



2012 POLICY BOOK

**JUNE 21-24, 2012
WASHINGTON, DC**

POLICY BOOK * * *

Welcome to the 7th Annual YEO Network National Convening! The Young Elected Officials Network, a program of People For the American Way Foundation, works to unite and support progressive elected leaders who share a passion for building communities that reflect the values of freedom, fairness and opportunity. By supporting young leaders, the YEO Network seeks to connect the progressive movement at the state and local level across the country to produce an enduring pipeline of talented and dedicated national leaders.

Each year, the National Convening brings together the nation's young progressive policymakers for three days of innovative policy support, personal and professional skills building, and networking opportunities for sharing ideas, experiences and best practices.

To maximize the value of this event and expand the resources provided, the Network's strategic partners and your fellow young electeds who serve on our YEO Policy Councils have collaborated to develop a robust policy agenda around the five most important issue areas to YEOs, as indicated by our last membership survey. In broad strokes, these issue areas are:

- Empowering and Educating Communities (K-20 Education Reform)
- Defending Workers and Families (Economic Justice/Labor Issues/Tax Reform)
- Expanding Democracy (Equality/Corporate Accountability/Voter Suppression)
- Ensuring a Sustainable Future (Energy and Environment)
- Building a Healthy Society (Healthcare/Reproductive Justice)

This annual YEO Policy Agenda will be the focus of the Network for the upcoming year. Our goal is to be a constant resource for progressive policy tools and best practices that YEOs can use in their respective counties, cities, school boards and states.

YEOs are innovative and energetic agents of change, and we hold each YEO to the same challenge: to share your innovations with your progressive colleagues throughout the YEO Network. If you have any policy models you would like to share over the course of the year or in next year's Policy Agenda, please e-mail us for more information.

We look forward to your participation and hope you enjoy your time with us. Thank you for your commitment to progressive values and for joining other Young Elected Officials for this inspiring convening.

Yours in service,
The YEO Network Team



Table of Contents

Expanding Democracy	1
Local Policy	1
Employment Non-Discrimination Ordinance.....	2
Citizens United Resolution.....	4
Domestic Partnership Health Benefits.....	6
Domestic Partnership Health Benefits.....	8
Landlord-Tenant Voter Registration Sample Ordinance.....	9
State Policy	10
Corporate Accountability Act.....	11
Citizens United Resolution	12
Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform Act.....	14
Election Day Registration Legislation.....	16
Marriage Equality Act.....	18
Pre-Registration of Young Voters.....	20
Racial Profiling, Prohibition, Training Act	21
Student IDs for Voting Purposes	23
Model Deceptive Practices Statute.....	24
School Policy	26
Equal Educational Opportunity.....	27
 Empowering and Educating Communities	 28
Local Policy	28
Community Learning Centers Act	29
Family Individual Development Account	32
Community Schools Pilot Program	33

POLICY BOOK * * *

Education Policy on Community Schools	34
Intergovernmental Agreement Act.....	36
State Policy	38
Opportunities for Higher Education Success Act	39
Associate Degree Completion Program	39
College Readiness	41
Comprehensive Services for Students in Targeted Schools.....	42
Skills for Jobs Act.....	43
Financial Literacy in Schools Act	45
Ensuring Quality Instruction through Educator Effectiveness	47
Credit for Prior Learning in Higher Education.....	49
School Safety.....	51
College Textbook Competition and Affordability Act	52
School Policy	54
Anti-Bullying Policy	55
Community Education.....	57
Early Chronic School Absence Prevention	58
Parent Engagement and Partnership Plan.....	60
Restorative Justice and Alternatives to Suspension/Expulsion	62
Building a Healthy Society.....	63
Local Policy	63
False Advertising by Crisis Pregnancy Centers.....	64
Health Care Security Ordinance.....	66
Health Care Accountability Ordinance.....	68
Paid Sick Days.....	69
State Policy	71



POLICY BOOK * * *

Health Insurance Exchange Coverage Extension	72
Prescription Contraceptive Coverage	73
Health Insurance Exchange	74
Health Insurance Exchange Transparency	76
School Policy	78
Healthy Beverage Resolution	79
Community Gardens	80
Integrating Mental Health in Schools	82
Student Physical Wellness Programs	83
Ensuring a Sustainable Future	84
Local Policy	84
Anti-Fracking on City Leased Land	85
Biofuel Alternatives for City Vehicles	86
Building Code Energy Efficiency Standards	87
Green Building Requirements	88
Plastic Bag Ban	89
Small Wind Energy Systems	90
Zero Waste	91
State Policy	92
Bio Fuel Credits	93
Local Renewable Energy Standards	94
Global Warming Solutions Act	95
Climate Protection and Green Economy	96
Community Solar Gardens	97
Financing Energy Efficiency Improvement Tax Credit	98
On Bill Financing for Energy Efficiency Improvements	99



POLICY BOOK * * *

Green Jobs Act	100
Green Jobs Colorado Training Program	101
Community-Based Renewable Energy	103
School Policy	104
Reduction of Energy and Water Consumption	105
Energy Conservation Incentive Program	106
Green School Operations	107
Trees for Public Schools	108
Defending Workers and Families	109
Local Policy	109
Banking Divestment Resolution	110
Model Foreclosure Ordinance	111
Mandatory Mediation	112
Living Wage	113
Payday Loans	114
Project Labor Agreements/Community Partnership Agreements	115
Wage Theft	116
State Policy	118
Banking Development District Act	119
Foreclosure Rescue Fraud Prevention Act	120
Mandatory Mediation Act	121
Paid Sick Days	122
The Right to Rent Act	125
Model Buy [State] and America Act	127
“Oregon Finance and Credit Board” – Community Banks	128
Corporate Transparency in the State Budget Act	129

POLICY BOOK * * *

Economic Development and Fiscal Accountability Act 131

Wage Theft Bill..... 132

Worksharing Program 133

School Policy 134

Joint Vehicle Fuel Purchase Agreement..... 135

Responsible Contractor..... 136



POLICY
BOOK * * *

Expanding Democracy

Local Policy

Employment Non-Discrimination Ordinance

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Borough of State College, PA/ American
Fork, UT

Policy/Bill Number:
Borough of State Ordinance 1967

Link to full text of policy:

<http://www.statecollegepa.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=2957> (Borough of State College)

<http://afcity.org/Portals/0/Employment%20Non-discrimination%20Ordinance%2012-6-11.pdf> (American Fork)

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy was introduced to ensure that all persons, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibility, marital status, age, disability or handicap, use of service animals and/or mechanical aids enjoy the full benefits of citizenship and are afforded equal opportunities for employment.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Every individual in the city has the right to work and earn wages through gainful employment. Discriminatory employment practices are detrimental because they impede the social and economic progress of the city by preventing all of the city's citizens from contributing to or fully participating in the cultural, spiritual, social and commercial life of the community, which is essential to the growth and vitality of the city's neighborhoods and businesses.

The city has found that discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity must be addressed. The denial or deprivation of employment rights because of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity is detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the city's citizens and damages the city's economic well-being. The purpose of this

chapter is to provide a clear and comprehensive mandate for the prevention and elimination of discrimination in employment in the city against individuals based upon sexual orientation or gender identity and this chapter shall be liberally construed to achieve that purpose.

American Fork City- An offense committed under this chapter by an employer employing fifty (50) or fewer employees is punishable by a civil fine of not more than \$500.00. An offense committed under this chapter by an individual employing fifty-one (51) or more employees or by an employment agency or labor organization is punishable by a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00.

Borough of State College- Any person who shall violate any of the provisions herein or resist or interfere with any authorized representative of the Borough in the performance of his duties shall, upon conviction thereof before any District Justice, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 plus costs, to be paid to the Borough.

Citizens United Resolution

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
Local and State

Policy Origin:
Missoula, Montana
People for the American Way

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:

<http://www.freespeechforpeople.com/sites/default/files/The%20People's%20Rights%20Resolution%20112811.pdf> (FSFP)

<http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=7073> (Missoula)

Summary Narrative of Policy:

Resolution to support amending the United States Constitution to restore the people's power to limit corporate influence in elections and policymaking, by reversing Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.

Due to the incorrect interpretation of the Constitution and the adverse impact on the rights of people in our democracy in the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC); local, state, and federal elected officials must take action to restore the authority of the American people to restrict the undue influence of corporations on our elections and public policy.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The recent *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and forces elected officials to divert their attention from the peoples' business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to raise competitive campaign funds for their own re-election.

Citizens United drew a backlash of criticism from countless detractors in both the federal and private sector, who argued the decision would suppress transparency in elections and further entrench party candidates in special-interest politics. A year later, there is an undisputed fact: campaign contributions have been through the roof. The 2010 Midterm elections saw a deluge of corporate money enter election campaign pools. Spending by outside interest groups was about \$295 million, more than four times larger than the \$69 million spent during the 2006 Midterms.

At the same time, direct campaign contributions also reached dizzying new heights. Candidates running for office in the House and Senate took in about \$1.5 billion in campaign fundraising during 2010, and spent another record sum of nearly \$2 billion. When added to independent expenditures by non-party groups, federal elections accounted for a \$4 billion industry in 2010 — \$1.2 billion more than the \$2.8 billion spent in 2006 — and this figure doesn't even take into account state or local races.

Domestic Partnership Health Benefits

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Cambridge, MA City Council

Policy/Bill Number:
Resolution 11-449

Link to full text of policy:

http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityClerk/cmLetter.cfm?action=search&item_id=18854

http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityClerk/cmLetter.cfm?action=search&item_id=19380

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The City of Cambridge previously provided health and or dental insurance benefits to the spouses of 22 City and School Department employees who are married to a partner of the same sex. Current federal tax law requires the City to calculate the value of this benefit as taxable income to the employee. The City does this on a quarterly basis. Health benefits for opposite sex spouses of employees are not taxable under federal law. This inequity is based solely on the same sex status of the marriage. This policy provides a stipend from the city to same-sex married couples of 20% of their reported taxable income for both health and dental fund benefits, to roughly match their take home pay to that of opposite-sex married couples. The twenty percent figure is recommended as the best estimate of the marginal tax rate for persons who would be eligible for this benefit. Cambridge began this program for non-union and management employees in July 2011. For unionized employees, Cambridge will attempt to introduce the benefits as new contracts are negotiated upon expiration of existing contracts. Most of the Cambridge city employees are non-union.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

When the city of Cambridge issues paychecks to its public employees, nearly two dozen workers find a federal tax on their income that their colleagues don't have to pay. Like many people, these 22 schools and city workers chose to put their spouses on their employer-provided health insurance. Because they're in a homosexual relationship, the value of that health coverage is considered taxable income by the federal government.

Cambridge became the first municipality in the country to pay its public employees a stipend in an attempt to defray the cost of the federal tax on health benefits for their same-sex spouses. The city employees hit by the extra tax pay an additional \$1,500 to \$3,000 in taxes a year and officials estimate the stipends would cost the city an additional \$33,000

Domestic Partnership Health Benefits

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Milwaukee County, WI

Policy/Bill Number:
Resolution 11-449

Link to full text of policy:

<http://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=925645&GUID=535C86B6-DB77-4E95-86FB-E82C92489C46&Options=&Search>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The policy is a resolution from the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors that authorizes and directs the Division of Employee Benefits to update the Milwaukee County Employee Health Plan to extend benefits coverage to domestic partners of eligible active Milwaukee County employees and their dependents. The provision mandates that all active eligible employees wishing to include a domestic partner and dependents on their health plan must apply for and receive Domestic Partner status from the Milwaukee County Clerk, as defined by a state statute that outlines the requirements for such a status. The resolution effectively affords health insurance benefits to same-sex or opposite-sex domestic partners of county workers.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors voted, 13-5, in favor of adding the domestic partner benefits which are expected to be used by about 50 county workers and cost about \$742,000 starting next year, according to a County Board staff estimate as of July 2011. This resolution passed after an unsuccessful attempt in 2009, after the plan was vetoed by then-County Executive Scott Walker. The main opposition to the passing of the resolution came from those that felt the measure would be too costly.

Landlord-Tenant Voter Registration Sample Ordinance

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Tallahassee, Florida

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This ordinance requires all landlords in the local jurisdiction to provide to all new tenants a copy of the voter registration application created and distributed by the local election authority.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Local governments have a compelling interest in ensuring all citizens are registered to vote in order to fully participate in elections and the democratic process. In order to minimize the administrative burden of registration placed on citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote, local governments can distribute voter registration forms to citizens because citizens who move frequently face a disproportionate barrier to voting because of the requirement to register to vote at a current address before each election.

The city of Tallahassee is home to three institutions of higher education and a large student population that is disproportionately affected by address requirements that are necessary to properly register to vote in the state of Florida. The burden placed on landlords to include a voter registration form with the new lease and the lead-based paint disclosure is minimal, while the benefits to the citizen at receiving a voter registration form at the time they move into a new address are significant.

POLICY
BOOK * * *

Expanding Democracy

State Policy

Corporate Accountability Act

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
New Jersey

Policy/Bill Number:
P.L.2005, c.051

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2004/Bills/PL05/51_.PDF

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This act emphasizes the importance of elected officials having the trust, respect, and confidence of the citizenry. For the purpose of protecting the integrity of government decisions and improving the public's confidence in government, it is a compelling interest to prohibit awarding government contracts to business entities which are also contributors to candidates, political parties and the holders of public office, due to the existing perception that campaign contributions are often made to a State or county political party committee by an individual or business seeking favor with State elected officials.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The growing infusion of funds donated by business entities into the political process at all levels of government has generated widespread cynicism among the public that special interest groups are "buying" favors from elected officeholders.

The State or any of its purchasing agents or agencies or those of its independent authorities, as the case may be, shall not enter into an agreement or otherwise contract to procure from any business entity services or any material, supplies or equipment, or to acquire, sell, or lease any land or building, where the value of the transaction exceeds \$17,500.

Citizens United Resolution

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
Local & State

Policy Origin:
Massachusetts

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
<http://site.pfaw.org/pdf/GBTP-PFAW-sample-resolutions.pdf>

<http://freespeechforpeople.org/sites/default/files/MA%20resolution%2062110.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

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Due to the incorrect interpretation of the Constitution and the adverse impact on the rights of people in our democracy in the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*, local, state, and federal elected officials must take action to restore the authority of the American people to restrict the undue influence of corporations on our elections and public policy.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

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Citizens United drew a backlash of criticism from countless detractors in both the federal and private sector, who argued the decision would suppress transparency in elections and further

entrench party candidates in special-interest politics. A year later, there's one fact everyone can agree on: campaign contributions have been through the roof. The 2010 Midterm elections saw a deluge of corporate money enter election campaign pools. Spending by outside interest groups was about \$295 million, more than four times larger than the \$69 million spent during the 2006 Midterms.

At the same time, direct campaign contributions also reached dizzying new heights. Candidates running for office in the House and Senate took in about \$1.5 billion in campaign fundraising during 2010, and spent another record sum of nearly \$2 billion. When added to independent expenditures by non-party groups, federal elections accounted for a \$4 billion industry in 2010 — \$1.2 billion more than the \$2.8 billion spent in 2006 — and this figure doesn't even take into account state or local races.

Comprehensive Campaign Finance Reform Act

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Connecticut

Policy/Bill Number:
Senate Bill 2103

Link to full text of policy:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2005/ACT/Pa/pdf/2005PA-00005-R00SB-02103SS3-PA.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This bill examines various alternatives to limit special interest influence in the financing of statewide and General Assembly campaigns, it creates a "Citizens' Election Fund," within the General Fund to provide public financing to qualified candidates for these offices. In addition to providing for public financing for eligible candidates for statewide office and the General Assembly, the legislation bans the solicitation and making of contributions by lobbyists, most state contractors, and prescribes contribution limits for political action committees that were not previously subject to any such limits.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

In order to change the involvement of money in state politics and abate overarching influences the bill:

- Creates bans on contributions and solicitation of contributions by registered lobbyist, state contractors, prospective state contractors and immediate family members.
- Imposes new limits on contributions by individuals, PACs and party committees to candidates.
- Imposes one person per PAC rule-only a single PAC may be established or controlled by the same individual or entity.
- Abolishes loopholes for Statewide and General Assembly campaigns, PACs and party committees which allowed corporate funds to be used to finance these committees.
- Imposes additional disclosure requirements.

This act includes the most comprehensive reform of the Connecticut Campaign Finance laws since the post-Watergate era, and is heralded as a model for the U.S. by national experts.

It creates the Citizen's Election Program, which provides public campaign grants to eligible candidates for Statewide and General Assembly offices. Candidates must raise a threshold of small individual contributions of no more than \$100 from individuals, and abide by spending limits and other program requirements, including tight restrictions on the use of campaign funds.

Election Day Registration Legislation

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
N/A- Model Legislation

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
N/A

<http://www.lwvtexas.org/VotingProcedures/Voting%20Proc.%20F&I-%20Elec.DayReg.%20final.pdf> (Similar Policy)

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation allows an individual who is eligible to vote but has not previously registered to register on Election Day by appearing in person at the polling place for the county in which the individual maintains residence, completing a registration application, making an oath in the form set forth, and providing proof of residence. States with EDR (Election Day Registration) consistently lead the national average in turnout, counteract “arbitrary” voter registration deadlines and help numerous Americans who report trouble with registration procedures.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

All eligible citizens who arrive at the polls may vote. If they are not registered or their voter registration has been removed or not entered properly, or there is any other problem, the citizen may re-register and vote immediately. With EDR, the number of provisional ballots would decrease dramatically, easing the burden on precinct officials. Also, changes of address could be handled at the polling place through EDR. Provisional ballots and changes of address are the two areas where precinct officials make the most procedural errors on Election Day.

Election Day Registration (EDR), also called Same-Day Voter Registration (SDVR), allows voters to register and vote on the same day. Nine states allow EDR: Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. North Carolina allows

SDVR, during the early voting period only. On average, these states have higher voter turnout than non-EDR states. Minnesota has had EDR for 33 years and has always had higher voter turnout than any other state. In the 2008 Presidential Election, Minnesota had a 77.79% voter turnout. According to state officials in EDR states, the cost of registering people on Election Day does not exceed the cost of registering the same number of applicants in a registration office.

States with EDR have higher voter turnout. EDR allows people who become enthusiastic during the final weeks of a campaign to register to vote and participate in the democratic process. With EDR, they may register and vote on Election Day. Young Americans move frequently—for school, for jobs—making it harder for them to stay registered. They register to vote at lower rates than the general population. With EDR, these highly mobile Americans may register at the last moment and vote. Some believe EDR could increase youth turnout in presidential elections by as much as fourteen percentage points.

Transportation and other access issues often prevent people with disabilities from registering to vote prior to Election Day. Being able to register and vote on the day of the election may reduce the burdens on Americans with disabilities and allow them to participate fully in the electoral process. New citizens, people of color, young people, and low-income individuals are more likely to have registration problems that could be solved by EDR.

Marriage Equality Act

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
New York

Policy/Bill Number:
Bill No. A8345

Link to full text of policy:
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?sh=printbill&bn=A08354&term=2011>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This act amends New York's Domestic Relations Law to provide that same-sex couples may obtain a marriage license in New York, and to require that a same-sex marriage be treated the same as an opposite-sex marriage in all respects under law. No government treatment or legal status, effect, right, benefit, privilege, protection or responsibility relating to marriage shall differ based on the parties to the marriage being of the same sex or a different sex; no religious entity, benevolent organization or not-for-profit corporation that is operated, supervised or controlled by a religious entity, or its employees, can be required to perform marriage ceremonies or provide its facilities for marriage ceremonies, consistent with its religious principles.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Marriage is a fundamental human right. Same-sex couples should have the same access as others to the protections, responsibilities, rights, obligations, and the benefits of civil marriage. Stable family relationships help build a stronger society for the welfare of the community and in fairness to all New Yorkers.

Marriage brings numerous benefits, responsibilities and protections to spouses and their children. Without the protections, benefits and responsibilities associated with marriage, same sex couples suffer many obstacles and hardships. The U.S. General Accounting Office lists more than 1,000 federal rights, protections and responsibilities that are automatically granted to married heterosexual couples but denied to same-sex couples.

According to estimates from the 2000 census, there are more than 1 million children being raised by same-sex couples in the United States. If they are not permitted to establish a legal relationship to both parents, children of same-sex couples are left without important protections and survivor benefits. These children should not be penalized just because their parents are of the same sex.

Pre-Registration of Young Voters

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Charlotte, NC

Policy/Bill Number:
HB 1260

Link to full text of policy:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=hb+1260>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

North Carolina HB 1260 would allow for 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote. By allowing these teenagers to pre-register, election rolls will be more up-to-date and accurate. Teenagers are a very stable group – stable in the sense that they do not move as much as the next age bracket of 18 – 21 year olds. These 16 and 17 year olds can take advantage of North Carolina’s current Motor-Voter Process and register while getting their driver’s license, as this is the age group that gets their driver’s licenses for the first time.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Historically, 18- to 25-year-olds vote less than any other age demographics, this statute affords the opportunity for more young people, who are the largest group in our society, to participate in democracy and vote. Research shows that if you get kids interested in and practicing voting early, it will help them see it as regular life and an expression of power and who they are. There is not a significant implementation cost associated with pre-registration. It will use the same forms and go through the same processing as every other voter registration. In an attempt to secure some of those young voters, members of the Durham County Board of Elections visited eight area high schools in September as part of an initiative to get 16- and 17-year-olds pre-registered to vote. The Board of Elections staff teamed up with Democracy North Carolina and Kids Voting Durham, registering and pre-registering a total of 579 students.

Racial Profiling, Prohibition, Training Act

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Phoenix, Arizona

Policy/Bill Number:
SB 1071

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/1r/bills/sb1071p.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

SB 1071 adds a provision that seeks to prohibit racial profiling by city, county and state law enforcement officials, and proposes a system to monitor, track, and address the levels of racial profiling in the state. The bill focuses on four main areas:

1. It prohibits law enforcement officials from engaging in racial profiling and detaining individuals for any noncriminal factors.
2. It places a reporting system in place whereby law enforcement officials are required to collect information on individuals or pedestrians they stop, such as race, ethnicity, gender, reason for stop, basis of search if any, and whether a warning, citation, or arrest was issued. It also requires that this information, along with any complaints filed by motorists, pedestrians, or cyclists who believe they were the subject of racial profiling be submitted to the Attorney General.
3. It requires the Attorney general to create a report that statistically analyzes the information provided by each law enforcement agency to determine if any racial profiling has occurred.
4. It requires that law enforcement agencies that are found to be engaging in racial profiling, by the Attorney General's report, to conduct racial profiling-based training that emphasizes subjects such as the prohibition against racial profiling, foreign language instruction, and understanding and respect for racial, ethnic, national, religious and cultural differences. It also restricts the legislature from funding any law enforcement agency that fails to comply with this provision.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Racial profiling should not and must not be tolerated within law enforcement agencies. When individuals profile by race, it has a twofold effect:

1. The agency (and the State) may lose the ability to use certain evidence in court proceedings
2. The community may lose respect for law enforcement. All Arizonans benefit from investigative techniques and policies which are universally applied and consistently followed from suspect to suspect and from community to community.

Individual Law enforcement personnel who profile suspects on the basis of race or ethnicity violate the civil rights of those individuals. When race and ethnicity become factors in suspicious behavior, the civil rights of racial and ethnic minorities as a group are violated. This practice also leads to a negative interaction with the police. The State of Arizona and its political subdivisions cannot tolerate racial profiling if Arizona is to uphold equality within the law.

Student IDs for Voting Purposes

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Georgia Legislature

Policy/Bill Number:
2012, HB 707

Link to full text of policy:
http://www1.legis.ga.gov/legis/2011_12/pdf/hb707.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

To amend Georgia's statutes relating to voter identification and the presentation of identification to poll workers, this legislation provides that an elector may present a valid student identification card containing a photograph of the elector and issued by an eligible postsecondary institution in this state as proof of identity in order to vote; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Because of the legislation passed around the country aimed at suppressing the vote of minorities, young people, disabled people, and immigrants, this bill seeks to attack back in a small way, by allowing students to use their school-issued IDs for the purposes of voting. This legislation offers some relief for the constituencies that are disproportionately affected by these new voter laws, and it gives the opportunity to engage young people on both sides of the political spectrum in a conversation about voter access.

Model Deceptive Practices Statute

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Common Cause & the Lawyers' Committee

Policy/Bill Number:
Model Bill

Link to full text of policy: N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

Addressing the issue of deceptive voter practices, this bill makes it unlawful for any person within 90 days of an election:

- A. Intentionally communicate or cause to be communicated by any means (including written, electronic, or telephonic communications) materially false information regarding the time, place, or manner of an election, or the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility (including any criminal penalties associated with voting, voter registration status or other) for any such election with the intent to prevent a voter from exercising the right to vote in such election, when the person knows such information is false.
- B. Make to the public, or cause to be made to the public, a materially false statement about an endorsement if such person intends to mislead any voter and knows that the statement is false.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The right to vote is one of the most fundamental rights afforded to American citizens. It is unconscionable that Americans – particularly minorities, the poor, elderly, youth and people with disabilities – have historically faced nefarious tactics to create obstacles to effective participation in our democracy. More than 45 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act, voters across the country continue to be targets of deceptive practices and intimidation. While tactics are more nuanced and sophisticated than during the time of Jim Crow and Bull Conner, they are no less effective at fraudulently preventing participation in targeted communities. Deceiving voters about any aspects of the voting process should be

unambiguously illegal. Federal, state and local officials should be empowered not just to punish violators, but also to quickly correct deceptive information through sources trusted by affected communities.

Fraudulently changing party-registrations and addresses. In 2004, over 4,000 potential voters including students at the University of Florida, Florida State and Florida A&M universities discovered their party registrations switched and their addresses changed. An additional scheme was perpetrated on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh. Changed addresses could have barred them from voting because they would have shown up at the wrong polling place.

Fliers advertising the wrong election date. Flyers, purporting to be from the Virginia State Board of Election, were distributed in the southern part of the state as well as on the campus of George Mason University falsely stating that, due to larger than expected turnout, “[a]ll Republican party supporters and independent voters supporting Republican candidates shall vote on November 4th...All Democratic party supporters and independent voters supporting Democratic candidates shall vote on November 5th.”

Robocalls with false information. On Election Day in 2010, minority households in Maryland received recorded calls well before the polls closed stating, "Hello. I'm calling to let everyone know that Governor O'Malley and President Obama have been successful. Our goals have been met. The polls were correct, and we took it back. We're okay. Relax. Everything's fine. The only thing left is to watch it on TV tonight. Congratulations, and thank you." It was later discovered that these calls were paid for by aides to Bob Ehrlich's campaign against Governor O'Malley.

Deceptive online messages. In 2008 an email was circulated at 1:16am the day of the election around the campus of George Mason University, purportedly from Provost Peter Stearns, informing students and staff the election had been postponed until Wednesday. Later, Stearns sent an email stating his account had been hacked and informing students the election would take place that day as planned.

Misinformation spread through social networks. A pastor at a church in Walnut MS, posted false information on his Facebook page in 2011 stating, "I just heard a public service announcement. Because of amendment 26 and the anticipation of a record turnout, the Secretary of State's office has had to devise a plan as to how to handle the record numbers. The Secretary of State's office just announced that if you are voting YES on Ms26, then you are to vote on Tuesday Nov 8th if you are voting."

POLICY
BOOK * * *

Expanding Democracy

School Policy

Equal Educational Opportunity

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
School District

Policy Origin:
School Board/Independent school district
659/Northfield, Minnesota

Policy/Bill Number:
102

Link to full text of policy:
<http://nfld.k12.mn.us/files/policies/102boardpolicy.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that equal educational opportunity is provided for all students of the school district.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

It is the school district's policy to provide equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation or age. The school district also makes reasonable accommodations for disabled students.

Empowering and Educating Communities

Local Policy

Community Learning Centers Act

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Cincinnati, Ohio

Policy/Bill Number:
Board Policy 7500

Link to full text of policy:

<http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/CincinnatiBoardPolicy.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

Initiative stating that each school should also be a community learning center in which a variety of partners shall offer academic programs, enrichment activities, and support to students, families, and community members before and after school as well as during the evenings and on weekends throughout the calendar year. Each school's Community Learning Center shall hereinafter be referred to as CLC. The Board envisions each CLC as the neighborhood's center of activity.

The Board further believes that in order to serve more fully the needs of students and to support the improvement of their academic and intellectual development, each District public school must engage its community if these worthy purposes are to be realized.

As the learning center in the community, each school and its partners must demonstrate strong collaboration, set high expectations for all students, embrace diversity, and share the accountability for results.

Each CLC should have a Resource Coordinator, who develops and coordinates services and programs that serve the students, their families, and the community. The Resource Coordinator shall be appointed in accordance with the Superintendent's administrative guidelines and shall work collaboratively with the principal and the LSDMC to provide the services and programs that meet the needs and priorities identified by the school's leadership.

Annually, as part of the *OnePlan* process, each school shall assess the needs of its student population. As a result of that process, each school's *OnePlan* shall describe the partnerships deemed necessary to enhance opportunities for student success and community and parental involvement. The LSDMC, ILT, parents, and the school community shall participate in the development of this comprehensive plan.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The growing need to provide supports for community reinvestment in public schools, neighborhood revitalization and the healthy development of "whole" students and their families. Understanding that student success is contingent on parental and community support, the CLC model was designed not only to provide academic reinforcements for students, but to also develop community-centered "hubs" that provide the following services and resources for neighborhood school communities through co-located partnerships.

Magnitude, importance, and financial impact

Partners are Being Engaged in the Schools to Meet Student Needs: During the 2010-11 academic year, 322 partners provided academic, mentoring, college access, afterschool, health/wellness, mental health, parent and community engagement and other services in CPS schools, mostly through CPS Community Learning Centers.

Students with Needs are Being Linked to Services: Data show that the majority of students with needs are being identified and linked to individualized services as a result of targeted resource coordination. This is especially the case for students with priority factors. Sixty-five percent or more of the priority students attending Pilot Schools have received at least one (1) needed service.

Students Receiving Resource Coordination Services Show Positive Academic Trends and Other Positive Outcomes: Students receiving resource coordination services show positive academic trends and other outcomes compared to students not receiving those services despite the fact that students receiving services generally had a higher number of priority factors. This was particularly true in the case of tutoring where students receiving services had significant increases in math and reading scores from 2009-10 to 2010-11 compared to students who did not receive tutoring support. Other benefits of tutoring were noted. Other resource coordination services showed positive trends related to attendance, behavioral referrals, and tardies compared to students not receiving these services.

High Rates of Parent Engagement. Parent Volunteerism Linked to Academic Achievement: Parent engagement and volunteerism (data tracked by Resource Coordinators) are also important components of the CLC model. In CLC schools, more than half of parents are engaged in their child's learning at CLC schools (53%). Parent engagement is especially high at Pilot Schools (68.1%) where parent volunteerism was found to be linked statistically to reduced academic priority factors, fewer absences, and fewer behavioral referrals.

Family Individual Development Account

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
San Antonio, Texas

Policy/Bill Number:
Ordinance Number: 100826

Link to full text of policy:
https://webapps1.sanantonio.gov/archivedagendas/CC02011/6d_pp01!.PDF

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This ordinance is designed to transfer of \$30,000.00 of the fiscal year 2005 council district 10 Human Development Services Funds to the Families Save Individual Development Account (IDA) Program to be used as match funding for the Families Save IDA Program for Scholarships for Post-Secondary education, and revising the Families Save IDA Budget. The ordinance was passed in San Antonio, Texas.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

In order to improve participation in higher education for low-income residents of

Council District 10 attending MacArthur and Roosevelt High Schools, Councilman Haass has allocated \$30,000.00 from Council District 10 Human Development Services Funds to be used as match funding for higher education for the Families SAVE IDA Program.

The expenditure of funds for post-secondary education serves the municipal public purposes of preparing the workforce for productive employment and promoting the professional needs for the City of San Antonio.

Community Schools Pilot Program

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Washington, DC

Policy/Bill Number:
B19-0648, Section 403

Link to full text of policy:
n/a

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This ordinance is designed to incentivize and create community schools in Washington, DC. The community schools will bring together students, teachers, and community members to create more comprehensive services provided to students and families. These schools would provide students with access to dental and medical care, mental health services, youth development programs, early childhood education, initiatives to aide parental involvement in children’s education, before and after school programs, job training, nutritional education, and adult education.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Community schools have been shown to improve the lives, education, health and overall welfare of students and communities as a whole. This bill will bring together a diverse group of community partners to create a more comprehensive package of services that schools provide to students in the interest of their educational, personal and overall development.

Community schools can also help address issues of truancy, behavior, and employment. These schools focus on helping parents and students obtain the necessary life skills needed to succeed.

Education Policy on Community Schools

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Hartford, CT

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:

http://www.hartfordschools.org/about-your-choice/documents/CommunitySchoolsPolicyBOE_2_.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a basic framework to support the development and implementation of community schools in the City of Hartford. Community Schools in Hartford are a joint effort among the City of Hartford, Hartford Public Schools and community resources, including non-profit organizations, private philanthropy and the business community. Through joint planning, careful implementation and ongoing assessment, these partners will engage community resources to offer a range of programming and services that support the success of students and their families. Community schools will focus on the whole child, addressing the academic, physical, social and emotional needs of students and fostering the active involvement of their families. Specific services, supports and opportunities available at individual community schools will vary, depending on local needs and resources.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Nationally, it has been demonstrated that these changes lead to improved attendance, improved academic and behavioral outcomes for students, as well as neighborhood stability and other improvements in community life.

Magnitude, importance, and financial impact

The Hartford Foundation has committed \$3.1 million over three years in support of a public-private partnership to help develop "community schools" in Hartford. members of the Hartford Community-School Partnership, which launched in July, 2008, are the Hartford Public Schools, the City of Hartford Mayor's Office (including Hartford Office for Young Children and Office for Youth Services), and the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. The partnership is an outgrowth of a plan developed by Superintendent Steven Adamowski to create a new system of high quality, high performing schools to close the urban-suburban achievement gap.

Intergovernmental Agreement Act

Issue Category:

Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:

Local

Policy Origin:

Davis Douglas School District, Multnomah County, and the City of Portland

Policy/Bill Number:

N/A

Link to full text of policy:

N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

An agreement between Multnomah County Oregon a school district of the State of Oregon, Multnomah County, and the City of Portland:

The purpose of this agreement is to describe and implement a partnership in order to fulfill a shared vision for all three Parties for the SUN Service System (as set forth in the School Age Policy Framework). The purpose of the IGA is to develop a formalized relationship among the Parties in order to link academic programs with enrichment, social and support services to ensure that every child in the District has access to services that will enhance his/her educational success.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The goal of the Parties is to provide each child with the maximum opportunity to succeed in school regardless of their social or economic background.

The parties believe that partnership and collaboration are essential to the success of the SUN. Service System (SUN SS), and commit to work collaboratively together to achieve their shared vision of an integrated educational, social and health service delivery system. To this end, the Parties are committed to creating and supporting a shared vision, common goals, and a clear communication structure as set forth in this agreement.

Funding for District Services:



The District will pay the County the amount of \$21,000, upon receipt of invoice(s) to support of the provision of evaluation and technical assistance services at five grant-funded SUN CS sites. The sites are Mill Park, Gilbert Heights, Ron Russell, Floyd Light and Fir Ridge. The funding total represents \$4,200 for each school.

Empowering and Educating Communities

State Policy

Opportunities for Higher Education Success Act; Associate Degree Completion Program

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Colorado

Policy/Bill Number:
Senate Bill 12-045

Link to full text of policy:

http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2012A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/479AA0B83425E2C287257981007E03F2?Open&file=045_01.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

Introduced in the state of Colorado this bill allows students that have transferred from a 2-year institution to a 4-year institution to obtain an associate degree after accumulating 60 credits. It requires a 4-year state institution of higher education to notify a 2-year institution when a student who transferred from the 2-year institution accumulates 60 credits. The 2-year institution shall conduct a degree audit to determine whether the student meets the requirements for an associate degree and shall award the degree to the student unless the student declines the award. Also the 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education shall inform students about the program.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Some students accumulate academic credits while enrolled at an institution offering a two-year degree program but transfer to a four-year institution before completing the requirements for an associate degree. For whatever reasons some of these students are not able to meet the requirements for a baccalaureate degree at the new institution in spite of their efforts.

The state of Colorado has declared that it will be beneficial for students and to the state to remove barriers to degree completion that may arise when a student successfully accumulates enough credits for an associate degree in the specified case.

Costs are expected to be minimal associated with data-sharing, but the fiscal note says the schools are expected to be able to absorb them. Senator Hudak offered the following comment on the passage of the Opportunities for Higher Ed Success Act today:

“As we continue growing our economy, it is imperative that we provide our students with all the tools they need to succeed and join the workforce.”

College Readiness

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
NEA Model State Legislation

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

It is the purpose of this Act to promote college [and career] readiness for students in the State by aligning K-12 [P-12] curriculum with state college admission requirements as well as career readiness academic achievement standards, and by providing to students in the State services in and out of school which will promote their postsecondary achievement.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Each local educational agency shall ensure that students in the district receive consistent, individualized personal, career, and academic counseling provided by an assigned counselor. Such counseling shall assist student in college and career planning and provide the foundation for acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enable students to make a successful transition from school to postsecondary training or employment.

Each local educational agency shall, under such conditions as the [Chief State School Officer shall prescribe] ensure that students in the district have the opportunity to enroll in college courses while still enrolled in high school. Under such provisions as shall be prescribed, students shall not be required to apply for admission to the institution of higher education in order to participate, and may receive college credit for their coursework, so long as such coursework meets the [academic requirements] as required of other students at public institutions of higher education in the State.

Comprehensive Services for Students in Targeted Schools

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
NEA Model State Legislation

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

It is the purpose of this Act to determine how providing comprehensive services to children affects school performance by requiring the reporting of information on the scope of services provided to students at high-need schools.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Each local educational agency shall conduct a comprehensive needs analysis, as defined above, and report to the State, at least biennially, with respect to high-need schools in the district, the extent to which comprehensive services are provided to students and their families by schools or by appropriate agencies administering programs that provide services to students and their families in a high-need school.

Skills for Jobs Act

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Colorado

Policy/Bill Number:
House Bill 12-1061

Link to full text of policy:

http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2012a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/76D69C40F5D0891387257981007DB71F?open&file=1061_rev.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The bill requires the department of higher education (department), in consultation with the department of labor, the department of regulatory agencies, and any other entity the department deems appropriate, to produce an annual report regarding state workforce projections and education credential production. The report will project the workforce needs of the state for the next 3 years and the expected production of degrees and certificates over the next 3 years. The report will show the workforce needs that are not being met by state degree and certificate production and identify institutions, public or private, that can address those workforce needs through new programs or expansion of existing ones. Institutions of higher education are encouraged to use the report in master planning for its course of study offerings.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The bill serves to creating an education system more in tune with the marketplace and a workforce better trained for the jobs that are in demand.

The report will project Colorado's workforce needs and the expected production of degrees, certificates, and other credentials produced throughout the state. The bill includes public and private institutions of higher education, private occupational schools, local district colleges, area vocational schools, high school vocational programs, apprenticeship programs, and other public or private workforce training programs expected to issue credentials over the three-year period following the report.

The report will assess whether Colorado’s workforce needs are not being met by the state’s current degree and certificate production, and will identify institutions—public and private—that can address these workforce needs through new programs or the expansion of existing ones.

Financial Literacy in Schools Act

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Boston, MA

Policy/Bill Number:
S 204

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.malegislature.gov/Bills/187/Senate/S00204>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This bill would require that personal financial literacy be integrated into existing Math frameworks for all schools in the Commonwealth. It requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop standards and objectives for personal financial literacy for grades K-12 in the mathematics curriculum. It also requires DESE to assist with the implementation and provide resources to aid schools in the selection of materials. The bill would create an advisory committee charged with reviewing existing financial literacy programs and materials and submitting recommendations to DESE. The curriculum would include: understanding loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt, and online commerce; rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home; saving, investing and planning for retirement; and banking and financial services.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Today's youth are bombarded with a multitude of financial options and responsibilities at an increasingly young age. One out of every three teenagers has a credit card, and even more have an ATM card. Yet many are ill-equipped to make informed decisions about financial matters. They don't understand fundamental principles of money management and the larger economy. As a result, teenagers are at a disadvantage when making important first financial decisions: buying a car, taking part or full-time employment, and using credit cards.

New college freshman have an average debt of \$1,500 on personal credit cards. Four out of 10 Americans admit they are living beyond their means, primarily because of their misuse and misunderstanding of credit. Americans under 25 are filing for bankruptcy faster than any other age group. By teaching children the financial education basics in school, we will help them make educated

financial decisions in the future, preventing future bankruptcies, foreclosures, and unmanageable debt.

This is a result that's good for society as well as for individuals. Over the long term, the investment we make in teaching children financial literacy now will help strengthen our economy and prevent future economic crises.

Ensuring Quality Instruction through Educator Effectiveness

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Colorado

Policy/Bill Number:
SB 10-191

Link to full text of policy:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=Content-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22Educator+Effectiveness+Fact+Sheet+SB10-191.pdf%22&blobheadervalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251741157550&ssbinary=true>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The purpose of this bill is to establish a process for developing statewide definitions and quality standards for what it means to be an effective leader or principal by serving as a basis for the improvement of instruction. Enhance the implementation of programs of curriculum. Serve as a measurement of the professional growth and development of licensed personnel. Evaluate the level of educator performance based in significant part on the impact they have on student growth. Provide a basis for making decisions in the areas of hiring, compensation, promotion, assignment, professional development, earning and retaining non-probationary status, and nonrenewal of contract

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

This legislation seeks to do the following:

- Ensure that at least 50% of the evaluation of teacher and principal effectiveness is based on the academic growth of their students.
- Changes non-probationary status from one that is earned based upon years of service to one that is earned based upon three consecutive years of demonstrated effectiveness.

- Provides that non-probationary status may be lost based upon consecutive years of ineffectiveness.
- In order to accomplish these activities, the department has leveraged public and private resources, to partner with The New Teacher Project and the Colorado Legacy Foundation in order to strategically align department activities and resources. The project work team has conducted an inventory of Colorado's policies, programs and funding streams to identify opportunities to align and leverage current activities to enhance the effectiveness of all Colorado educators. The team is also reviewing and analyzing data to identify useful metrics to help monitor and inform educator effectiveness.
- At a minimum, this work requires 3.0 FTE plus associated overhead and travel costs at an estimated annual expense of \$237,869 and \$242,587 in each of Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012, respectively. The cost to local districts to implement SB 10-191 will be estimated through a cost study required to be completed by the State Council for Educator Effectiveness in Spring 2011.

Credit for Prior Learning in Higher Education

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Colorado

Policy/Bill Number:
HB 12-1072

Link to full text of policy:

[http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2012a/csl.nsf/billcontainers/845EEEEE117B030387257981007E03A0/\\$FILE/HB1072_00.pdf](http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2012a/csl.nsf/billcontainers/845EEEEE117B030387257981007E03A0/$FILE/HB1072_00.pdf)

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This bill, recommended by the Educational Success Task Force, requires that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), in consultation with public institutions of higher education, develop criteria for awarding academic credit for a student's prior learning. Prior learning could include work experience, military service, community involvement, or independent study. The CCHE must also define a process to assess a student's prior learning and determine the appropriate number of credits to award.

Beginning in the 2013-14 academic year, each public institution of higher education must implement a program to grant academic credit to a student whose prior learning meets the criteria developed by the CCHE.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Prior learning assessment (PLA) is the process by which an institution of higher education evaluates for academic credit the college-level knowledge and skills an individual has gained outside the classroom. Common methods of PLA include the evaluation of student portfolios, formal documentation of corporate and military training, standard credit recommendation guides, standard examinations such as those in advanced placement programs, or customized assessments developed by individual schools.

Students seeking credit for prior experience can pay private companies to conduct PLA and to assist the student in petitioning a school to accept the experience for credit, but individual schools still make the final decision; students are not guaranteed that the experience will be accepted. There is no common statewide process or credit guide currently in use by state schools; however, many schools, including community colleges, allow students to test out of certain basic requirements through the use of assessments.

This bill may impact state revenue from tuition. Awarding academic credit for prior learning will allow students to enroll in fewer academic courses at public institutions, thus reducing the amount of tuition revenue those schools might otherwise receive. Conversely, the appeal of having prior learning recognized as academic credit may provide an incentive to some individuals to enroll in higher education, thus increasing tuition revenue.

State Expenditures- General Fund Appropriation to:	FY 2012- 2013	FY 2013- 2014
Department of Higher Education-	\$56,840	\$32,873
College Opportunity Fund-	\$803,520	\$803,520

School Safety

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
NEA Model State Legislation

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

It is the purpose of this Act to provide safe schools for school children and to address the problem of bullying and harassment of students in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

(a) Consistent with the purposes of this Act, each local educational agency in the State shall implement strategies with their programs that entail global school safety plans which -- (1) are comprehensive; (2) address more than one issue; (3) include discipline policies as set forth in this Act; and (4) integrate appropriate activities into the daily routines of educators.

(b) School safety plans must make school personnel the leaders in school safety initiatives with adjuncts that include parents; community activists; religious leaders; business people; and representatives of government agencies, protective and health services, and other community groups.

(c) Community safety plans must include community representatives as leaders with parents and school personnel as their adjuncts.

(d) Parental anti-violence initiatives must cede the same leadership to parents, with community representatives and school personnel as advisers.]

College Textbook Competition and Affordability Act

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Germantown, MD

Policy/Bill Number:
House Bill 85

Link to full text of policy:
<http://mlis.state.md.us/2009rs/bills/hb/hb0085e.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation aims to revamp the textbook system in Maryland by requiring state universities and colleges to adhere to methodology that will reduce the prices of textbooks for all students. Requiring public institutions of higher education in the State, with one exception, to develop and implement informational campaigns, procedures, and practices relating to college textbooks and supplemental material regarding content revisions, availability, and cost; requiring publishers of college textbooks to disclose information relating to prices, revisions in content and format, and a list of integrated textbooks to faculty, textbook adopting entities, or institution administrations; etc.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

In 2005, the federal Government Accountability Office reported that during the period of December 1986 through December 2004, college textbook prices increased 186% and inflation increased only 72%

The textbook market is supply-driven rather than demand-driven and consequently offers consumers (students) no role in determining price, format, or quality of the product.

The State of Maryland has passed legislative initiatives to control the cost of tuition but not to control the cost of textbooks.

Despite student petitions, digital options and congressional intervention, the tab for textbooks keeps growing in what is now an \$8 billion industry. Prices are so high that some college students are trying to get by without purchasing the required books.

The College Board places the average annual cost of books at \$1,168 per student. Efforts to reduce this staggering sum have led to marketing of used, rental and forms of electronic books. But there are many hurdles and the textbook situation is likely to get worse before it gets better.

Although college enrollment has increased in the past 10 years, textbook sales have been dropping. Not surprisingly, publishers and authors will do whatever they can to maintain profit levels. As sales of used books have increased, prices for new books have risen.

Empowering and Educating Communities

School Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
School

Policy Origin:
Broward County, Florida
Michigan State Board of Education
National School Boards Association

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:

- <http://www.nsba.org/SchoolLaw/Issues/Safety/State-Educational-Agency-Model-Anti-Bullying-Policies-and-Other-Resources.pdf> (NSBA)
- https://michigan.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SBE_Model_AntiBullying_Policy_Revised_9.8_172355_7.pdf (Michigan)
- <http://www.browardschools.com/schools/pdf/bully/Anti-BullyPolicy%205.9.pdf> (Broward County, Florida)

Summary Narrative of Policy:

These policies are designed to ensure that every school has staff that have been trained and are supported in their school's efforts to provide awareness, intervention training, and instructional strategies on prevention, including violence prevention, to each staff, parent, and student in the District and to direct follow up when incidents are reported and/or occur.

State anti-bullying statutes direct state educational agencies to, among other things: aggregate and report on information received from districts on incidents of bullying, provide training or materials to districts, review local policies, develop curriculum and standards for school safety specialist training, develop teacher preparation program standards on identification and prevention, develop model education and awareness programs, and/or provide technical assistance to districts. Some of these actions are in the form of administrative rule-making, to which local school boards will be subject

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Bullying of any kind has the potential to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment or cause long term damage; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation, is carried out repeatedly and is often characterized by an imbalance of power.

Bullying takes place all over the world. One study estimated that 200 million children across the globe are affected. School districts and governments are taking steps to educate the public and to enforce policy for the purposes of reducing the incidence of bully behavior in children.

Community Education

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
School

Policy Origin:
Alexandria, MN

Policy/Bill Number:
Sec. 901

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.fridley.k12.mn.us/uploaded/School_Board/Policies/901_policy.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The purpose of this policy is to convey to employees and to the general public the important role of community education within the school district. The policy affirms a strong commitment to the community education and welcomes the use of school buildings and activity areas by the community when not used for regularly scheduled elementary and secondary programs, and creates a council to promote meet this goal. The policy also strives to accomplish the following objectives:

- Maximum use should be made of public school facilities within the school district service area.
- Educational needs and interest of area residents should be determined periodically.
- Community resources and expertise of residents should be utilized to develop a vibrant, well-rounded community education program.
- Area residents should be encouraged to actively participate in program opportunities.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

This policy can be one of the first steps in embarking on community partnerships to enhance the support and performance of schools, and transforms them into a worthwhile community hub. When families, schools, and community institutions (e.g., local businesses, community colleges, and health agencies) collectively agree upon their goals and decide how to reach them, everyone benefits. Schools enjoy the informed support of families and community members, families experience many opportunities to contribute to their children's education, and communities look forward to an educated, responsible workforce. Benefits accrue to the staff of schools and community agencies as well: they can observe boosts in morale, heightened engagement in their work, and a feeling that their work will net results.

Early Chronic School Absence Prevention

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
School

Policy Origin:
San Francisco, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
Resolution No. 106-8A2

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.sfusd.edu/assets/sfusd-staff/board-archive/agendas/Agenda82410.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy requests that the Superintendent of Schools provide an annual analysis of absence patterns for elementary schools by school, grade and student population, to reduce the student chronic absentee rate to no more than 10% in any elementary school by the end of the 2012-13 school year. The policy also creates a pilot program that focuses on schools under the Superintendent Zone during the 2010-11 school year to reduce the chronic absentee rate in each participating school by at least 5%. Pilot schools were selected based on, among other factors, the availability of School Improvement Grant funds, existing SFUSD resources, and/or external community resources. At the end of 2013, the District will reassess what should be its target for chronic absence reduction given progress made over the past three years.

The Superintendent is also requested to ask each pilot elementary school site in the Superintendent Zone to create a Student Attendance Monitoring Team. The team will review data on chronic absences by grade, classroom and, if possible, by neighborhood of residence and perform the initial analysis of barriers to attendance faced by their parents and students. Based upon that analysis of their own attendance data as well as known best practices, each school will develop a numeric target and plan for reducing chronic absence that is incorporated into its school improvement plans.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Chronic absence, defined as a student missing 10% or more days of school including all absences regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused, contributes to lower student achievement starting in kindergarten. Chronic absence in kindergarten is associated with lower academic performance in 1st grade for all children, especially in reading for Latino children. Among poor children, chronic absence in kindergarten predicted lower 5th grade achievement. The long term impact reflects the reality that poor children often lack the resources to make up for time on task and are more likely to face challenges (such as unreliable transportation, unstable housing, or lack of health care) that lead to chronic absence occurring again in subsequent years. Students do not have equal opportunities to learn when they are chronically absent from school; and

Nationwide, one out of ten kindergarteners and first graders are chronically absent. Chronic absence can reach even higher levels affecting as many as a quarter of all K-3rd graders in a school district or half of the children in an elementary school. Chronic absence, however, is often overlooked because most schools only typically only track data on average daily attendance and truancy (unexcused absence). Both can easily mask chronic absence especially among young children who are not likely to miss school without the knowledge of an adult who may call in an excuse. While chronic absence rates are higher and more intractable in secondary school, it is crucial to start addressing the problem among our youngest students.

Parent Engagement and Partnership Plan

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
School

Policy Origin:
San Francisco, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
Resolution No. 94-28A2

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.sfusd.edu/assets/sfusd-staff/board-archive/memberreso/Yee%20Fewer%20Parent%20EngagementPartnership%20Plan%20WAI%206%2009.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy, passed by the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District, mandates that the Superintendent of Schools develop a District Pre K-12 Parent Engagement and Partnership Program that:

- Strengthens the District's existing efforts to expand parent learning and leadership opportunities and fully aligns them to the parent/family/community engagement provisions of Beyond the Talk and the Lau and LEA Plans;
- Defines the District's vision for, purpose and belief in, and commitment to engaging parents in empowering roles in the District, with special attention to engaging historically marginalized parents in leadership and partnership opportunities;
- Defines clearly the roles of the parent liaisons in furthering this work;
- Defines the various levels of parent engagement and specifies the acceptable evidence of the District's success in implementing them; and
- Considers an array of research-supported promising parent engagement

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Research shows that when families are involved at home and at school, children do better in school, and the schools improve. Students with involved parents are more likely to: Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs; Be promoted, pass their classes and earn credits;

attend school regularly; exhibit better social skills, show improved behavior and adapt well to school environments; and Graduate and go on to post-secondary education.

Studies show that all families are talking to their children about school, trying to keep them focused on learning and homework, encouraging them to work hard and get a good education, and helping them plan for higher education. However, families with higher levels of education and income have greater opportunity than other families to be more engaged at school, better able to work collaboratively with educators, and therefore to be better informed about how to help their children at home.

Investing in parent education when children are young will pay off throughout their whole career in school. The more that programs and activities for families are linked to what their children are learning and doing in class, the greater impact they will have on student achievement.

Restorative Justice and Alternatives to Suspension/Expulsion

Issue Category:
Empowering and Educating Communities

Target Level of Government:
School Board

Policy Origin:
San Francisco, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
Resolution No. 96-23A1

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.sfusd.edu/assets/sfusd-staff/board-archive/memberreso/Kim%20Fewer%20Maufas%20SUB%20wchgs%20adopted%20Restorative%20Jus%2010%2013%2009.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The resolution directs the San Francisco Unified School District to adopt a restorative justice framework and create clear and voluntary alternatives to suspensions and expulsions. Since 2001, suspensions of all students have dramatically increased each school year in San Francisco, in particular for middle school students. Data shows that the current ways of dealing with students' behavioral issues have not been effective, have disproportionately hurt African American and Latino students, and have been proven to negatively influence students' learning experience.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The purpose of the new policy is to decrease suspension rates, provide teachers and principals with training and tools to implement alternatives, increase student time in the classroom, and retain students in their schools. Restorative Justice is a process to involve all parties (including victim, teacher, and parents) who have a stake in a specific offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and solutions to the behavior and harm caused. By focusing on the harm caused by the student instead of pushing him or her out of the classroom, we hope to address the actual incident, empower the student and families, and also involve all parties.

Building a Healthy Society

Local Policy

False Advertising by Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
Local/Municipal

Policy Origin:
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Policy/Bill Number:
FILE NO. 110899

Link to full text of policy:
https://motherjones.com/files/ordinance_final2.doc

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This ordinance, passed in San Francisco, prohibits Crisis Pregnancy Centers (“CPCs”) to advertise false or misleading statements to the public about pregnancy-related services the centers may offer or perform. In addition, the ordinance ensures that Limited Pregnancy Centers present proper licensing documentation for the various medical services they provide.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

In recent years, clinics that seek to counsel clients against abortion have become common throughout California. These clinics are often referred to as crisis pregnancy centers (“CPCs”). Although some CPCs are licensed to provide various medical services to pregnant women, most CPCs are not licensed medical clinics.

Some CPCs openly acknowledge, in their advertising and their facilities, that they do not provide abortions or emergency contraception or refer clients to other providers of such services. Some of these same CPCs also openly acknowledge that they believe abortion is morally wrong. Many CPCs, however, seek to mislead women contemplating abortion into believing that their facilities offer abortion services and unbiased counseling.

Most clients do not come to CPCs as a result of a referral from a medical professional. Clients seeking information regarding options to terminate a pregnancy commonly are experiencing emotional and physical stress and are therefore especially susceptible to false or misleading elements in advertising by CPCs. These circumstances raise the need for regulation that is more protective of potential consumers of pregnancy center services.

Health Care Security Ordinance

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
Local/Municipal

Policy Origin:
San Francisco, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
Health Care Security Ordinance: "Healthy San Francisco"

Link to full text of policy:
[http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/administrative/chapter14sanfranciscohealthcaresecurity?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:sanfrancisco_ca](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/administrative/chapter14sanfranciscohealthcaresecurity?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:sanfrancisco_ca)

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The Health Care Security Ordinance (HCSO or "Ordinance"), enacted in July 2006, established a health access program (now called "Healthy San Francisco") and mandated that employers subject to the Ordinance – for-profit employers with 20 or more employees and nonprofit employers with 50 or more employees – "make required health care expenditures to or on behalf of their covered employees each quarter" beginning in 2008. Covered employees are those who have been employed for at least 90 calendar days, regularly worked 8 or more hours per week in San Francisco, and do not meet any of the limited exemption criteria.

The San Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance (HCSO or "Ordinance") was passed unanimously by the Board of Supervisors in July of 2006.

The City's Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) is charged with enforcing the ESR (or "health care expenditure requirement"). As required by the Ordinance, the OLSE promulgated "Regulations Implementing the Employer Spending Requirement of the San Francisco Health Care Security Ordinance."

Employers are required to maintain accurate records of their health care expenditures and to provide information to the OLSE on an annual basis regarding their compliance with the health care expenditure requirement. To facilitate compliance with this reporting requirement, the OLSE established procedures for covered employers to submit an

Annual Reporting Form (ARF) to the OLSE by April 30th every year (regarding the employer's compliance with the ESR in the previous calendar year)

As required by the Ordinance, the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) collects compliance data ("Annual Reporting Forms") from covered employers on an annual basis.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Early in Mayor Gavin Newsom's first term, he worked to extend the city-funded health insurance program, started under Mayor Brown, to young adults, a program that had been previously offered only to children. Newsom's more ambitious plan on healthcare began to take shape in 2007. In his budget proposal for fiscal year 2007-2008, Newsom announced his intention to provide universal health care for all city residents. The care would be provided through the San Francisco Health Access Plan also known as Healthy San Francisco. The system planned to use more electronic referrals and focus on preventive care.

A legal challenge against the program which was filed by the Golden Gate Restaurant Association in 2006 was denied a hearing by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 29, 2010, legally clearing the program for continued existence for the foreseeable future.

Healthy San Francisco receives funding from the city, the federal government, patient [co-payments] and fees imposed on San Francisco businesses that do not provide health coverage for their workers. The Health Care Security Ordinance included a requirement that employers with more than 20 workers spend at least a minimum amount towards employee health coverage. As of early May 2008 over 700 employers had decided to participate in the program.

A 2009 survey of participants found more than 90% were "at least somewhat satisfied" and would recommend it to a friend, but only 40% of participants said their care was considerably better since joining the program, and the survey only included participants who had been allowed to join.

Health Care Accountability Ordinance

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
Local/Municipal

Policy Origin:
San Francisco, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
None

Link to full text of policy:

[http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/administrative/chapter12qhealthcareaccountability?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:sanfrancisco_ca](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/administrative/chapter12qhealthcareaccountability?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:sanfrancisco_ca)

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The Health Care Accountability Ordinance (HCAO) generally requires City contractors and certain tenants to provide health plan benefits to their covered employees. They can do this by enrolling employees in a health plan, by making payments to the City, or, under limited circumstances, by making payments directly to employees.

The Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) is charged with enforcing this Ordinance. Employers are also required to obtain a signed document from employees that explain their rights under this law.

The Ordinance covers employees of a contractor or subcontractor, a City property tenant or subtenant or their service contract or subcontract on a lease for use of City property for more than 29 consecutive days, that cumulatively have more than 20 employees (more than 50 for non-profits) in all the entities that they own or control, and the contract is \$25,000 or more (\$50,000 or more for non-profits) or have cumulative contracts for \$75,000 or more with the City and County of San Francisco.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Responsible contracting policies make for good public policy for several reasons. They make sure that construction firms do not misclassify their workers as independent contractors, rendering them ineligible for social security, unemployment insurance, health insurance and workers compensation. They ensure that contractors cannot underbid public contracts merely by shortchanging their workforce, a practice that creates public costs elsewhere when those workers rely on publicly-subsidized health insurance or when the quality of construction suffers as a result of lack of skills training and workforce stability.

Paid Sick Days

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
Local/Municipal

Policy Origin:
Seattle, WA City Council

Policy/Bill Number:
**Council Bill 117216,
Ordinance Number 123698**

Link to full text of policy:

<http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nphbrs.exe?s1=&s3=117216&s4=&s2=&s5=&Sect4=AND&l=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=CBORY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=ORDF&p=1&u=/~public/cbory.htm&r=1&f=G>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation establishes a requirement that employees working in the city of Seattle be provided paid sick and safe time. This time is to made be available when: the employee is sick, a member of their immediate family is sick and needs care; the employee's place of work or their child's school or place of care is ordered closed by a public health official; or as the victim of domestic violence, or acting in support of family-member who has been a victim, the employee needs time off to address matters related to follow-up care or legal action. As detailed in the legislation, the minimum amount of leave that must be provided varies by firm size. The legislation provides an exemption for the first two years of operation for firms, and also delays initial implementation of the overall ordinance until September 1, 2011 for all firms.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The ordinance is designed to address a number of related public policy concerns:

Without paid sick time, employees are more likely to come to work while ill, risking their own health, that of their colleagues, and potentially that of customers and clients.

Without paid sick time, employees will be less likely to take time off to seek preventive care for themselves or their children; and may be tempted to send unhealthy children to school. Either of these practices could lead to poorer health for workers and their children.

Without paid safe time, employees are less likely to take the time needed to address situations where they or a family member has been the victim of domestic violence. Given the social costs associated with domestic violence, this is not a desirable outcome.

Workers who do not have paid sick time place themselves and their families at economic risk, due to the impact of lost wages, when they choose to take sick or safe time without pay.

Direct costs –To fully inform employers and employees about the effects of the paid leave requirements, OCR will need to undertake a significant one-time outreach effort. The projected cost of this effort is approximately \$105,000, including some temporary staffing costs. These one-time costs would be incurred during the 12-18 months following passage of the ordinance.

Rule-making and on-going enforcement responsibilities will require the addition of one Civil Rights Analyst. The pro-rated cost of one quarter of staffing in 2011 is \$20,900; the on-going full year costs for 2012 and beyond is \$84,000. The position authority and appropriation required for enforcement are the subject of a separate “companion” ordinance that includes its own fiscal note. In addition, on-going outreach and the cost of printing updated informational materials for distribution to employers could represent as much as \$15,000 per year in additional costs.

Building a Healthy Society

State Policy

Health Insurance Exchange Coverage Extension

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Nebraska

Policy/Bill Number:
LB 422

Link to full text of policy:
<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/Intro/LB422.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy extends coverage by the Nebraska State Health Insurance Exchange to additional classes of individuals. The policy extends the opportunity to participate in the state run healthcare exchange to citizens who were offered healthcare through COBRA coverage or through short-term ongoing coverage.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Under the Affordable Care Act, states are required to create Healthcare Exchanges by 2014. States that do not create an exchange by that time will have the federal government create one for them. Prior to the Affordable Care Act individuals and small business were subject to having to buy health insurance on the open market. Without the dispersion of risk across many policies, health insurance companies were charging exceptionally high rates for insufficient and poorly regulated policies.

The Affordable Care Act created state-level health exchanges that will allow select individuals and small businesses to participate in and buy healthcare coverage from the state-run exchanges. By pooling the plans, consumers and businesses are able to get a better deal on insurance. Meanwhile, insurance companies are able to spread the risk over the many policies covered in the exchange.

States have the ability to regulate the terms and conditions of their health exchanges to make them more advantageous to consumers and create a greater degree of transparency and accountability.

Prescription Contraceptive Coverage

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Nebraska

Policy/Bill Number:
LB 422

Link to full text of policy:
<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/Intro/LB422.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy requires parity in prescription drug companies. If an insurance plan covers prescription pharmaceuticals, this policy requires the plan to also cover oral contraceptives without imposing any special restrictions on consumers. This includes bans on special deductibles, increased co-pays and incentives provided to health care providers for withholding contraceptives from covered persons.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

More than 10 percent of health insurance plans do not cover oral contraceptives, while 99 percent of plans provide prescription drug coverage. Many of these same plans provide coverage for Viagra and other erectile dysfunction medications. The lack of coverage for contraception forces women to choose cheaper and less effective methods of birth control which can lead to unintended pregnancies. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a federal court have found that employers who cover preventative medicines, but not contraceptives are committing sex discrimination.

Each year there are more than 3 million unintended pregnancies in the United States. Women who become pregnant unintentionally are less likely to obtain timely, adequate prenatal care, increasing the likelihood of low birth-weight and infant mortality. Effective family planning could reduce low birth-weight by 12 percent and infant mortality by 10 percent.

A NARAL Foundation poll found that 77 percent of Americans support legislation that requires health insurance companies to cover the cost of contraception. Covering contraception is a cost effective option for employers. The added cost per employee would be just \$1.43 per month. The medical cost of unintended pregnancies are dramatically higher - \$4,994 for ectopic pregnancy, \$1,038 for spontaneous abortion and \$8,619 for a pregnancy taken to term.

Health Insurance Exchange

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Utah State Legislature

Policy/Bill Number:
HB 188

Link to full text of policy:
<http://le.utah.gov/~2009/htmdoc/hbillhtm/hb0188.htm>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy created the Utah Health Insurance Exchange. Utah and Massachusetts were the first two states in the nation to establish healthcare exchanges, both doing so in advance of the requirement to do so now in place as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Utah's health insurance exchange created a NetCare plan that provide low cost health benefit plans as an alternative to federal COBRA coverage. Additionally, the policy required that health insurance brokers disclose their commissions and compensation to potential customers. Utah developed a program that dispersed risk among the participating insurers in the system to help protect the insurers from adverse risk selection. The policy also required insurers to provide greater transparency and disclose information about the plan benefits, provider networks, wellness programs, claim payment practices and solvency ratings.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Under the Affordable Care Act, states are required to create Healthcare Exchanges by 2014. States that do not create an exchange by that time will have the federal government create one for them. Prior to the Affordable Care Act individuals and small business were subject to having to buy health insurance on the open market. Without the dispersion of risk across many policies, health insurance companies were charging exceptionally high rates for insufficient and poorly regulated policies.

The Affordable Care Act created state-level health exchanges that will allow select individuals and small businesses to participate in and buy healthcare coverage from the state-run exchanges. By

pooling the plans, consumers and businesses are able to get a better deal on insurance. Meanwhile, insurance companies are able to spread the risk over the many policies covered in the exchange.

States have the ability to regulate the terms and conditions of their health exchanges to make them more advantageous to consumers and create a greater degree of transparency and accountability.

Health Insurance Exchange Transparency

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Nebraska Legislature

Policy/Bill Number:
HB 1142

Link to full text of policy:
<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/Intro/LB1142.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy specifically addresses transparency and data collection in the Nebraska Health Insurance Exchange. The bill creates a committee to collect data on patient treatment, healthcare costs, treatment needs in the interest of improving care. The goal of the committee is to result in usable and comparable information that allows public and private health care purchasers, consumers, and data analysts to identify and compare health plans, health insurers, health care facilities and providers provide safe, cost-effective, and high quality health care services. The bill has additional provisions to study the effectiveness of intervention programs

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Under the Affordable Care Act, states are required to create Healthcare Exchanges by 2014. States that do not create an exchange by that time will have the federal government create one for them. Prior to the Affordable Care Act individuals and small business were subject to having to buy health insurance on the open market. Without the dispersion of risk across many policies, health insurance companies were charging exceptionally high rates for insufficient and poorly regulated policies.

The Affordable Care Act created state-level health exchanges that will allow select individuals and small businesses to participate in and buy healthcare coverage from the state-run exchanges. By pooling the plans, consumers and businesses are able to get a better deal on insurance. Meanwhile, insurance companies are able to spread the risk over the many policies covered in the exchange.

States have the ability to regulate the terms and conditions of their health exchanges to make them more advantageous to consumers and create a greater degree of transparency and accountability.

Building a Healthy Society

School Policy

Healthy Beverage Resolution

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
Local/School

Policy Origin:
Los Angeles, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
None

Link to full text of policy:
http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/cfj/publications/healthy_beverage_resolution.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This resolution, passed in the Los Angeles Unified School District, mandates that the only beverages authorized for sale at the School District before, during, and until one half hour after the end of the school day at all sites accessible to students shall be: fruit based drinks that are composed of no less than 50 percent fruit juices and have no added sweeteners; drinking water; milk, including, but not limited to, chocolate milk, soy milk, rice milk, and other similar dairy or nondairy milk; and electrolyte replacement beverages and vitamin waters that do not contain more than 42 grams of added sweetener per 20 ounce serving.

The resolution also placed restrictions that disallowed any school in the District from entering into any new contracts, or extending or renewing any existing contracts, for the sale of any non-approved beverage on campus vending machines, student stores, and cafeterias are not utilized for such sales.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Child obesity has increased two-fold over the past two decades and adolescent obesity has increased three-fold. Overweight and obese children are at higher risks for long-term health problems such as cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, asthma, and certain cancers. A Harvard School of Public Health study of ninth and tenth grade girls found that those who drank colas were three times more likely to develop bone fractures than those who did not, and among physically active girls, those who drank colas were five times more likely to break bones than those who did not; A report for the District's Student Health and Human Services found that over 25 percent of children in Los Angeles County are uninsured and, thus, do not have access to preventative health care, creating an even greater need for healthy alternatives in schools.

Community Gardens

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
Local/School

Policy Origin:
Los Angeles, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
None

Link to full text of policy:
<http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/files/97114.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy idea was implemented in the Los Angeles school district in an effort to expand agricultural education, healthy aesthetic, and in some case healthy food options.

For man many urban areas, children are surrounded by cement, brick and asphalt and the natural environment is behind fences and not available for hands-on exploration. A school garden program can bring nature and agriculture to life on campus. Children become excited about science, math and nutrition through gardening experiences. Creative skills and physical fitness can also be developed through gardening. Because we've seen how a school garden can be a powerful learning tool, we want to share how we've established school gardens in Los Angeles County.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

A recent survey by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom found that more than 60% of the children thought that cotton comes from sheep and that vegetables come from the store. There is clearly a need for agriculture education for urban students. In addition, gardens create enthusiasm for learning, encourage nutrition and foster team-building.

A school garden gives young people an opportunity to better understand their relationship with nature creates a dynamic environment for learning core subjects and promotes cooperation through group activities. Children can be taught to conserve natural resources and preserve the environment. A garden often encourages self-confidence and a sense of responsibility and belonging to one's community.

A garden can also bring a community together. Senior citizens, parents, students and community members can work together on designing, building and maintaining the garden as well as teaching the students after the garden is built. By getting help from many hands, the gardening experience becomes enjoyable for all.

Integrating Mental Health in Schools

Issue Category:

Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:

Local/School

Policy Origin:

School Community Health Alliance

Policy/Bill Number:

None

Link to full text of policy:

None

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This ordinance, proposed by the Michigan Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education, reviews and revises the Professional Standards for Michigan Teachers to include standards for addressing mental health in students. The policy promotes education, prevention, early detection and development, and treatment of mental health issues and disabilities in public schools.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Mental health impacts our schools and how our children perform in school. Approximately 20 percent of students suffer from mental illness. Untreated mental illness diminishes the capacity for students to learn and perform in school. Students with mental disabilities are significantly more likely to be suspended and expelled from school.

Schools that provide social, emotional and mental health support have lower expulsion and suspension rates. Using Social and Emotional Learning Strategies raises student and school grades, improves standardized test scores by 11 to 17 percent, are effective across racial, ethnic, geography and age demographics, and improves students social and emotional skills.

This policy encourages schools to make strides in preventing, detecting and treating mental illness and disabilities in both students and teachers. Additionally, the policy creates guidelines for teacher development and training in the area of mental health.

Student Physical Wellness Programs

Issue Category:
Building a Healthy Society

Target Level of Government:
Local/School

Policy Origin:
Burbank Unified School District

Policy/Bill Number:
BP 5030

Link to full text of policy:
None

Summary Narrative of Policy:

With the nation fighting an increasing rate of obesity in students and children, school boards around the country have found it necessary to fight the epidemic themselves. This policy creates guidelines for school wellness, fitness and nutritional curriculums in public schools. This policy increases standards for school meals, creates training procedures for teachers and establishes standards for all food given to children in schools. Numerous school boards around the country have introduced similar legislation, some addressing different issues including smoking, drugs and other health related issues.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Child obesity has increased two-fold over the past two decades and adolescent obesity has increased three-fold. As the school reform movement has taken shape over the past two decades, the components of coordinated school health programs have been shown to have an impact on student success in school. By coordinating the educational programs in physical fitness and nutrition, increasing healthy eating choices in schools and increasing community involvement, schools have found an effective method of combatting childhood obesity. These coordinated efforts are making sure that all aspects of health education are working synchronously to combat the rising health concerns facing students and children.

Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Local Policy

Anti-Fracking on City Leased Land

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Ithaca, NY

Policy/Bill Number:
Chapter 9.1

Link to full text of policy:
http://documents.foodandwaterwatch.org/doc/Frack_Actions_IthacaCityNY.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation prohibits the city of Ithaca from leasing or consenting to the use of any city-owned land for slick-water hydraulic-fracturing to extract natural gas.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Hydro-fracking is a pressing issue facing communities around the country. The environmental impact of hydro-fracking is often drastic, harmful and long-lasting. Communities where hydro-fracking is conducted often face severe economic harms including natural gas and the chemicals used in the process of extracting natural gas from the earth can contaminate drinking water. Some research has indicated a link between earthquakes and the consequences of hydro-fracking.

The environmental and public implications of hydro-fracking are profound. The need for action is immediate, but the complicated regulations, the power of lobbyists and the special interests in state capitals make it difficult to move state-level bans forward. However, progress is possible on the local level.

Biofuel Alternatives for City Vehicles

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Signal Mountain, Tennessee

Policy/Bill Number:
137

Link to full text of policy:
http://signalmountaintn.gov/assets/resolutions/2008/resolutions_2008_6.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy allows town managers to purchase bio fuels for use with diesel vehicles so long as the cost of the fuel is less than 5 cents more than the cost of non-bio fuels.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Bio fuels decrease the United States' dependence on foreign oil, cut climate damaging carbon-based emissions substantially, provide a renewable energy source that can be produced domestically, and do not require invasive energy exploration tactics. Many cities do not have a policy on substituting bio-fuels for traditional fuel sources. Accordingly, many city officials are unable to purchase and use biofuels because of a nominal cost difference. Codifying acceptable bio fuel use policy makes it easier for city managers to make the responsible environmental choices.

Building Code Energy Efficiency Standards

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.cabq.gov/obsolete/sustainability/pdf/volumel.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy creates specific building code modifications that new construction and renovations must comply with. Specifically, the policy requires commercial and multi-family residential buildings to be 30 percent more energy efficient; single family homes to use insulation to reduce wasted energy lost through heating and cooling; and for buildings to pass Thermal Bypass Inspections to ensure buildings with less air leakage.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The 2007 Energy Conservation Code is a part of the City of Albuquerque's efforts to achieve the goals of the 2030 Challenge to ensure that all new buildings are carbon neutral by the year 2030. Green buildings save money for consumers, promote development and create a healthy, sustainable living environment. This policy provides specific, achievable legislative codes that enforce green building codes.

Green Building Requirements

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
San Francisco, California

Policy/Bill Number:
Chapter 13C

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.sfenvironment.org/downloads/library/sf_green_building_ordinance_2008.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy specifies building requirements in the city's building code for green building practices. Where a building that is a historical resource is demolished, the replacement building is required to exceed LEED Certification standards by 10 percent. To achieve GreenPoint Rated status, construction must exceed LEED standards by 25 percent. Additionally, projects must demonstrate a 30 percent reduction in the use of potable water. The policy also requires standards in terms of windows, commercial, multi-family and high-rise residential buildings.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

As development is a crucial aspect of progress, ensuring that building is conducted in accordance with green standards is essential to making sure that all aspects of a local community are working to mutual benefit. Green building standards create new skilled labor jobs that pay good wages. Additionally, these standards result in a sustainable growth climate that will benefit both the community and the environment. Codifying these standards will ensure that all developers, contractors and consumers are operating on a level playing field and working toward the greater good of the community.

Plastic Bag Ban

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
City of Berkeley, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
137

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Solid_Waste/BagReductionDraftOrdinance.100316.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The City of Berkeley passed an ordinance to reduce the environmental impacts of single use plastic and paper shopping bags by encouraging shoppers to use reusable bags. The ordinance was introduced to reduce the use of single use plastic checkout bags and paper checkout bags in Berkeley, thereby reducing the number of them that are manufactured, and the number that are released to the natural environment or disposed of in landfill.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Overall there are about 23 communities in the United States that have placed bans on single-use disposable plastic bags at retailer establishments. Typically, the ordinances do exclude plastic bags used for bulk items, frozen foods, meats and fish, prepared foods, flowers and prescription medicines from the ban. In addition to the bag bans in 23 U.S. communities, Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County, Maryland, have passed 5-cent tax policies on plastic and paper bags at carryout.

Small Wind Energy Systems

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:

<http://c0133301.cdn.cloudfiles.rackspacecloud.com/Ordinance%20-%20Model%20Ordinance%20for%20Permitting%20of%20Small%20Wind%20Facilities.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy provides sample legislation for towns to implement permitting and regulation procedures so that towns can allow the execution of small wind energy systems. The sample policy provides standard zoning procedures, maintenance requirements and regulations for the installation and operation of small wind turbines.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Cities need to codify regulations surrounding new renewable energy technology to ensure that citizens and businesses guarantee the proper, safe and reasonable operation of these new technologies. Wind energy is an efficient, clean and renewable source of energy. Long-term commitment can save turbine owners money by cutting electricity bills. Wind turbines are common in large energy farms, but their use by private citizens and businesses is still limited by the lack of clear legal standing.

Zero Waste

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Boulder County, Colorado

Policy/Bill Number:
138

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.bouldercounty.org/find/library/gogreen/enrgyres2005-137.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy creates the Boulder Zero Waste principle as a guiding principle of the county. The Zero Waste principle includes many aspects including incorporating “take back” language in purchase agreements that require suppliers take back old equipment for reuse or recycling; requires volume-based residential trash collection; encourages use of re-usable packaging; and requires increased diversion of organic waste for use in composting and natural disposal.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Boulder County produces approximately 300,000 tons of waste each year. The county’s overall waste generation could be dramatically decreased by policy initiatives that incentivize recycling, reuse and reducing wasteful consumption. Boulder County has embraced sustainability as one of the three guiding principles for the County Commission. Over the past few years, the county has taken on aggressive policies to protect the environment and promote green policies.

Ensuring a Sustainable Future

State Policy

Bio Fuel Credits

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Maine

Policy/Bill Number:
LD 589

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_124th/billpdfs/HP042701.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy provides for a 15 cent tax credit per gallon of bio fuel produced by bio fuel manufacturers. The tax credit is paid for by a \$500,000 per year general fund. This policy is specifically in regard to wood mass-derived biofuels – timber being a major industry in Maine.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Bio fuels decrease the United States' dependence on foreign oil, cut climate damaging carbon-based emissions substantially, provide a renewable energy source that can be produced domestically, and do not require invasive energy exploration tactics. Bio fuels require a great deal of technological investment and often operate with less of a profit margin than traditional oil-based fuels. This subsidy helps to promote bio fuel development in Maine, which will stimulate the economy with new, good paying, and skilled green jobs.

Local Renewable Energy Standards

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
California

Policy/Bill Number:
AB 117

Link to full text of policy:
http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/01-02/bill/asm/ab_0101-0150/ab_117_bill_20020924_chaptered.html

Summary Narrative of Policy:

Cities in six states (California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, and Rhode Island) may adopt local plans and standards for energy sources as provided by the process under their state law, also known as Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). This state legislation enables local governments to aggregate electricity loads of residents, businesses, and municipal facilities. City programs use aggregated demand to achieve local objectives, whether rate savings, reliability, greenhouse gas reduction, and jobs creation. Customers are enrolled into their community's program, and may opt-out. These programs reflect the values of their governing boards and served communities. Nearly 300 municipalities in Illinois approved referenda in 2012.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

These community aggregation programs allow cities to obtain renewable energy more cost efficiently. By aggregating district-wide energy demand, it is possible to dramatically increase the percentage of renewable energy used.

The Marin Energy Authority in California achieves 27 percent renewable energy and is targeting 50% by 2020, and San Francisco's proposed program targets 100% renewable energy in 2012.

Additionally, program offers the benefits of municipal power without the costs and administrative burden of electricity distribution infrastructure, which continues to be maintained by the customary utility.

Global Warming Solutions Act

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
California

Policy/Bill Number:
AB 32

Link to full text of policy:
http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/05-06/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/ab_32_bill_20060927_chaptered.html

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This landmark climate protection law requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. It directed an administrative agency to develop early actions to reduce greenhouse gases while preparing a broader plan to achieve the target. The plan achieves the reductions largely through energy efficiency, renewable energy, low-carbon fuels, a cleaner fleet of cars, and a cap-and-trade regulation as a backstop to ensure the reductions are achieved. The targeted reduction represent a 30 percent decrease from business as usual emissions. The California Cap-and-Trade program is intended to link with other subnational jurisdictions in the West, and is designed as a flexible market mechanism to ensure that reductions are cost-effective.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

This legislation backs up its policy goals with a set of state-level programs that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By linking the state goal of returning to 1990 levels by the year 2020 with actionable programs that will definitively lower emission, this policy establishes both the goal and the means for obtaining it.

Through specific requirements regarding fuel efficiency, fuel cleanliness and renewable energy standards, as well as a state-level cap-and-trade program, the legislation creates a roadmap to the desired 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Protection and Green Economy

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Massachusetts State Legislature

Policy/Bill Number:
Chapter 298

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2008/Chapter298>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy mandates that the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs establish statewide greenhouse gas emission limits. These limits require that by 2020 greenhouse gas emissions must be between 10 - 25 percent below statewide emissions level in 1990. Additionally, the bill sets interim limits for 2030 and 2040, and requires that by in 2050, emissions must be at least 80 percent below statewide GHG emissions in 1990. The policy creates reporting requirements and regulations for business production in excess of 5,000 tons of greenhouse gases annually.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Greenhouse gases are among the leading causes of climate change. The burning of fossil fuels accounts for a large portion of modern industrialized nations' greenhouse gases. By establishing such far reaching goals, this policy will influence Massachusetts policy making, environmental impact and overall energy efficiency for years to come. This policy creates a path for Massachusetts to be a global leader in greenhouse gas reduction policy.

Community Solar Gardens

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Maine

Policy/Bill Number:
HOUSE BILL 10-1342

Link to full text of policy:

<http://ssl.csg.org/dockets/2012cycle/2012volume/2012volumeoriginalbills/0332a03communitysolargarden.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation allows for small consumers to create community solar gardens. The solar gardens allow the creation of a pool that has at a minimum of at least 10 subscribers. The community solar gardens will allow for consumers to generate solar energy collectively without needing an access to a large corporate solar farm. Additionally, the legislation requires that a portion of the energy produced by the community solar garden be used for low-income residents.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

A solar garden is a solar electric array with multiple subscribers connected to the utility grid. The subscribers may purchase a portion of the power produced by the array and receive a credit on their electric bill. Utility customers within the solar garden's service area, including residences, businesses, local governments, non-profits, and faith-based organizations, can all subscribe to the sun.

Unlike big power plants, a solar garden is a distributed generation project. Distributing power production provides benefits to communities beyond local, clean, and more affordable energy. It also creates jobs locally, avoids destroying delicate habitats, and bypasses the need for inefficient transmission lines, which lose power during transmission and can take many years to put in place.

Financing Energy Efficiency Improvement Tax Credit

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Maryland

Policy/Bill Number:
Chapter 490

Link to full text of policy:

<http://ssl.csg.org/dockets/2012cycle/2012volume/2012volumeoriginalbills/1432a02md/electricvehicles.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation passed by the state of Maryland provides for a \$2,000 tax credit against the state excise tax on automobiles for residents who purchase qualifying electric vehicles. Most professionally manufactured plug-in automobiles would qualify for the tax credit.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

One of the leading barriers to entry in the energy efficiency marketplace for consumers is the cost of green technology. This tax credit helps consumers defer the cost of purchasing an electric car. Electric cars not only improve the environmental impact of driving, but can also decrease the long-term transportation costs for consumers. Electric cars can save owners up to 12 cents per mile over an average gas power car.

On Bill Financing for Energy Efficiency Improvements

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
South Carolina

Policy/Bill Number:
Act 141

Link to full text of policy:
<http://ssl.csg.org/dockets/2012cycle/2012volume/2012volumeoriginalbills/0332a04scmetercharge.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation allows for consumers to finance the cost of improving the efficiency of their homes by accepting an additional “Meter Conservation Charge.” The policy mandates a reasonable financing rate. The energy efficiency construction must be inspected by a certified energy auditor after completion of the work.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

One of the leading barriers to entry in the energy efficiency marketplace for consumers is the cost of making upgrades. The upfront investment needed to improve efficiency of appliances and buildings is often high—prohibitively so—to many consumers. Despite the long term savings that can be achieved through waste reduction, many families do not have the money to put aside to pay the initial costs. By financing the upgrades with reasonable rate and term loans, more consumers will be able to purchase the upgrade, and realize the long term savings.

Green Jobs Act

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Massachusetts

Policy/Bill Number:
HD 5018

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2008/Chapter307>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy allotted \$1 million per fiscal year to be focused on three specific programs: 1. Seed grants for clean energy startups, institutions and nonprofits; 2. a workforce development program to train workers and students in the skills needed to succeed in a green economy; and 3. a grant making program to clean energy organizations (including labor organizations) that run training programs that lead to economic self-sufficiency.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Creating a green economy can create new, high paying, quality jobs that demand skilled local workers. Fostering a green economy can lead states into a 21st century economy. The New England Clean Energy Council estimated that this policy could create 21 new clean energy companies, 10,000 new jobs, attract up to \$1 billion in venture capital, and result in up to \$50 million in new tax revenue for the state. This policy required the state to make an upfront investment into developing a green economy, but the potential fiscal rewards are significant. Simultaneously, this law promotes a healthy, green environmental policy that will protect the environment for future generations.

Green Jobs Colorado Training Program

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Colorado

Policy/Bill Number:
HOUSE BILL 10-1333

Link to full text of policy:

http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2010a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/EF619483FD7DC170872576A80027B7F3?open&file=1333_enr.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This two-year pilot program offers grants to training providers in order to develop training programs, strategies and curricula for occupations in the green technology industry. Grants from this program may be used for the development of a new program or the implementation of an existing program. All training providers must provide at least 20 percent of the overall training costs.

Priority will be given to applications that can show "shovel ready" programs and/or curricula and to programs that can show job attachment (the high possibility of a job offer at the end of the training program). Additionally, priority is given to applications that focus certificate programs or curricula targeted to include: upgrading skill levels, low-income adults and youth, entry-level or incumbent workers, and dislocated workers in declining industries

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The average family can save \$350 a year on their utility bills after a weatherization. Retrofitting is also a cost effective way to help our environment, because the energy wasted in homes contributes heavily to pollution in communities. American homes (particularly those in the Northeast) burn oil that comes from foreign sources, so weatherization can also bolster our nation's energy security by helping to curb the amount of foreign oil that is wasted on poorly insulated windows, doors and roofs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act invested \$5 billion to expand the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program and meet the Obama Administration's goal of weatherizing one million homes a year. This is a nearly 10-fold increase in the amount typically invested in weatherizing poorly insulated homes, but it is still not enough to fix all of the nation's energy inefficient homes. The increased funding and demand for weatherized and green homes requires more well-trained and skilled workers. This program helps to train workers for the new skills needed to succeed in this growing industry.

Community-Based Renewable Energy

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Maine

Policy/Bill Number:
Public Law, Chapter 329, LD 1075

Link to full text of policy:
<http://ssl.csg.org/dockets/2011cycle/31B/31Bbills/0331b01mecommunitybasedenergy.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation is designed to encourage locally-owned, in-state renewable energy options. The legislation provides financial incentives to companies to create renewable energy production facilities. The legislation mandates that up to 50 megawatts (MW) of generating capacity (DC) will be permitted under the program, and individual participants may not exceed 10 MW. Of the 50 MW cap, 10 MW must be reserved specifically for small program participants (with generating capacity less than 100 kW) or for participants located in a service territory of a cooperative transmission and distribution utility. To qualify participant facilities must be at least 51 percent locally owned.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

By promoting locally owned solar, tidal, wind and renewable energy sources through business development subsidies that encourage green technology to come to Maine, the state is able to benefit both the environment and the local economy. In all, six businesses took the state up on this two-year pilot program. The program has created dozens of jobs and taken great steps toward improving Maine's renewable energy technology infrastructure.

Ensuring a Sustainable Future

School Policy

Reduction of Energy and Water Consumption

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
School Board

Policy Origin:
Houston Independent School District

Policy/Bill Number:
101912

Link to full text of policy:
[http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/592?filename=CL\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/592?filename=CL(LEGAL).pdf)

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy creates an extensive set of guidelines for schools to follow in the effort of reducing water and energy consumption by schools. This policy is a long-range plan to reduce annual electric and water consumption by five percent. The plan would result in a net savings for the District and without financial cost. The policy directs for building modifications to be made to increase energy efficiency, including insulation, multi-glazed windows and doors, and HVAC system controls and improvements. Additionally, the policy calls for water-conserving irrigation equipment, rainwater harvesting, water-aware landscaping, and the collection and recycling of nonconventional water sources for non-potable uses.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Schools consume a great deal of resources, which is harmful to the environment, fiscally inefficient and wasteful. This program creates a long-term strategy for water and energy savings. In Houston, the annual energy cost for the school district is nearly \$44 million dollars. A five percent annual increase would save the district nearly \$2.2 million dollars a year. Houston spends \$238 per year per pupil on energy – which amounts to roughly 3.2 percent of per pupil costs. Saving money on energy is not just environmentally responsible; it is fiscally responsible and allows schools to spend more money on children’s actual education experience.

Energy Conservation Incentive Program

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
School Board

Policy Origin:
Palm Beach County School Board

Policy/Bill Number:
7.1965

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.1965.htm>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy creates two awards to incentivize energy conservation in schools. The two awards are given to the most improved school and the top performer. To qualify for the most improved category, a school must reduce its energy consumption by at least five percent over the prior year, submit an application, and must document and share its energy conservation strategies. Winners of the awards are financially incentivized to participate. A half percent of the money allocated to the county for energy expenditures will be dispersed among the winners of these awards.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Schools consume a great deal of resources, which is harmful to the environment, fiscally inefficient and wasteful. This program combines the environmental and economic benefits of energy conservation. Green policies on energy consumption will save schools money. This program takes some of the savings from conservation and rewards the schools that have done the most to save the school system money.

Green School Operations

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
School Board

Policy Origin:
Mountain View School District

Policy/Bill Number:
BP 3510.1

Link to full text of policy:
N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy creates a set of guidelines for schools to follow to reduce their environmental impact, increase energy conservation, and educate students, faculty and staff about their environmental footprint. The policy directs that schools be built in accordance with green building standards, use renewable and clean energy technology where possible, establish recycling programs in district facilities and use the least toxic, green cleaning products for facility maintenance. Additionally, the policy suggests that fresh, unprocessed, organic food be included in the district's food services program, and that schools provide professional development training to maintenance staff in the proper use, storage and disposal of cleaning supplies.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Schools not only consume a great deal of natural resources in operation, but they also require a great deal of chemicals and equipment to maintain. This policy focuses not just on the energy and water consumption, but also on how the facilities are maintained. Ensuring that students, staff and the environment are not exposed to toxic chemicals is an essential duty of schools. Additionally, green cleaning equipment, landscaping design and practice and renewable energy technology can dramatically decrease the cost of school operations.

Trees for Public Schools

Issue Category:
Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Target Level of Government:
School Board

Policy Origin:
School Board of Miami-Dade County

Policy/Bill Number:
7470

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.neola.com/miamidade-fl/search/policies/po7470.htm>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy creates guidelines in the development and planning of schools. It requires that schools place a priority on the planting of trees on school grounds. The policy also requires the District's Design Criteria and Standards include a list of acceptable trees, and unacceptable trees which must be removed from school property.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Schools, especially in urban areas, are often lacking in agriculture. Creating a healthy and natural environment is important for the education process and in developing overall childhood health. Policies that advocate for incorporating nature into schools are an important step in the right direction.

Defending Workers and Families

Local Policy

Banking Divestment Resolution

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
The New Bottom Line

Policy/Bill Number:
SB 1071

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.newbottomline.com/sample_local_divestment_resolutions

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This series of resolutions lays out opportunities for divestment on behalf of the City, more specifically from banks or investment banks that have demonstrated a lack of willingness to engage in good-faith efforts to negotiate sustainable permanent mortgage modifications that would help keep City residents in their homes. The resolutions lay out such decisions to terminate commercial relations with these banks and any other companies that do not support the City's efforts to reduce foreclosures and maintain its community and tax base. Resolutions of this sort have been passed in the Town of Ithaca, NY as well as the City of San Jose, CA.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

These policies address the issue of rampant foreclosures and lack of effort on behalf of banks to negotiate permanent mortgage modifications by managing more closely where City funds are invested. Divestment policies such as these are often used in an effort to curate a more comprehensive investment policy.

Model Foreclosure Ordinance

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
City, County

Policy Origin:
**Alliance of Californians for Community
Empowerment; City of Chicago, IL**

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:

<http://chicago.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=923767&GUID=5B7316FC-1189-4D15-8CC4-D55AA5A852D6&Options=&Search>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This model foreclosure ordinance attempts to alleviate the negative effects of blight caused by unmaintained vacant properties by making banks, lenders, and/or servicers which fail to maintain vacant properties that they own or have an interest in be subject to the imposition of fines. A similar ordinance addressing owner and minimum requirements for vacant buildings was passed in the City of Chicago, IL.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

This model ordinance addresses issues with abandoned or vacant buildings in that they contribute to the growth of blight within the City, necessitate additional governmental services and costs, significantly interfere with the use and enjoyment of neighboring properties, and depress market values of surrounding properties, thereby reducing tax revenues. Accordingly, such buildings create an unhealthy and unsafe condition affecting the public and constitute an unreasonable use of property and a public nuisance.

Mandatory Mediation

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
City

Policy Origin:
City of Springfield, MA

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.snrdenon.com/pdf/Springfield_Ordinance.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

Following in the footsteps of Chicago and other municipalities around the country that are trying to combat the expenses and liability for maintaining abandoned, dilapidated and vacant properties, the City Council of Springfield, Massachusetts approved two ordinances concerning (i) mortgagee/securitization trustee liability for the maintenance of vacant and/or foreclosing properties, and (ii) a mandatory, city-directed mediation program between “creditors” (as defined by the ordinance) and borrowers in an effort to avoid foreclosure in the event of a borrower’s default.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

As stated previously, this policy addresses the expenses and liability incurred in maintaining abandoned or vacant properties. As a practical matter, in light of delays in proceeding with foreclosures, properties are frequently unoccupied or abandoned by borrowers for months if not years before the actual event, increasing the likelihood that the properties will become nuisances for municipalities such as Springfield. As a part of the ordinance, lenders who fail to conduct mediation sessions with distressed borrowers living in Springfield, Massachusetts, could face penalties as high as \$30,000 under ordinances passed by the city council. Additionally, a financial institution that fails to comply with this mandate faces a \$300 fine per occurrence per day, with fines kicking in after the initial 45-day period.

Living Wage

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Los Angeles, CA

Policy/Bill Number:
172336

Link to full text of policy:
http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/1996/96-1111-S1_ORD_172336_01-14-1999.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This ordinance states that the “living wage” should be paid by the recipients of City financial assistance themselves. Whether they engaged in manufacturing or some other line of business, the City does not wish to foster an economic climate where a lesser wage is all that is offered to the working poor. The same adverse social consequences from such inadequate compensation emanate just as readily from manufacturing, for example, as service industries. This article is meant to protect these employees as well. The ordinance was passed in the city of Los Angeles.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Experience indicates that procurement by contract of services has resulted in the payment by service contractors to their employees of wages at or slightly above the minimum wage required by federal and state minimum wage laws. This minimal compensation tends to inhibit the quantity and quality of services rendered by such employees to the City and to the public. Underpaying employees in this way fosters high turnover, absenteeism, and lackluster performance. Conversely, adequate compensation promotes amelioration of these undesirable conditions. The City intends to require service contractors to provide a minimum level of compensation that will improve the level of services rendered to and for the city.

Payday Loans

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
City of Gresham, OR

Policy/Bill Number:
Ordinance No. 1627

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.portlandonline.com/omf/index.cfm?a=118387&c=42967>

Summary Narrative of:

This ordinance establishes regulations on payday lending businesses in the City. The purpose of the ordinance is to require licensing for the purpose of regulating certain payday lending practices to minimize the detrimental effects of such practices on the citizens of the City. In order to minimize such effects, payday lenders would require payment of a portion of the original loan amount prior to the renewal of a payday loan, borrowers would be able to rescind a payday loan, and borrowers would be able to convert a payday loan into a payment plan. The policy was enacted in the City of Gresham in Oregon.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

This policy addresses the detrimental payday lending practices that have negatively impacted the financial security of individuals and families residing in the City. Payday lending practices often have an unreasonably adverse effect upon the elderly and the economically disadvantaged, and often, taking a payday loan puts borrowers in much worse financial shape than before they took the loan. The need for local regulation is critical to protecting the short and long-term financial security of working citizens struggling to lift their families out of poverty.

Project Labor Agreements/Community Partnership Agreements

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
Local; State

Policy Origin:
City of Baltimore

Policy/Bill Number:
City of Baltimore Council Bill 10-0455

Link to full text of policy:
<http://legistar.baltimorecitycouncil.com/attachments/5670.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy requires community partnership agreements for certain projects financed or funded by or through the City. In addition, it provides for the creation of a model agreement as well as generally relating to agreements that promote workforce development, minimize workplace strife, and ensure that community residents receive the benefits of city-financed or -funded projects.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), also known as Community Partnership Agreements, are agreements made between a project owner and organized or unionized labor to govern the construction of major construction projects. All of the contractors who work on the projects must agree to comply with the PLA which generally addresses issues such as wages, dispute resolution, work hours, etc. A PLA becomes a tool for local economic development by including specific provisions that address issues of concern to local communities.

Wage Theft

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Seattle, WA City Council

Policy/Bill Number:
**Council Bill Number: 117143, Ordinance
Number: 123596**

Link to full text of policy:

<http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=&s3=117143&s4=&s2=&s5=&Sect4=AND&l=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=CBORY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=ORDF&p=1&u=%2F~public%2Fcbory.htm&r=1&f=G>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

The legislation clarifies the definition of theft as it relates to theft of wages; providing a list of circumstances that may be considered in determining whether a person intends to commit wage theft; clarifying the City's jurisdiction in such cases; and allowing the City to refuse the issue, revoke, or refuse to renew business licenses from employers found guilty of wage theft. The legislation was introduced in Seattle, WA and passed by the full council.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The ordinance is designed to address a number of related public policy concerns:

Individuals affected by wage theft are often the most vulnerable in our city and without access to resources that would enable them to appeal for their unpaid wages.

Predatory businesses are not deterred by repeated civil claims from the Department of Labor and Industries and view them as a simple cost of doing business.

Encourages greater compliance with wage laws, benefiting all workers by ensuring a level playing field in the labor markets.

City of Seattle finds it necessary to create stronger disincentive for employers to violate wage and hour laws.

Research shows that theft of wages by employers is a significant problem, with one 2008 study finding that more than 2/3 of 4,387 workers surveyed in low-wage industries experiencing at least one pay-related violation in previous weeks, with an average loss of 15% of weekly earnings.

In the past 18 months, Casa Latina has filed 100 complaints to L&I. In four years, L&I has assessed \$18 million in owed wages but has only been able to recover \$7.9 million.

Progressive States Network estimates that for full-time employees earning \$18,000 per year, income lost because of workplace wage violations averages close to \$2,700 per employee.

This legislation will fortify the state's Wage Payment Act passed in 2006, written to protect employees against the crime called wage theft. Since then Washington State has had an average of nearly 4,000 wage complaints each year.

Defending Workers and Families

State Policy

Banking Development District Act

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
New Jersey

Policy/Bill Number:
A1458

Link to full text of policy:

<http://ssl.csg.org/dockets/2012cycle/2012volume/2012volumeoriginalbills/0832b02njbanksinunderservedareas.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This bill authorizes the state commissioner of banking and insurance to create a program and promulgate rules to encourage banks to establish branches in geographic locations in the state where there is a demonstrated need for banking services. The criteria for such areas to be designated as banking development districts include the number of sites offering banking services that are already in the area, the need for banking services in such areas, and the potential impact that additional banking services would have on economic development in the areas. The legislation authorizes banks in such areas to be designated depositories of public money and allows the state treasurer and municipal governments to deposit public money in such banks at a special, fixed interest rate of return. It was enacted into law in New Jersey in 2011.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The need for banking services in such areas, and the potential impact that additional banking services would have on economic development in the areas is very robust. The legislation authorizes banks in such areas to be designated depositories of public money and allows the state treasurer and municipal governments to deposit public money in such banks at a special, fixed interest rate of return.

Foreclosure Rescue Fraud Prevention Act

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
National Consumer Law Center Inc.

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/legislation/model_laws/model_frs_statute.doc

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This act was created to prevent homeowners who are facing foreclosure from becoming the victim of persons who purport to help save the home while actually taking title to the home and the homeowner's equity. The purpose of this law is to require that all foreclosure rescue transactions comply with lending laws; to provide a mechanism to restructure foreclosure rescue transactions and other equitable mortgages from a transfer of title into a loan to conform to the homeowner's intentions

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The legislature finds that when a homeowner transfers title to the home as part of a foreclosure rescue transaction, the homeowner's intent is merely to provide security for the loan of money to avoid foreclosure, not to transfer the home to the rescuer. To define and forbid certain unfair foreclosure rescue transactions; to set out factors that put a potential purchaser or lender on notice to inquire as to the rights of a person in possession of the property; and to set out remedies for a violation of the Act.

Mandatory Mediation Act

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Progressive States Network

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.progressivestates.org/sync/pdfs/MultiStateAgendaSiteDocuments/MandatoryMediationProvision.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

A bill to force the mortgagee to inform the mortgagor that they may have options available other than foreclosure, that the mortgagor may discuss available options with the mortgagee, the mortgage servicer or a counselor approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and that the mortgagor is encouraged to explore available options prior to the end of the right-to-cure period. The number of foreclosure actions in the courts is rapidly increasing and the current system for resolving foreclosure actions is creating a burden on the court system.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The State's rate of mortgages in foreclosure is rising to unprecedented levels, both for prime and subprime mortgages. Foreclosures are expected to continue in the State because homeowners will not be able to afford payments due to rising adjustable mortgage payments, rising unemployment and job loss. Homeowners are expected to have continued problems selling their properties at the value of their mortgages due to falling housing prices. Foreclosures contribute to the decline in the State's housing market, loss of property values and loss of tax revenues.

Paid Sick Days

Issue Category:
Protecting Workers and Families: Labor
Issues

Policy Origin:
Connecticut

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy/Bill Number:
Senate Bill No. 913

Link to full text of policy:

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2011&bill_num=SB913

Summary Narrative of Policy:

Connecticut made history this year by enacting the first state-wide law guaranteeing workers the right to earn paid sick days.

This bill requires most employers that employ 50 or more people in the state to provide certain employees with paid sick leave accruing at a rate of one hour per 40 hours worked. The bill provides paid sick leave to service workers who work in an occupation with one of 68 federal Standard Occupational Classification System titles named in the bill and are paid by the hour.

The earliest service workers can begin accruing sick leave is January 1, 2012. They must meet the following thresholds before they can begin using accrued sick leave: (1) have worked for the employer for at least 680 hours and (2) have worked an average of at least 10 hours a week for the employer in the most recent complete calendar quarter.

Under the bill, the leave can be used for the service worker's illness, injury, and related treatment or for the service worker's child or spouse. A service worker can also use it for reasons related to family violence or sexual assault. Employers that offer other types of paid leave that can be used for the same purposes and accrues at least as quickly are deemed to comply.

The bill excludes manufacturers and certain tax-exempt organizations from its requirements. Also, it does not require covered employers to provide paid sick leave to day or temporary workers or non-hourly employees such as salaried professionals.

The bill permits anyone aggrieved by an alleged violation of the bill to file a complaint with the labor commissioner. The commissioner can impose a civil penalty of up to \$ 100 on employers found in violation. It also bans employers from retaliating or discriminating against employees who request or use the leave the bill provides or that the employer voluntarily provides. The labor commissioner can impose a fine of up to \$ 500 on employers found in violation of the retaliation ban. The commissioner can also order other appropriate relief such as rehiring or payment of back wages. Parties can appeal the commissioner's decision to the Superior Court.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Passage of the bill paved the way for other states and cities to follow suit this year (Philadelphia, Seattle, Denver, and New York City). The advancement of paid sick days and victories around the country confirms recent polling results by Anzalone Liszt Research, who found that there is a deep and unwavering support from key demographic group for legislation that guarantees all citizens the opportunity to earn paid sick days from their employers. Further, polling data shows that voters are more willing to support public officials who back this legislation.

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Labor Dept.	GF - Cost	None	169,720
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits) 1	GF - Cost	None	40,325
Various State Agencies	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Labor Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Various Municipalities	State Mandate-Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

Section 4 allows complaints to be filed with the Department of Labor (DOL) if an employer violates any of the provisions of Sections 2 to 5 of the bill. This is anticipated to increase the number of complaints received by the department and may require an additional Wage Investigator (annual salary of \$71,108 and full fringe benefits of \$16,895) in the Division of Wage and Workplace Standards beginning in FY 13.

This is also anticipated to result in an increase in the number of probable cause hearings conducted by DOL. Currently, two Staff Attorneys review approximately 100 cases annually for probable cause hearings regarding the Family and Medical Leave Act, resulting in approximately 20 hearings per year. It is anticipated that the number of probable cause hearings would increase with the passage of the bill, requiring an additional Staff Attorney II (annual salary of \$98,612 and full fringe benefits of \$23,430) beginning in FY 13.

The bill specifies that DOL implement the provisions of the bill within available appropriations. However, if the bill were to be implemented the FY 13 costs to DOL would be \$169,720 and fringe benefit costs of \$ 40,325 (these costs are described in detail above).

The Right to Rent Act

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Progressive States Network

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:

<http://www.progressivestates.org/sync/pdfs/MultiStateAgendaSiteDocuments/CEPRTheRighttoRentActof2009.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This bill will allow homeowners of low- and moderate- value homes who are subject to foreclosure proceedings to remain in their homes as renters for a significant period of time. During the foreclosure crisis, foreclosures have increased to three times their historic rates. Now in the midst of the most severe economic recession since the Great Depression, homeowners find themselves unable to meet their monthly mortgage payments; many others who can make payments now owe far more than their houses are worth, and are paying substantially more than it would cost to rent their house at its fair market value. This will provide homeowners facing foreclosure with the ability to remain in their homes while paying rent at a fair market rate reducing harmful impacts of foreclosure listed below.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Since the late 1990s, there have been radical changes in mortgage lending, including steering high-priced mortgages to people who may have qualified for lower-priced fixed-rate mortgages and aggressive marketing of high-risk mortgages based on the assumption that the housing market would continue to inflated at historically unprecedented rates.

After extraordinary housing price increases in many parts of the state, prices declined and flattened, refinancing became impossible for many homeowners, and the bubble in housing markets burst.

Nationally, it is estimated that one in every nine homeowners is likely to be in foreclosure over the next few years, and one in five will likely have a mortgage that is higher than their house is worth, making default a financially rational alternative.

According to the Congressional Oversight Panel established by the Emergency Stabilization Act of 2008, "The foreclosure problem has grown so large that it threatens the whole economy."

Communities with high foreclosure rates suffer increased blight and crime rates.

Foreclosures depress housing and commercial real estate prices, imposing significant costs on third parties, including home and business owners.

When families have to relocate, community ties are cut, affecting schools, health care, religious congregations, and voluntary organizations.

Model Buy [State] and America Act

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
AFL-CIO

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This model bill will ensure state tax dollars are used to procure goods made in the United States. It would also supplement any existing or future preferences for locally produced goods. This legislation is modeled in large part on the Illinois procurement legislation.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The Buy American Act, enacted in 1933, is a major domestic preference statute that governs procurement on behalf of the federal government. It attempts to protect domestic labor and domestic workers by providing a preference for American goods in government acquisitions. It has only been significantly amended four times since it was enacted. While “The Stimulus Plan” of the 111th Congress did not directly amend the Act, it included provisions for domestic content considerations in federal funds distributed under the Plan.

“Oregon Finance and Credit Board” – Community Banks

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Policy/Bill Number:
House Bill 3452

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/measpdf/hb3400.dir/hb3452.intro.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This policy creates an Oregon Finance and Credit Board to formulate and implement investment and management policies and practices for state funds controlled and administered by state agencies. It also authorizes the board to enter into contracts with state agencies for investment and management of state funds. Additionally, it authorizes the board to make, purchase, guarantee and hold loans, purchase participation interests and invest and manage state funds.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

This policy addresses the substantial gap between available venture capital resources and the need of Oregon businesses that are engaged in economic development for such resources. Currently existing state-managed funds constitute a major financial resource of the State of Oregon. Prudent investment and management of these funds may, together with access to capital provided in partnership with financial institutions, enhance the availability of venture capital for state businesses engaged in economic development.

Corporate Transparency in the State Budget Act

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Progressive States Network

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.progressivestates.org/sync/pdfs/MultiStateAgendaSiteDocuments/CorporateTransparency-ModelLegislation.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation finds that in order to determine whether:

- A) State's corporate income tax is structured in such a way as to ensure that all corporations doing business here are paying their fair share.
- B) Whether tax incentives enacted to encourage corporations to invest and create jobs here are effective.

Then: It is necessary to begin requiring corporations to publicly disclose the amount of corporate income tax they pay to the State, the amount of economic development tax incentives they receive, the number of employees they have in this state, and additional, limited information drawn from their tax returns needed to understand the major factors that determine their corporate income tax liability.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Although the state and its local government units have granted numerous economic development subsidies, awarded several public contracts and distributed enormous tax breaks in the last 25 years, the real wage levels and health care coverage of working families have declined.

Some programs providing economic development subsidies lack measurable job creation goals, and in some cases, businesses have closed, relocated or outsourced facilities or jobs for which subsidies were provided to sites outside of the State.

The Legislature further finds that some contractors do not fulfill intended savings goals, which places a great burden on taxpayers.

Data collected by the federal government indicate that state corporate income taxes represent a declining share of state tax revenue:

The effective rate at which states are taxing corporate profits has fallen sharply in recent decades. Numerous state studies have found that a majority of corporations filing income tax returns have zero liability, even in years in which the economy is growing and corporate profits are healthy.

Research conducted by leading academics suggests that the causes of state corporate tax base erosion include such factors as:

Greater corporate aggressiveness and sophistication in exploiting loopholes and structural weaknesses in state corporate income tax laws, state conformity to federal tax law changes that reduced state corporate tax revenues as well, the enactment of tax cuts and special credits aimed stimulating in-state job creation and other desired corporate behavior, and corporate implementation of federal corporate income tax shelters that also reduce state corporate tax payments

This act will augment the effectiveness of expenditures for economic development and ensure the State is achieving savings when using contractors, and improve the social, economic, and fiscal outcomes for taxpayers and working families in this state.

Economic Development and Fiscal Accountability Act

Issue Category:
Expanding Democracy

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Good Jobs First

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A- Model Legislation

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/sites/default/files/docs/pdf/model_legislation.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation makes it necessary to collect, analyze and make publicly available information regarding expenditures that result from numerous state and local economic development subsidies, and to enact certain safeguards for their use. This will improve the effectiveness of expenditures for economic development and will ensure that they achieve the goal of raising living standards for working families

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Although the State and its local government units have granted numerous economic development subsidies in the last 25 years, the real wage levels and health care coverage of working families have declined. When workers receive low wages and poor benefits, such jobs often impose hidden taxpayer costs upon its citizens, in the form of Medicaid, food stamps, earned income tax credits and other forms of public assistance to the working poor and their families. Citizen participation in economic development has been impeded by a lack of readily accessible information regarding expenditures and outcomes.

Wage Theft Bill

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
Washington House of Representatives

Policy/Bill Number:
House Bill 3145

Link to full text of policy:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/WSLdocs/2009-10/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Law%202010/3145-S.SL.pdf>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This legislation is designed to improve administration of wage complaints by defining the limitations period for administrative wage claims through the department of labor and industries. It also clarifies the requirements for the department to extend the time period for wage complaint investigations as well as revises the department's bond authority. Additionally, it tolls the civil statute of limitations, increasing minimum penalties for violators, creating and affecting waiver of penalties for repeat willful violators and providing for wage law violation liability for successor businesses.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The failure to pay workers the wages owed to them – commonly called wage theft – is an epidemic, locally, statewide, and nationally. Being paid less than the minimum wage, being shorted hours, being forced to work off the clock, not being paid overtime, or not being paid at all are pervasive practices across many industries. A seminal 2009 study of nearly 4,500 low-wage workers found that more than two-thirds experienced at least one pay-related violation in their previous work week, including a quarter of workers who were paid less than minimum wage, and three quarters who were not paid overtime wages owed to them. Surveys by the U.S. Department of Labor found 50% of restaurants in Pittsburgh, 74% of day care centers in Georgia, 50% of nursing homes in St. Louis, 38% of hotels and motels in Reno, and 42% of adult family homes in Seattle violating wage and hour laws. Workers suffer when they don't get paid. Workers in low-wage industries in the three cities of New York, Chicago and Los Angeles lose over \$56 million per week in unpaid wages. When workers go without pay, tax revenues are shorted as well. In New York State alone, \$427 million in revenue is lost per year due to wage theft.

Worksharing Program

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
State

Policy Origin:
The State of Maine Legislature

Policy/Bill Number:
H.P. 222

Link to full text of policy:
http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_124th/billpdfs/SP065301.pdf

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This bill creates a work-sharing program that provides an alternative to layoffs during a temporary slowdown in business. Under a work-sharing plan, an employer elects to avoid layoffs by reducing the number of regularly scheduled hours of work for all workers in a specific unit or department or the business as a whole. Unemployment insurance benefits for the reduced hours of work are then payable as a proportion of the benefit amount for a full week of unemployment. A work-sharing plan is voluntary on the part of the employer. A plan must be approved by the Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee and, if the employees are unionized, by their collective bargaining agent.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

Work sharing (also known as Short-Time Compensation), available in 22 states, is an unemployment insurance (UI) benefit that explicitly targets job preservation and allows businesses to retain their skilled workforce during times of temporary decreased demand. Work sharing is a win-win-win strategy. A work sharing program benefits the state by mitigating further job losses. The employer benefits by reducing the high costs associated with turnover and maintaining continuity within the firm. And the employee benefits by maintaining wages and reducing the effects associated with long-term unemployment. According to a U.S. Department of Labor study, work sharing benefits are experience-rated at least as well as regular unemployment benefits. In other words, an employer that participates in a work sharing program is likely to pay back the trust fund through unemployment taxes or direct reimbursements.

Defending Workers and Families

School Policy

Joint Vehicle Fuel Purchase Agreement

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
School

Policy Origin:
Leon County Schools, FL

Policy/Bill Number:
N/A

Link to full text of policy:
N/A

Summary Narrative of Policy:

This program establishes a groundbreaking public private partnership between Leon County Schools (“LCS”) and Nopetro, a Florida based natural gas vehicle manufacturer. The contracts provide for a 20 year fueling arrangement whereby Nopetro will finance, design and construct the fueling facility, open the station to the public, and give LCS a royalty on third party sales – money that will be put back into the classroom.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

After conducting a lengthy due diligence process into the environmental and economic benefits of alternative fuels for its fleet, Leon County Schools came to the overwhelming conclusion that compressed natural gas (“CNG”) was by far superior to all other alternative fuel options, and that using CNG instead of diesel could save the school district tens of thousands of dollars over a school bus’ average life span. After a lengthy competitive bidding process, Nopetro was awarded the bid, and contracts with Nopetro were approved by the Leon County School Board on July 26, 2011. Several private companies including Pepsi, RAM Construction, and the Four Points Sheraton have committed to purchase CNG vehicles to be fueling on day one of station operations, August 1, 2012. Similarly, both Leon County and the City of Tallahassee have signed on as partners for the Project, and will be incorporating the purchase of natural gas vehicles into their next annual budgets.

Responsible Contractor

Issue Category:
Defending Workers and Families

Target Level of Government:
Local

Policy Origin:
Kent City Community Schools District

Policy/Bill Number:
NEOLA Policy #6322

Link to full text of policy:
<http://www.neola.com/kentccs-mi/search/policies/po6322.htm>

Summary Narrative of Policy:

In order to be selected as the successful bidder to construct or renovate buildings in the Kent City Community School District, construction firms must be exemplary in their construction techniques and business practices. The purpose of this policy is to assure the Board of Education that the District's construction and renovation projects utilize the specified materials and equipment, and employ qualified team members. The Board can refuse to hire any contractor who does not meet the requirements of this policy. The Board may reject any bid proposals that, in the Board's opinion or findings, contain inaccurate information.

Relevant Talking points and Important Information:

The purpose of this Policy is to assist the Board in awarding school building construction contracts to the "lowest responsible bidder." The Board's criteria in selecting a contractor(s) for school construction projects shall be determined from the lowest qualified bid(s) on the construction project(s) that meet the requirements of law, this policy, and the administrative rules for this policy developed by the Superintendent. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject a bid or combination of bids. The criteria and procedures for rejecting a bid or combination of bids shall be included in the construction bid documents, as appropriate to the type of work for which bids are solicited, and, as permitted by law, by the School Board's construction manager, and/or design professionals.

**For more information, additional support or
further resources please contact the YEO
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**Additional information, full legislative texts
and more is also available on the
2012 YEO Network Policy Flash Drive**

The mission of the Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network is to unite and support progressive elected leaders who share a passion for building communities that reflect values of freedom, fairness and opportunity.

The YEO Network will support elected leaders, ages 35 and under, as they define issues, develop solutions, and respond to the needs of their communities. By exchanging ideas, developing leadership skills and connecting with policy development organizations, YEO Network members will be empowered to transform their political vision into progressive action.

Through these means, the YEO Network will connect the progressive agenda at community levels across the country, ultimately producing an enduring pipeline of well-prepared national and world class leaders.

www.YEONetwork.org



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