

About the Office of Government Relations

The Office of Government Relations works to ensure that governors' views are represented in shaping federal policy. NGA policy positions, reflecting governors' principles on priority issues, guide the association's efforts to influence federal laws and regulations affecting states. The Office of Federal Relations maintains regular contact with congressional leaders and key administration officials, keeps up-to-date information on critical state–federal issues and coordinates state action on behalf of the association.

Structure of the Office of Government Relations

The Office of Government Relations works closely with governors' Washington, D.C., office representatives, state-federal contacts and other state and local government organizations to maximize the effectiveness of NGA's lobbying activities. Specifically, Office of Government Relations staff serve as policy experts and liaisons to Congress and executive branch agencies and coordinate the work and policy activities of the following NGA committees:

- **Economic Development and Commerce Committee** has jurisdiction over a broad range of issues in the areas of transportation infrastructure, telecommunications, international trade promotion, financial services regulation, science and technology development, and affordable housing.
- **Education and Workforce Committee** has jurisdiction over issues in the area of education (including early childhood, K-12, and postsecondary) as well as in the areas of workforce development. Members of the committee ensure that the governors' views are represented in the shaping of federal policy.
- **Health and Human Services Committee** handles issues dealing with health care, particularly as they relate to Medicaid, and federal-state safety net programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other social services. Members of the committee ensure that the governors' views are represented in the shaping of federal policy.
- **Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee** focuses on homeland security, the National Guard and homeland defense, criminal justice and public safety and veterans affairs.
- **Natural Resources Committee** has jurisdiction over issues related to agriculture, energy, the environment and natural resources. Members of the committee ensure that the governors' views are represented in the shaping of federal policy.

NGA Policies

NGA policies are the formal positions taken collectively by governors to influence action by the federal government and inform national debate on critical issues. The primary objective of the policy process is to develop policies that reflect governors' priorities and provide NGA's committees with direction to guide federal advocacy efforts.

NGA Affects Regulations

NGA frequently works with federal regulatory agencies to ensure state concerns and needs are considered in programs administered by or affecting states. In some cases, NGA has been asked to convene state workgroups to develop draft regulations for programs that will be run by states. At other times, NGA provides guidance to federal regulators to ensure rules do not go beyond federal standards and authority and do not result in undue administrative or enforcement burdens.

Resources

- **Daily E-mail:** Primarily for governors and their top staff, the NGA Daily E-mail includes NGA meeting and event listings, press releases, NGA correspondence summaries and This Just In, a daily digest that features up-to-date news from Capitol Hill and the courts and major Administration policy announcements.

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