-sector and state-supported systems are interoperable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of State Governments urges the federal government to encourage providers to adopt secure, effective health information technology systems.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION PROMOTING HIGH-SPEED RAIL**
(Forwarded by the Southern Legislative Conference)

The Council of State Governments recommends that states work cooperatively where appropriate to enter into multistate agreements and interstate compacts to enhance the potential for federal high-speed rail funding.

The Council of State Governments also recommends that Congress and the administration prioritize intercity passenger rail and high-speed rail, and include in the next federal transportation authorization a "State Planning and Research Program," which will provide each state with a base level of funding to support comprehensive, state-wide passenger rail and high-speed rail planning.

The Council of State Governments also recommends that Congress and the administration authorize in the next federal transportation authorization \$1.5 million in discretionary state rail planning and research grants that could be awarded in areas related to: coordination with non-motorized transportation; context sensitive design; environmental justice; and measurement of public benefit.

The Council of State Governments encourages states to work with the entire range of stakeholders in this process including officials with AMTRAK, private railroad companies and other related organizations to promote high-speed rail across the country.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION OPPOSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
(Forwarded by the Southern Legislative Conference)

RECOMMENDATION

The Council of State Governments encourages lawmakers to investigate the effects of human trafficking in their own states and act to pass legislation that will address these activities. The Council of State Governments encourages the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families to work with states to further develop policies that:

- Specifically criminalize the practice of human trafficking;
- Define penalties for the various types of trafficking crimes;
- Produce stiffer penalties for crimes against minors;
- Increase training for law enforcement and local prosecutors;
- Regulate the practices of international marriage brokers and similar organizations;
- Improve communication and cooperation among local law enforcement and non-governmental organizations, as well as other service providers;
- Combat the demand for trafficking; and
- Create task forces that assess the extent of human trafficking and examine methods to combat it.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON INTERSTATE HEALTH INSURANCE COMPACT**

WHEREAS, increasing health care costs are contributing to the current economic crisis, weighing heavily on American family, business, and government budgets;

WHEREAS, 14,000 Americans lose their health insurance every day and are increasingly denied realistic market choices for health insurance coverage;

WHEREAS, health care costs cause a bankruptcy in America every 30 seconds and 62.1% of all bankruptcies in 2007 were medical;

WHEREAS, within a decade, it is estimated one out of every four citizen dollars will be spent on health care;

WHEREAS, private insurance premiums for employer-sponsored plans are projected to rise 94% by 2020, reducing American business's competitiveness in the international marketplace;

WHEREAS, states are the rightful and correct venue for health insurance regulation and states have an interest in pursuing state-based approaches to lower health care costs and open up markets for greater health insurance access and competition; and

WHEREAS, interstate compacts are unique tools reserved for the states that encourage multi-state cooperation and innovative policy solutions while asserting and preserving state sovereignty.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments establishes an Interstate Health Insurance Compact Working Group to explore the creation of an agreement that would permit states to join together and share common regulatory standards and consumer protections related to health insurance, including specific recommendations for inclusion in an interstate compact that may be considered by states. Such recommendations will be due to the CSG Health Policy Task Force within one year.

Adopted this 14th Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Conference in La Quinta, CA.



Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia
2009 CSG President



Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho
2009 CSG Chair