∥ विधानं राष्ट्र-धर्मः ∥

NATIONAL LEGISLATORS' CONFERENCE - BHARAT (INDIA)
राष्ट्रीय विधायक सम्मेलन, भारत

LEGISLATIVE

SUMMIT

24

LOUISVILLE | KY

(5, 6 & 7 August 2024)

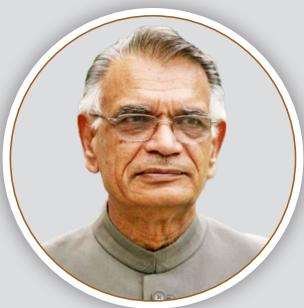REPORT 2024

NCSL

nlcbharat.org

#TOGETHERFORBHARAT

Esteemed Patrons
of
National Legislators' Conference, Bharat

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

Dr. Meira Kumar
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

Shri. Shivraj Patil
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

Late Dr. Manohar Joshi
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

Leadership, Democracy, Governance and Peace Building

Hon'ble Speakers of State Legislative Assemblies and Hon'ble Chairpersons of Legislative Council constitute the Advisory Council of NLC Bharat

INDEX

Seed Thought

The initiative to take Bharat's legislators to the NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville, Kentucky, was born out of a vision to broaden their perspectives, enhance their legislative capabilities, and foster a culture of cross-learning. In an increasingly interconnected world, where legislative challenges are shared across borders, it is imperative for our legislators to engage with global counterparts, learn from diverse experiences, and bring back innovative solutions to Bharat. The visit to the NCSL Legislative Summit serves as a crucial step in this direction, offering legislators a unique platform to observe and interact with their global peers. The insights gained from such exposure can significantly contribute to more informed policy-making, improved governance, and a stronger democratic framework in Bharat. Looking ahead, the vision is to establish a series of study visits to other countries in Asia, Europe, and the Americas. By continuously exposing Bharat's legislators to varied legislative environments, we can ensure that they are not only well-versed in global best practices but are also capable of adapting and implementing these practices to address the unique challenges faced by our nation. These visits will further cement Bharat's position as a leader in democratic innovation and governance on the global stage, ultimately leading to the creation of a more robust, responsive, and effective legislative system at home.

Rahul V. Karad
Convener, NLC Bharat
Educationist, Founder of Bharat's First
Political Leadership School - MIT-SOG

Introduction

National Legislators' Conference Bharat (NLC Bharat) is a groundbreaking platform designed for Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) and Members of Legislative Councils (MLCs) across Bharat to convene and exchange ideas in a historic setting. The inaugural edition of NLC Bharat was held in Mumbai from June 15-17 2023, bringing together legislators from all political parties and regions of the country.

This first edition was crafted with the primary objectives of fostering cross-learning and enhancing legislative effectiveness. Participants gained invaluable experiential learning through a combination of thematic discussions, large-format plenary sessions, and dynamic parallel sessions. The event also featured pavilions showcasing commendable practices from various States and Union Territories, enabling extensive informal interactions among legislators, party leaders, Bharat's Living Icons, and CSR representatives.

The conference included sessions focused on strengthening democracy, featuring insights from both national and global leaders. Additionally, it provided a unique opportunity for MLAs and MLCs to creatively present the cultural richness of their regions. In a thriving democracy like Bharat, a non-partisan forum for state legislatures was long overdue. NLC Bharat fulfilled this need, emerging as a true celebration and reflection of Bharat's vibrant democracy and one of its greatest strengths—its elected representatives.

VISION

NLC Bharat envisions a non-partisan ecosystem dedicated to education, training, skill development, and capacity advancement for legislators and legislative staff, enabling interstate and international cooperation to strengthen the effectiveness and independence of legislative bodies.

Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat addressing the participants of NLC Bharat.

Overview

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), established by state legislators and legislative staff in 1975, serves all 50 American states, commonwealths, territories, and the District of Columbia. Every state legislator and staff member is a part of this organization enjoying full access to cutting-edge bipartisan policy research, specialized training resources, and tailored technical assistance. NCSL also provides a range of opportunities for members to connect and collaborate with the NCSL Legislative Summit being its flagship event.

The NCSL serves as a distinguished representative body for the legislatures of the United States, encompassing its states, territories, and commonwealths. Dedicated to advancing legislative

bodies' effectiveness, independence, and integrity, NCSL plays a crucial role in promoting cooperation among states and facilitating the exchange of essential information between legislatures.

NCSL's impact reaches beyond state boundaries, acting as a key advocate for state legislatures in their engagements with the federal government. The organization champions state sovereignty and flexibility, shielding states from unfunded federal mandates and undue federal pre-emption. Additionally, NCSL fosters international collaboration by connecting U.S. state legislatures with their counterparts around the globe, thereby encouraging a cross-border exchange of legislative practices and insights.

NCSL Delegation's Engagement at NLC Bharat

In June 2023, a delegation of 10 distinguished members of the National Conference of State Legislators attended the inaugural NLC Bharat Conference in Mumbai marking a pivotal moment in strengthening collaboration between NLC Bharat and NCSL. The NCSL delegation's presence was notably impactful, especially during the parallel sessions

where Mr. Scott Saiki, Speaker of Hawaii and former President of NCSL, Mr. Wayne Harper, State Senator of Utah and current NCSL President, and Mr. John Mahoney, Project Manager at NCSL, offered valuable insights. Their recommendations significantly shaped the discourse at the conference as highlighted below:

Shri Parag Khanvilkar of Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University felicitates Hon'ble Speaker of Hawaii, Mr. Scott Saiki, at NLC Bharat. Also present in the frame are Mr. John Mahoney, Mr. Lobsang Sangay, and Mr. Wayne Harper.

Parallel Session: Commendable Legislative Practices
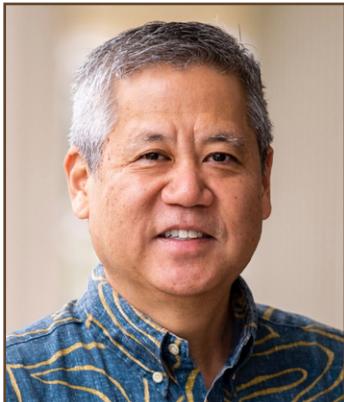
Mr. Scott Saiki
Hon'ble Speaker of Hawaii,
and President, NCSL

"I believe that legislative practices must be designed to benefit future generations and uphold democratic values. Key questions to address include: Should voters have equal representation in the legislature? What is an appropriate timeframe for bill consultations? How can we ensure legislative stability? What should legislators' roles be during times of adversity?

In my speech, I will highlight the significance of public involvement and the strategic use of technology in maintaining legislative stability. Embracing these principles will help sustain the essence of democracy and create a lasting legacy. Achieving exemplary legislative practices requires our steadfast commitment, collaboration, and adaptability. Let us uphold democratic principles with integrity and dedication, fostering equal representation, meaningful consultation, stability, and innovative use of technology. By doing so, we can establish a legislative system that not only progresses but also serves as a global model."

"Reflecting on the global challenges of hunger, transportation, communication, environmental concerns, and development, it is clear that these issues demand urgent attention and collective action. Central to addressing these challenges is the effective functioning of local-level institutions. Local governments are vital in meeting grassroots needs and aspirations, and their empowerment is crucial for strengthening democracy and driving positive community change. Equally important is the role of public involvement in the legislative process. Providing opportunities for meaningful consultation and engagement ensures that constituents' voices are heard and their perspectives are considered. This inclusivity not only enhances the legitimacy of decisions but also fosters a sense of ownership among the people. By focusing on empowering local institutions, encouraging public participation, and promoting open dialogue, we can build a more inclusive and effective legislative system capable of tackling the pressing issues our communities face."

Mr. Wayne Harper
Hon'ble State Senator of Utah,
and President of NCSL

Mr. John Mahoney
Project Manager at the NCSL

"Legislative institutions across the United States operate within diverse environments resulting in varied staff models and resource allocations for legislators. Due to financial constraints, not all members can afford extensive personal staff which often includes bill drafters, researchers, and clerical support. As a solution, establishing a central research hub can be highly beneficial. This hub, comprising researchers, policy analysts, and legal experts, would offer shared resources and expertise, aiding legislators in drafting bills, conducting research, and addressing complex issues, thus supporting those with limited personal staff. Additionally, comprehensive training programs for newly elected members are crucial. These programs should cover legislative rules, procedures, and ethics, equipping legislators with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the legislative process effectively. Balancing adequate support with fiscal responsibility is essential with the approach tailored to available resources, legislative needs, and priorities."

Insights into the **Capacity Advancement Program** Aimed at Building Legislative Excellence (CAPABLE):

Reforming legislative practices in Bharat is crucial to enhancing the effectiveness, transparency, and adaptability of its democratic institutions. As Bharat faces increasingly complex challenges, integrating global best practices into its legislative framework is essential for fostering efficient governance and meeting the needs of its diverse population. By drawing inspiration from innovative legislative approaches worldwide, Bharat can modernize its processes and ensure that its institutions remain responsive and effective.

A pivotal step in this reform process is the adoption of insights gained from international study visits. Such visits provide legislators with firsthand experience of successful legislative practices, allowing them to observe and learn from different models in action. The recent study visit of Bharat's lawmakers to the NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville, Kentucky, marked the first of its kind and served as a significant milestone in this regard. This visit not only exposed Bharat's legislators to advanced legislative practices but also underscored the value of direct, immersive learning.

Building on this momentum, the NLC Bharat has planned a series of additional study visits to countries across Asia, Europe, and America. These visits aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of global best practices further enriching Bharat's legislative reform efforts. The Capacity Advancement Program Aimed at Building Legislative Excellence (CAPABLE) will play a key role in facilitating these international engagements. By leveraging CAPABLE, Bharat can integrate valuable lessons from around the world into its legislative processes ensuring a more progressive and effective democratic system.

Participants attending Session at NCSL Summit

A Brief
about the
Legislative Summit
in Louisville, Kentucky

The NCSL Legislative Summit is a premier annual event organized by the National Conference of State Legislatures, recognized as one of the largest and most influential gatherings of state legislators, legislative staff, and policymakers in the United States. This year, the summit took place in Louisville, Kentucky, from August 5-7, 2024.

The summit's highlights included:

Workshops and Sessions: The event featured a diverse array of educational sessions and workshops, with a total of 8 sessions addressing critical topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Voter Confidence, and Serving Military Veterans. These sessions were designed to provide actionable insights and practical tools to enhance legislative roles and responsibilities.

Networking Opportunities: The summit fostered meaningful networking among legislators, legislative staff, and experts. It facilitated collaboration and the exchange of innovative ideas, contributing to enhanced legislative effectiveness. Notably, over 35 legislators from Bharat joined more than 2,000 American legislators in this vibrant exchange.

Exhibit Hall: An exhibit hall showcased cutting-edge products, services, and technologies relevant to legislative functions offering participants the chance to explore new tools and solutions that can support their work.

Keynote Speakers: The summit featured over 220 distinguished speakers and panelists who shared their expertise on current issues and trends impacting state legislatures providing valuable perspectives and guidance to attendees.

Overall, the NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville served as a pivotal platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation in legislative practices.

Shri U. T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri A. N. Shamseer, Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri Thomas A. Sangma, Hon'ble Speaker of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly and Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat with the NCSL Delegation.

Words of Wisdom

Shared by NLC Bharat Patrons with the Visiting Delegates

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

As you embark on this groundbreaking US tour representing Bharat, I extend my heartfelt wishes and offer some guidance that has been invaluable in my own public service journey. Your role as a delegate is a profound responsibility, transcending political affiliations and personal ambitions. You are entrusted with the hopes and dreams of Bharat's people, and it is essential to uphold this trust with humility and integrity.

Let this tour be a testament to your dedication to Bharat's values — peace, cooperation, and respect. Your interactions abroad should reflect the principles of empathy and understanding as true leadership lies in serving others and bridging divides with compassion. As you engage with global counterparts, approach each encounter with an open mind and a willingness to learn. Embrace the opportunity to share Bharat's achievements, but do so with humility, while also absorbing new insights and ideas that can enhance our own practices.

Your conduct will shape how Bharat is perceived internationally. Act with the utmost responsibility, representing the essence of our democracy and cultural heritage. Strive to reflect the values of inclusivity and mutual respect that define our nation.

May this journey enrich you with knowledge and new perspectives, strengthening our global relationships and advancing Bharat's interests. As you set forth, carry with you my warmest regards and best wishes for a successful and enlightening experience.

Shri. Shivraj Patil
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

It is my pleasure to address you before your upcoming visit to the United States, which represents more than just a diplomatic mission — it is an opportunity to strengthen the ties between two of the world's largest democracies. As you prepare for this significant engagement, I offer some guidance to aid your discussions.

Reflect on Bharat's rich and diverse governance model, which is grounded in democracy, secularism, and federalism. Our legislative process, centered around the Bharatiya Parliament, is characterized by thorough deliberations and consensus-building, with parliamentary committees ensuring detailed scrutiny of legislation. As you interact with your US counterparts, understand that their governance operates under different principles, including a bicameral Congress and a strong system of checks and balances. Despite these differences, both nations share core values such as democracy, liberty, and justice. There is much to gain from exchanging ideas and practices, whether it's the US Congress's use of technology and constituency management or Bharat's focus on inclusivity and coalition-building.

This visit offers a valuable chance to explore potential collaborations in digital governance, legislative transparency, and public policy. By engaging openly and respectfully, you can contribute to a deeper mutual understanding and strengthen the relationship between India and the United States. Carry with you the hopes of a billion people, and approach this exchange with an open mind and a spirit of cooperation. I wish you a successful and impactful journey.

Distinguished Assembly Speakers: Profiles of Leadership at NCSL

Shri. U. T. Khader Fareed

Hon'ble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly

Shri. U. T. Khader Fareed, born on October 16, 1969, in Mangaluru, Karnataka, is a distinguished Indian politician affiliated with the Indian National Congress (INC). He has been serving as the Hon'ble Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly since May 24, 2023. Representing the Mangaluru (Ullal) constituency, Khader has been elected five times as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), reflecting his strong electoral support and popularity. His legislative career is marked by his focus on community welfare, infrastructure development, and enhancements in healthcare and education services. Khader has also held significant ministerial roles, notably as Minister for Health and Family Welfare from 2013 to 2018. His leadership and commitment to public service have established him as a prominent and respected figure in Karnataka politics.

Shri. Thomas A. Sangma

Hon'ble Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly

Shri Thomas A. Sangma born on July 27, 1961, in Tura, Meghalaya, is a prominent Indian politician and a member of the National People's Party (NPP). With a distinguished political career, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the term 2008-2014 as a representative of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). Currently, he serves as the Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly. His leadership is marked by his dedication to regional development and effective governance, and he has been instrumental in shaping legislative processes and policies in Meghalaya. His tenure reflects a commitment to enhancing political and administrative frameworks within the state.

Shri. A. N. Shamseer

Hon'ble Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly

Shri. A. N. Shamseer, born on May 24, 1977, is a prominent Indian politician and the Hon'ble Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly since September 12, 2022. A dedicated member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)), he has represented the Thalassery State Assembly Constituency since 2016. Shamseer's political involvement grew through the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), where he served as Kannur District President in 2012 and as President of the DYFI Kerala state committee from 2016 to 2018. Throughout his career, he has been actively engaged in advocating for youth rights, education, and social justice, reflecting CPI(M)'s leftist ideology. His election as the 24th Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly underscores his significant leadership role within the party and the state's legislative framework.

Rudrappa Manappa Lamani

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Karnataka

Shri Rudrappa Manappa Lamani is the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, a position he has held since 2023. A seasoned politician with a deep commitment to public service, Shri Lamani began his political career with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and has since been a prominent figure in Karnataka's political landscape. He was first elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in 2013, representing the Bagalkot constituency. Known for his focus on rural development and infrastructure, he has been instrumental in advancing key initiatives in his region. His leadership is marked by a dedication to enhancing governance and addressing the needs of his constituents.

Profiles of the Study Visit Participants

Alexander Laloo Hek
Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry,
Veterinary, Fisheries, Printing, Stationery &
Secretariat Administration, Meghalaya

Marcuise N. Marak
Minister of Soil and Water
Conservation of Meghalaya

Saleem Ahmed
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council,
Karnataka

Manjunath Bhandari
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council,
Karnataka

Kiran Sarnaik
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council,
Maharashtra

Vikram Kale
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council,
Maharashtra

Rajhans Dhananjay Singh
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council,
Maharashtra

Dilip Kumar Pandey
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Delhi

Jarnail Singh
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative
Assembly, Delhi

35 lawmakers from Bharat enthusiastically participated in the study visit to the NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville, Kentucky. Their engagement reflected a deep commitment to learning and international collaboration.

Rajesh Gupta
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Delhi

Vishesh Ravi
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Delhi

Arjunsinh Udesinh Chauhan
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Gujarat

Hemant Hardasbhai Khava
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Gujarat

Sureshkumar Koradiya
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Gujarat

Najeeburahiman Pandikadavil
Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Kerala

Job Michil
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Kerala

Wailadmiki Shylla
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Meghalaya

Charles Pyngrope
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Meghalaya

Profiles of the Study Visit Participants

Rupert Momin
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Meghalaya

Mizanur Rahman Kazi
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Meghalaya

Sukhato Akhavi Sema
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Nagaland

Vivilian Richards Johnkumar
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Puducherry

Sivasankar Muthukesava
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Puducherry

John Kumar Antoine
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Puducherry

Jeevan Jyot Kaur
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Punjab

Neena Mittal
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Punjab

Sukhveer Singh
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Punjab

35 lawmakers from Bharat enthusiastically participated in the study visit to the NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville, Kentucky. Their engagement reflected a deep commitment to learning and international collaboration.

Ravjot Singh
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Punjab

Amritpal Singh Sidhu
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Punjab

Manoharan Ramaswamy
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Tamil Nadu

Sanjay Kumar Sharma
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Uttar Pradesh

Surabhi Dohare
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Uttar Pradesh

Dhirendra Singh
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Uttar Pradesh

Vivek Gupta
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, West Bengal
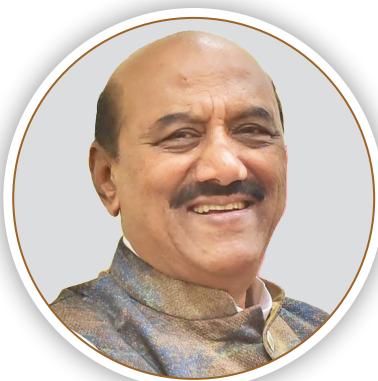
Ashok Pattan
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Karnataka

NCSL Sessions Schedule

DAY: 1
Monday, 5th August, 2024

The Future of Education: Creating a Vision for Excellence
1015hrs-1145hrs

AI 101: Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges
1015 hrs -1145 hrs

Building an AI-Ready Workforce
0130 hrs -0230 hrs

Innovative Policies to Serve the Nation's Veterans
0245 hrs -0345 hrs

DAY: 2
Tuesday, 6th August, 2024

Communicating for Voter Confidence
0115 hrs -0345 hrs

Surface Transportation: What's Ahead on the Hill?
0245 hrs -0345 hrs

DAY: 3
Wednesday, 7th August, 2024

Cybersecurity: Expensive but Necessary
1045 hrs - Noon

The Supremes: Unpacking Cases That Matter
0130 hrs -0245 hrs

DAY: 1

Session 1

Monday, August 5, 2024

The Future of Education: Creating a Vision for Excellence

EMINENT SPEAKERS

Dr. Vicki Phillips
CEO of the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)

Dr. Ulcca Joshi Hansen
Author and Education Expert, Educating Potential

The Future of Education: Creating a Vision for Excellence

Dr. Vicki Phillips
CEO of the National Center on
Education and the Economy
(NCEE)

Dr. Ulcca Joshi Hansen
Author and Education Expert,
Educating Potential

The Speaker began by discussing the challenges and opportunities in envisioning the future of education. Vicki Phillips highlighted the need for transformative changes to adapt to the evolving demands of the global economy and student needs. Her focus was on four core elements essential for creating a future-ready education system:

1) **Prepare Young People for Long-Life Learning:** Education systems must evolve to support lifelong learning and diverse career paths, reflecting the extended lifespan of individuals.

2) **Cultivate High - Capacity, Forward - Thinking Educators:** It is crucial to support and develop educators who are equipped to teach effectively in a rapidly changing educational landscape.

3) **Join Forces to Ensure Young People Thrive:** Integration of formal and informal learning experiences to support both individual and community growth.

4) **Think Differently About Systems Leadership:** Strategic leadership should be adaptive, ensuring that education systems remain relevant and effective amidst changing economic and educational contexts.

Phillips drew from her extensive experience in education reform and her work with the NCEE to emphasize the importance of leadership and innovation in achieving these goals. She provided examples from successful education systems worldwide and discussed strategies for overcoming common challenges.

Dr. Ulcca Joshi Hansen addressed the session with a focus on the evolving landscape of education in the context of a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous) world. Her talk centered on several key areas:

1) **VUCA World:** The education system needs to adapt to the uncertainties of the modern world, preparing students for unpredictable futures.

2) **Human Development:** Aligning educational practices with human development research to support diverse learning needs and trajectories.

3) **Co-intelligence with Artificial Intelligence:** Exploring how human cognitive and ethical advantages can complement AI in educational settings.

4) **Education Models:** Evaluating different educational models, from conventional to human-centered, and their effectiveness in meeting real-world skills and developmental needs.

Hansen's insights were informed by her extensive experience in public education and her advocacy for human-centered educational approaches. She stressed the importance of adapting educational practices to support students' evolving needs and preparing them for a rapidly changing world. Furthermore, Hansen highlighted the role of interdisciplinary approaches in bridging gaps between traditional educational methods and emerging demands. By integrating diverse perspectives and fostering a culture of lifelong learning, educational institutions can better equip students with the skills and resilience needed to navigate the complexities of the future.
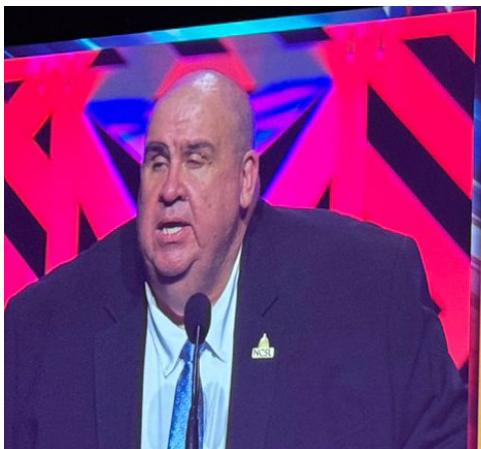
Q&A Highlights:

1) **Senator Chuck Eisenhart from Iowa:** What can state legislators do to address the future of education?

   Vicki Phillips: Engage in collaborative efforts to foster innovative education practices and support teacher development. Engage in collaborative efforts to foster innovative education practices, technology integration, and teacher development, fostering a responsive and future-ready system.

2) **Senator Ben Brooks from Maryland:** How can educational systems better prepare students for future uncertainties?

   Dr. Ulcca Joshi Hansen: Implement educational models that emphasize adaptability and lifelong learning skills. Implement educational models that emphasize adaptability and lifelong learning by moving beyond rote learning and standardized tests.

3) **Senator Mari Leavitt:** How can legislators access data on educational outcomes and effectiveness?

   Vicki Phillips: Utilize national and local educational research databases and collaborate with educational organizations to gather relevant data. Utilize national and local educational research databases and collaborate with educational organizations, universities, and research institutions to gather relevant data. Up-to-date information to inform evidence-based policies that improve educational outcomes for all students.

Key Takeaways:

1) **Vision for Future Education:** The presentation emphasized the importance of envisioning the future of education, focusing on what students need now and what the classroom of the future should look like. This includes considering the role of AI, digital learning, and the organization of educational spaces. Future classrooms should also integrate flexible learning environments that cater to diverse learning styles and promote collaborative, experiential learning.

2) **Core Elements of Successful Education Systems:** Vicky Phillips, CEO of the National Center on Education and the Economy, highlighted four interdependent parts of successful education systems: Preparing young people for lifelong learning; cultivating high-capacity, forward-thinking educators; ensuring that young people thrive through community and systemic support; and rethinking systems leadership to adapt to rapid changes in education and the economy.

3) **Human-Centered Education:** The need for human-centered education systems that focus on students' holistic development was stressed. This includes addressing cognitive, social and emotional needs and ensuring that education is relevant to students' lives and future careers. Additionally, fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment that encourages personal growth and resilience is essential.

4) **Role of Legislators and Community Leaders:** Legislators and community leaders were encouraged to engage in bold, ambitious efforts to reimagine education. This involves creating innovation zones, fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, and leveraging best practices from high-performing education systems globally. They are also urged to advocate for equitable funding and resources to ensure that innovative practices are accessible to all schools and communities.

Closing Reception: Churchill Downs

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a night at the country's most famous racetrack and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the fastest two minutes in sports!

Check the NCSL app for details!

Shri Marcuise N. Marak, Shri Ravjot Singh, Shri Vishesh Ravi, Shri Jarnail Singh, Shri Suresh Kumar Koradiya, Shri Wailadmiki Shylla, Shri Saleem Ahmed, Shri Hemant Hardasbhai Khava, Shri U. T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri Arjunsinh Udesinh Chauhan, Mr. Wayne Harper, Shri A. N. Shamseer, Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri Thomas A Sangma, Hon'ble Speaker of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri Dhirendra Singh, Shri Manoharan Ramaswamy, Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, Shri Sivasankar Muthukesava, Shri Rajesh Gupta, Smt Surabhi Dohare, Shri Sukhato Akhavi Sema, Shri Sukhveer Singh, Shri Najeeburahiman Pandikadavil.

Shri Manjunath Bhandari, Shri Ravjot Singh, Smt Neena Mittal, Smt Jeevan Jyot Kaur, Shri Kiran Sarnaik, Shri Rupert Momin, Shri Vikram Kale, Shri Thomas A Sangma, Hon'ble Speaker of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri Najeeburahiman Pandikadavil, Shri Sukhato Akhavi Sema, Shri A. N. Shamseer, Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, Shri Arjunsinh Udesinh Chauhan, Shri Sivasankar Muthukesava, Shri Hemant Hardasbhai Khava, Shri Manoharan Ramaswamy, Shri Vivilian Richards, Shri Suresh Kumar Koradiya, Shri Alexander Laloo Hek

DAY: 1

Session 2

Monday, August 5, 2024

AI 101: Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges

EMINENT SPEAKER

Evi Fuelle
Global Policy Director,
Credo.AI Corp

AI 101: Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges

Evi Fuelle
Global Policy Director, Credo.AI Corp

Credo AI, the company I work for, was founded in March 2020. Credo AI is a responsible AI governance platform dedicated to ensuring AI serves humanity. We assist companies across various sectors—such as financial services, insurance, and healthcare—in developing responsible AI at scale. Our platform supports enterprises in navigating the rapidly evolving landscape of AI laws, regulations, and recommendations. We provide tools for building, buying, and using machine learning and generative AI confidently, focusing on contextual governance, comprehensive risk management, and regulatory compliance. Our services include defining organizational policies for the safe use of generative AI, evaluating third-party generative AI tools for risk and compliance, implementing risk mitigation controls, and managing AI governance workflows.

The session aims to establish a common understanding of AI technology basics, its current applications, and the approaches states are taking to balance the opportunities and challenges it presents. The Aspen Institute has provided clear and practical definitions for AI, machine learning, and generative AI.

1) **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The broadest concept, encompassing all forms of AI technologies.

2) **Machine Learning (ML):** A subset of AI focused on systems that learn and make decisions based on data.

3) **Generative AI:** A specific type of machine learning designed to create content rather than make decisions.

This can be visualized as a set of nesting dolls, with AI as the largest category, ML within it, and generative AI as a further subset within ML.

Traditional machine learning focuses on numeric data and small amounts of text. In contrast, generative AI, powered by foundation models and large language models (LLMs), analyzes vast datasets from the internet to understand and generate new content, such as text, images, and music. This allows generative AI to offer deeper insights and capabilities beyond basic document analysis. Generative AI presents complex risks, including impacts on financial markets, academic integrity, misinformation, and job disruption. It also poses threats to elections through targeted voter suppression and language-based influence. These risks affect safety, privacy, human rights, and the economy.

Governments and regulatory bodies are adopting various approaches to address AI challenges and risks. In 2023, 18 states and Puerto Rico passed resolutions or enacted AI legislation. In 2024, over a quarter of U.S. state legislators are considering bills to regulate AI in the private sector.

California has already drafted regulations on automated decision making technology, including the safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier Artificial Intelligence System Acts Systems Act, commonly known as SB 1047.

SB 1047 introduces a number of requirements aimed at establishing safety standards for the development of large scale AI systems, including 3rd party model testing, shutdown capability, and annual compliance certification.

In 2023, most of the 190 AI-related bills focused on issues like deep fakes, generative AI, and AI use in employment.

Common legislative focuses include government use of

AI, algorithmic discrimination, automated employment decision-making, AI bills of rights or human rights protections, and deep fakes related to elections. These represent broad categories of shared concerns in AI regulation and oversight.

On the regulatory part, the Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI from October 2023 which mandates that developers of powerful AI systems share safety test results and other critical information with the U.S. government and invest in development of standards, tools and tests to ensure that AI systems are safe and trustworthy. It also addresses equity, civil rights, consumer protection, and safeguards against fraud, bias, privacy issues, and other critical harms. This executive order required the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to develop official guidelines guidance, which outlines the ways in which federal agencies will be responsible for managing their use of AI. The OMB released this final guidance in March of this year, which required all US federal agencies to designate a Chief AI Officer (CAIO) and convene senior officials to coordinate and govern issues raised by the use of AI. The CAIO will be for coordinating their agency's use, promoting AI innovation within their agency, and managing the risks, carrying out agency responsibilities related to it. He must also submit a compliance plan and a use case inventory.

The definition from the Organization For Economic Cooperation and Development, the OECD, which defines AI as a machine based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers from the input it receives how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments. Different AI systems vary in their levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment. Countries have used the OECD's AI definition and related tools to shape policies and create AI risk frameworks. Today, the European Union and the United Nations, as well as other jurisdictions, use the OECD's definition of an AI system and life cycle in their legislative and regulatory frameworks 19 and most recently updated this year in 2018 and most recently updated this year, in 2024. It may help to look at some examples in regulation of what is considered to be high risk, safety impacting, or rights impacting AI.

Q&A Highlights:

1) **Question:** Are there any codes of conduct for people who are developing AI systems? Is there anything keeping them on record to help them, help comply?

   Evi Fuelle: Standards are becoming increasingly important in the AI space. Internationally, ISO has developed the 42001 standard for AI enterprise risk management, which many companies are adopting as a benchmark. There are also other significant efforts, like the IEEE 7000 series and ongoing work in Senselik, particularly in relation to the EU AI Act. These provide clear, definitive guidelines that define what good practices in AI look like.

2) **Question:** How can AI be taught or guided to understand and promote equity, particularly in the context of equity and policy, and what existing approaches or developments are there in this space?

   Evi Fuelle: AI transparency and governance are crucial, especially considering the varied impacts on end users based on identity, as highlighted by groups like Data & Society. Since regional and cultural factors influence transparency, there's no one-size-fits-all impact assessment. From an enterprise perspective, it's vital to involve all teams—legal, compliance, data science, engineers, and product users—in AI governance. Everyone should

Shri Vishesh Ravi, Shri. Saleem Ahmed, Shri U. T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri. Ravjot Singh, Shri. Manjunath Bhandari, Shri. Sukhato Akhavi Sema, Shri. Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, Mr. Wayne Harper, Smt. Jeevan Jyot Kaur, Shri. Suresh Kumar Koradiya.

understand how AI is used, the rules governing its use, and how to report or flag potential harms. A collaborative approach, with a transparent process for reporting issues, is essential to ensuring equity in AI governance.

3) **Michael Akiyomi:** What are emerging trends in AI challenges that state lawmakers should focus on? Regarding the EU's risk-based approach to regulating high-risk AI systems, which would you recommend: a rights-based or a risk-based approach to AI regulation?

Evi Fuelle: The key AI concerns include systemic risks from large, powerful generative AI models and issues like deep fakes and election misinformation, particularly at the state level in the U.S. When comparing risk-based and rights-based approaches to AI regulation, both the EU and US frameworks share common ground. The EU's focus on human rights and safety parallels the US's sector-specific concerns such as insurance and financial services.

Given the evolving nature of AI, a contextual, use case-specific approach may be the most effective strategy.

4) **Sarah Mercer:** How should state lawmakers consider the existing laws related to data privacy and AI enacted in different states when crafting AI-specific policies?

Evi Fuelle: AI presents unique risks that existing privacy and cybersecurity measures often cannot address. Unlike static data, AI models interact in ways that can amplify risks, such as model drift, confabulations, or compounded issues from model interactions. Traditional data governance policies are insufficient for these dynamic challenges. While AI governance must integrate with robust data privacy, data governance, and cybersecurity risk management, it is crucial to also address AI-specific risks. Effective AI governance requires a focus on these unique challenges while maintaining strong data privacy and cybersecurity practices.

Key Takeaways:

1) **Introduction to Credo AI:** Evi Fuelie, the global policy director at Credo AI, introduced the company, which focuses on responsible AI governance. Credo AI helps companies in various sectors develop and manage AI tools responsibly, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations.

2) **Understanding AI and Generative AI:** The presentation provided definitions and distinctions between AI, traditional machine learning, and generative AI. Generative AI, unlike traditional machine learning, is designed to create content rather than make decisions.

3) **Applications and Risks of Generative AI:** Generative AI can produce diverse content such as text, images and music. However, it also poses risks like misinformation, societal biases and impacts

on job markets. The presentation highlighted the importance of understanding these risks and implementing safeguards.

4) **Regulatory Approaches:** Various states and countries are adopting regulations to address AI's challenges. Examples include California's regulations on automated decision-making and Colorado's AI Act, which focuses on high-risk AI systems and consumer protections.

5) **Importance of Standards and Equity:** The presentation emphasized the need for standards in AI governance and the importance of equity. It highlighted the role of transparency, human oversight, and involving diverse teams in AI governance to ensure fair and responsible use of AI.

Shri Vishesh Ravi, Shri. Jarnail Singh, Shri. Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat,
Shri. Dilip Kumar Pandey, Shri. Job Michil, Shri. Rajesh Gupta

Session 3

Monday, August 5, 2024

Building an AI-Ready Workforce

MODERATOR

Suzanne Holden
Director, NCSL's Employment,
Labour and Retirement Program

EMINENT SPEAKERS

Mr. Tim Taylor
Co-Founder and President of
America Succeeds

Sen. James Maroney
Deputy Majority Leader in the
Connecticut Senate

Candace Archer
AFL-CIO

Building an AI-Ready Workforce

Mr. Tim Taylor
Co-Founder and President of
America Succeeds

Sen. James Maroney
Deputy Majority Leader in the
Connecticut Senate

At America Succeeds, we focus on preparing young people for the workforce by emphasizing "durable skills," which are essential for career success and are valued across various industries. These skills include critical thinking, collaboration, communication, leadership, metacognition, and a growth mindset. Unlike technical skills, which can become obsolete, durable skills remain relevant throughout one's career.

Recent analyses reveal that durable skills are increasingly in demand across all sectors and wage levels, particularly with the rise of AI. High-skill, high-wage jobs and mid-skill, mid-wage jobs require more durable skills compared to low-skill, low-wage jobs. However, despite this growing demand, many hiring practices still rely heavily on formal degrees as a proxy for these skills.

To address this, America Succeeds, in partnership with CompTIA, has developed a framework to define and standardize durable skills. This framework aims to help educators and employers align on what these skills entail and how to assess them effectively. The goal is to integrate durable skills into educational curricula and ensure they are practiced consistently throughout a student's education.

We invite collaboration with states to implement this framework and enhance educational practices to better prepare students for the future workforce.

By engaging with policymakers, employers, and educators, we can collectively ensure that durable skills become a core component of education, equipping students for long-term success in a rapidly evolving job market.

AI functions primarily as a prediction tool, from Google Maps suggesting optimal routes to ChatGPT generating responses. The thesis suggests that as the cost of predictions drops, the value of human judgment rises, a concept supported by research. Pop AI, a subscription-based tool that quickly generates PowerPoint presentations from text, exemplifies how AI can impact job futures.

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs report predicts AI could eliminate 85 million jobs by 2025, but it will also create 97 million new positions. Historically, technological advances like the moving assembly line, the internet, and word processors were feared to destroy jobs but ultimately created more opportunities.

AI is expected to increase efficiency by 30%, as stated by IBM CEO Arvind Krishna. However, there is concern that while AI might not directly eliminate jobs, it will affect those who lack AI skills. Delegate Maldonado highlights that AI will indeed lead to job losses, particularly in roles traditionally held by women and minorities, such as customer service and administrative positions. These roles, often entry-level, are critical for career advancement.

Training in AI skills is crucial. Long-term goals include enhancing digital literacy, AI proficiency, and industry-specific skills. Without comprehensive upskilling and retraining efforts, there is a risk of creating a permanent divide between those who can leverage AI and those who cannot.

Candace Archer
AFL-CIO

The AFL-CIO represents 12.5 million workers from various professions and emphasizes the importance of including workers' perspectives in discussions about AI. While AI has the potential to improve jobs and enhance safety, it is crucial to prevent misuse such as surveillance, misinformation, and discrimination. To achieve this, workers must be involved in the development, policy-making, and implementation of AI technologies. The AFL-CIO advocates for collaboration between employers and workers to address the complexities of AI integration effectively. Recognizing and utilizing resources like labor unions is essential in ensuring that workers' voices are heard in these discussions.

Incorporating workers' insights can help create AI systems that not only boost productivity but also protect the rights and well-being of the workforce. This collaborative approach can contribute to crafting policies that safeguard against the potential dangers of AI, such as biased algorithms or exploitation of personal data. Furthermore, involving workers in the decision-making process ensures that AI adoption leads to equitable job opportunities, with necessary upskilling programs in place to help workers transition to AI-enhanced roles.

By working closely with labor unions and fostering open dialogue, employers and policymakers can create a balanced framework that promotes innovation while protecting the workforce.

Q&A Highlights:

1) **Suzanne Holden:** Sen. Maroney, we heard this morning in the general session about how AI can help the public sector and reduce burdens, particularly regarding recruitment and retention issues. Could you share your thoughts on how AI can alleviate some of these burdens in the public sector?

Sen. Maroney: Incorporating the voices of workers is crucial when implementing AI solutions, as their perspectives are essential to understanding the work itself. AI can significantly benefit government operations. In Connecticut, the 2023 government bill mandates that policies, procedures, and impact assessments be established, particularly for high-risk decision-

making involving AI. One promising application is improving communication with constituents. For instance, workforce development often requires navigating multiple agency websites, which can be cumbersome for job seekers. AI-powered chatbots, trained on relevant materials, can streamline this process by providing accurate and consolidated information.

Additionally, AI can aid in transitioning to skills-based hiring. With 365,000 Connecticut residents having some college education but no degree, AI can help by guiding individuals to acquire new skills or certifications efficiently. For example, an AI system could recommend classes that align with their schedules and goals, enhancing their

job prospects. However, it is essential to keep humans involved in the process. While AI can offer initial guidance, a human should always be available to refine the information and support individuals in making informed career decisions.

2) **Mr. Jorel:** In the states where there is a transition to skills-based employment, are there successful frameworks or methods for making skills data accessible to the private sector, public sector, and academic think tanks? How can this data be made dynamic and actionable, rather than being fixed to a single survey point?

Tim Taylor: We collected data from over 800 employers to understand what they expect from employees in terms of skills. Our model is open source, funded by national organizations, and available for public use. Even if Workday is considering a product related to this, we are open to discussing licensing. Initially, there was a concern about the term "risk management." For instance, one person from a factory floor thought the term didn't apply to their context, while someone from an accounting firm saw it differently. A facilitator helped clarify that while the application of "risk management" varies, the core definition remains consistent across different contexts. This approach has received positive feedback and shows that definitions can be relevant across various fields.

Shri Dilip Kumar Pandey, Shri Ashok Joshi, Shri Vishesh Ravi, Shri Sukhveer Singh, Shri Ravjot Singh, Shri Sukhato Akhavi Sema, Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, Smt Jeevan Jyot Kaur, Dr. Aditi Karad, Shri Arjunsinh Udesinh Chauhan, Shri Sivasankar Muthukesava, Shri Suresh Kumar Koradiya, Shri Manoharan Ramaswamy, Shri Vivek Gupta

Key Takeaways:

1) **Integration of AI and Durable Skills:** The session emphasized the importance of integrating AI and durable skills into the workforce. It highlighted America Succeeds' efforts in advocating for these skills and their significance in the job market.

2) **Modernizing Education Systems:** There is a strong focus on the need for education systems to modernize by incorporating AI and durable skills into their curricula. This is essential to prepare students for future job markets.

3) **Impact of AI on Jobs:** The presenters discussed AI's dual impact on job creation and displacement. They stressed the need for thoughtful implementation and training to avoid widening economic disparities.

4) **Workers' Perspectives and Public Sector Efficiency:** It is crucial to include workers' perspectives in AI-related discussions. The speakers also noted AI's potential to improve efficiency in the public sector.

5) **Government's Role in AI Regulation:** The speakers underscored the importance of government regulation to minimize bias and negative impacts on the workforce. They also touched on strategies to prepare current workers for AI advancements, including emphasizing digital and AI literacy, testing for bias, providing access to high-speed Internet and devices, developing AI training programs for professionals and students.

Shri. Rahul V. Karad in a casual meeting with Mr. Wayne Harper.

Shri. Vishesh Ravi having a light moment with Mr. Wayne Harper

Shri. Jarnail Singh and Shri. Vishesh Ravi participating in a session at NCSL Summit

Legislators of Bharat Participating in Sessions

DAY: 1

Session 4

Monday, August 5, 2024

Innovative Policies to Support the Nation's Veterans

EMINENT SPEAKERS

Mr. Jim Seward
Executive Director of the Veterans
Justice Commission, Council on
Criminal Justice

Mr. Troy Broussard
State Director of AARP Kentucky,
U.S. Army Desert Storm Veteran

Innovative Policies to Support the Nation's Veterans

Mr. Jim Seward
Executive Director of the Veterans Justice Commission, Council on Criminal Justice

The Speaker began by questioning why so many veterans end up in prisons or jails. The question initially left him without an answer. However, upon reflecting on history — from the American Civil War to World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Korea, and the post-9/11 era — the Speaker recognized that veterans have frequently found themselves entangled in the criminal justice system.

This year, Nebraska introduced an innovative veteran's justice program, which served as a foundation for the Veterans Justice Commission at the Council on Criminal Justice. The commission conducted extensive research and engaged with hundreds of stakeholders across the country, including organizations that support veterans. In the United States, there are approximately 60,000 such organizations; San Diego County alone has 160.

Leon Panetta, a former White House Chief of Staff, inquired if real change would result from these efforts. To address the challenges veterans face within the justice system, the commission concentrated on three key areas: the transition from military service, the process from arrest through sentencing, and corrections and re-entry.

A pertinent example is Hector Madecastil from Minnesota who served 12 deployments as an Army Ranger and was diagnosed with PTSD. One night, during a flashback, he found himself in a standoff with law enforcement. Instead of imposing a harsh sentence, the judge acknowledged his service and directed him to receive the necessary help. Today, Hector is completing his PhD and works as a crisis negotiator.

The commission also examined veterans treatment courts, which, while effective, can be resource-intensive, particularly in small communities. In response, a model policy framework was developed and adopted in Nebraska this year. This framework allows judges to recognize the service of veterans and provide them with the necessary treatment, even in areas lacking veterans' treatment courts.

Through lessons learned since World War II and 9/11, the commission is dedicated to improving how veterans in the justice system are managed, especially those grappling with PTSD after multiple deployments. The ultimate goal is to support their reintegration into their communities and help them reclaim their status as heroes.

Additionally, the commission is working on establishing partnerships with local mental health providers and veteran advocacy groups to ensure a comprehensive support system. Efforts are also being made to promote awareness and training for law enforcement personnel to better understand and address the unique needs of veterans. By creating a more supportive environment both in and out of the courtroom, the aim is to significantly reduce recidivism rates among veterans and provide them with the tools needed for a successful transition to civilian life.

Mr. Troy Broussard
State Director of AARP Kentucky,
U.S. Army Desert Storm Veteran

The Speaker informed that AARP boasts a membership of 38 million, including 6 million veterans, active-duty personnel, and their spouses. With state offices in 53 locations, including Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, AARP's mission is to support veterans and military families. In response to the growing threat of scams targeting veterans, AARP launched Operation Protect Veterans. Data from the Federal Trade Commission indicates a 15% increase in fraud against veterans since 2022. While civilians lost an average of $500 per incident, veterans faced higher losses, averaging $599 per incident, resulting in a total of $477 million in losses. Research reveals that 80% of veterans are targeted by scams, and 40% of them end up losing money.

To assist veterans, AARP provides several resources:

1) Tips on avoiding scams
2) A Fraud Watch Network helpline to report suspected scams
3) Information on Operation Protect Veterans to report fraud
4) Free online peer support groups for emotional assistance

AARP's efforts are focused on four main areas:

1) Delivering resources to veterans and their caregivers
2) Fighting fraud through Operation Protect Veterans
3) Boosting careers through the Veteran and Military Spouse Job Center
4) Connecting veterans to service benefits and discounts

Some common scams that veterans face include the Grandparent Scam, Tech Support Scam, Imposter Scam, and fake charities. Veterans are often targeted because of their desire to continue giving back after their service. AARP advises caution, reminding veterans that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Another prevalent scam involves offering lump sums for VA benefits or assistance with updating military records. Recently, scammers have targeted veterans with fake offers related to the PACT Act. Veterans are urged to be cautious of any requests for money or personal information, such as Social Security numbers.

AARP encourages veterans to protect their personal information, monitor their bills, and be wary of unsolicited calls or texts. For those dealing with disability claims, AARP recommends going directly to the VA or working with accredited veteran service officers, rather than relying on outside lawyers who may charge excessive fees.

Additionally, AARP is working to raise awareness about these scams through educational campaigns and partnerships with veteran organizations to strengthen the support network for veterans.

Q&A Highlights:

1) **Senator Chuck Eisenhart from Iowa:** What can state legislators do to address issues specific to veterans?

   Mr. Troy Broussard: Connect with local AARP offices for state-specific information and resources.

   Mr. Jim Seward: The model policy framework developed by the commission focuses on involving families in court proceedings, ensuring they have a voice, whether as victims or supporters.

2) **Senator Ben Brooks from Maryland:** What can be done to assist veterans whose disability ratings have been downgraded?

Mr. Troy Broussard: Veterans should go directly to the VA or work with veteran service officers, who can assist with disability claims without charging excessive fees.

3) **Senator Mari Leavitt:** How can legislators access data on veterans in the justice system?

   Mr. Jim Seward: Start with the Department of Corrections, which may use the VA's VRSS database. However, data from county jails, probation, and parole systems is often lacking, and the commission is working to improve this.

Key Takeaways:

1) **Veterans Justice Commission:** The commission, led by former U.S. Defense Secretary Charles Hagel, aims to understand why many veterans end up in the criminal justice system and to propose policy changes. The commission's research and outreach focuses on addressing challenges veterans face when transitioning to civilian life, improving veteran diversion from incarceration and ensuring they receive appropriate treatment and supporting veterans during and after their time in the justice system to reintegrate into society.

2) **AARP's Veterans and Military Families Initiative:** Initiated in 2018, this program supports veterans through outreach, engagement, and programming around four main pillars:

a) **Caregiving:** Providing resources and support for those caring for veterans.

b) **Fighting Fraud:** Raising awareness about scams targeting veterans and offering tools to protect them.

c) **Securing Employment:** Assisting veterans in finding and securing jobs.

d) **Connecting to Benefits:** Helping veterans access the benefits they have earned.

3) **Challenges and Solutions:** Veterans often struggle to access the services available to them, which can be overwhelming and complex. Veterans are frequently targeted by fraudulent schemes. AARP collaborates with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to combat these scams through resources like the Veterans Fraud Center and watchdog alert handbooks.

Shri. Sivasankar Muthukesava, Shri. Manoharan Ramaswamy , Shri. Vishesh Ravi, Shri. Hemant Hardasbhai Khava, Shri. Najeeburahiman Pandikadavil and other delegates from Bharat attending session at NCSL Summit

DAY: 2

Session 5

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Communicating for Voter Confidence

MODERATOR

Carlton Wing
Member of the Arkansas House of Representatives

EMINENT SPEAKERS

Mr. Michael Adams
The Secretary of State, Kentucky

Dawn Euer
Representative of the Rhode Island

Mr. Ben Hovland
Chairman of the U.S Election Assistance Commission

Communicating for Voter Confidence

Mr. Michael Adams
The Secretary of State,
Kentucky

Dawn Euer
Representative of the
Rhode Island

The speaker, a former chief election official in Kentucky, discusses their experience in managing campaigns across all 50 states and five U.S. territories. This exposure allowed them to learn the diverse laws and election processes of various jurisdictions. They also learned valuable lessons in advocacy and persuasion, particularly during a debate in law school about state taxes, where they employed non-traditional arguments. Their experience has been instrumental in their role as Kentucky's chief election official, where the state has received positive national and global attention for improving voter access and maintaining election integrity.

Through their work, they played a key role in developing policies that made voting more accessible while safeguarding against voter fraud. This balance between access and security earned Kentucky recognition for its innovative approaches to modernizing the electoral system. One of their proudest achievements was implementing new technologies, such as secure online voter registration systems and absentee ballot tracking, which helped enhance transparency.

Additionally, their tenure saw a significant push for bipartisan collaboration, emphasizing that electoral reforms should be shaped by consensus rather than division. By engaging with both local communities and national stakeholders, they created a model for how elections could be run fairly and efficiently, ensuring that every eligible voter could participate in democracy.

The speaker is the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where election-related legislation is reviewed. The speaker is also a practicing attorney with prior experience in litigating election cases in Rhode Island. The speaker reflects on the humbling experience of transitioning from an election litigator to a policy maker and how the perspective shift has been valuable. The speaker mentioned Rhode Island's recognition in the election world, partly due to a documentary about the state's election management during COVID-19. The speaker emphasizes the importance of transparency, collaboration with election administrators, and maintaining trust in the election process by keeping the public informed. They are eager to continue discussions on these topics.

Additionally, the speaker highlights the critical role of open communication between lawmakers and election officials in crafting legislation that addresses real-world challenges. Their legal background in election litigation has given them unique insight into the complexities of voting laws, which they now use to shape policies that ensure fairness and security in elections. The speaker advocates for continuous improvements in election technology and security measures, recognizing that public trust is fundamental to a healthy democracy.

The speaker is also committed to fostering bipartisan support for election reforms, believing that collaborative efforts across political divides can lead to more robust and resilient electoral systems. Their experience has reinforced the need for constant dialogue with voters, ensuring that legislative decisions reflect the needs and concerns of the electorate.

Mr. Ben Hovland
Chairman of the U.S Election
Assistance Commission

The speaker, representing the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), introduces the agency as a small federal entity established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, in response to the 2000 Florida election issues. The EAC serves as a "customer service agency," traveling across the country to observe and assist with election processes in various jurisdictions. With over 8,000 election jurisdictions in the U.S., the speaker emphasizes the diversity in how states run elections but highlights commonalities such as professionalism, adherence to laws, and transparency.

They reflect on an experience observing an election in Lithuania, noting that while election systems vary, there are universal principles that apply. The speaker encourages others to engage with their local election officials to better understand how elections are administered, stressing the difference between running a campaign and managing an election. This knowledge is crucial for anyone involved in election-related legislation or advocacy. They invite continued conversation on these important topics.

Q&A Highlights:

1) **Question:** What have you found to be the most effective way to communicate your knowledge about the election process in order to build confidence in the system?

   Ben Hovland: Ben Hovland emphasizes the importance of encouraging people to serve as poll workers or election judges. He explains that many election officials have found that skeptics often change their perspective after participating in the election process. By being involved, they see firsthand the checks, balances, and security measures in place. This experience provides insight into the behind-the-scenes work and often turns these individuals into strong supporters of the election system.

   Dawn Euer: Don Euer highlights the value of conducting tours and site visits to help people understand the year-round nature of election administration. In Rhode Island, election work includes pre-election preparations, list maintenance, and post-election audits, which involve sampling ballots and machines to verify results. He emphasizes transparency by noting that processes like mail ballot counting and signature verification are open to public observation. Additionally, the bipartisan teams that handle signature verification are trained by the FBI, which adds to the integrity of the system. This level of openness and explanation helps bridge the gap between perception and reality, building public trust in the election process.

2) **Moderator:** The moderator highlights the importance of experiencing the election process firsthand, referencing the earlier suggestions from the panelists to visit and observe local election offices. They also promote an upcoming site visit to the Jefferson County Clerk's Election Center at 2:40 p.m., providing an opportunity for attendees to see how elections are managed on a local level. The moderator echoes the sentiment that different areas in the U.S. have unique methods for counting votes and handling ballots, noting that the diversity of election systems reflects the decentralized nature of democracy in the country.

Dawn Euer: In Rhode Island, a recent special election revealed a serious issue: some signatures on a high-profile candidate's petition were found to be from deceased individuals. This problem was first noticed when a canvassing clerk observed that names on the petition did not match current voter records, uncovering a significant number of fraudulent signatures. When the media began reporting on the issue, there was a risk of sensationalism and panic. To manage this, the speaker leveraged a good relationship with the press to provide context and explain that the discovery of fraudulent signatures actually demonstrated that the election process was working effectively. They emphasized that the system's ability to detect and address fraud was a sign of its strength.

Michael Adams: One of the strengths of our system is its decentralization, which is unique compared to other parts of the world. This structure acts like a submarine with airtight compartments: if a problem arises in one area, it doesn't necessarily affect other regions. While we haven't experienced any statewide issues, local problems do occur and are treated differently based on their location. For example, issues in Louisville, our largest city and a major media market, receive extensive coverage. In contrast, problems in rural Kentucky may go unnoticed, even if they are significant.

Ben Hovland: One of the strengths of democracy is its inclusivity, which inevitably involves human imperfections. For example, errors can occur, such as incorrect signatures in paper poll books. However, these mistakes are typically addressed through established checks and balances. Provisional ballots are a key security measure, often misunderstood negatively. They provide a fail-safe to ensure that all eligible votes are counted while preventing double voting. For instance, during the 2020 election, Nevada used provisional ballots to verify that no one voted multiple times, demonstrating the system's ability to ensure electoral integrity despite delays.

3) **Moderator:** We encourage you to think about any questions you might have based on today's discussion. If you haven't yet participated in the poll, please do so, and feel free to adjust your answers as needed. Key concerns from the poll include understanding the election process and its transparency. Transparency is crucial, especially given the emotional responses to allegations of election fraud in recent presidential elections. Given these challenges, have you encountered strategies or messaging about election integrity that were ineffective? If so, what improvements could be made to address those issues?

Ben Hovland: One ineffective approach is diving into partisan debates. Instead, focusing on empathy can be more effective. Many people who express concerns about election administration are driven by their passion for democracy, which is a shared value. Acknowledging this passion and engaging in empathic dialogue can help address concerns constructively. Rather than dismissing concerns as partisan, it's beneficial to discuss shared values, explain safeguards and safety measures, and explore potential areas for bipartisan legislative reform.

Michael Adams: One key lesson is to avoid saying "trust me" regarding government matters, as many people are skeptical of government integrity. A Twitter user once pointed out that any statement from a government official might be viewed with suspicion due to the belief that government systems are inherently corrupt. This skepticism exists on both political extremes, though it is less common. Most people fall into one of three categories: those who believe elections are well-managed, those who will never trust the system regardless of evidence, and a large group that is unsure and confused by conflicting information. Effective communication should focus on reassuring the unsure group by demonstrating concrete measures taken to ensure election integrity and access.

4) **Question:** I'm curious about how you approach explaining election processes to the general public, particularly when it comes to jargon and complex concepts like signature verification. How do you make these ideas more accessible and

Smt. Jeevan Jyot Kaur, Smt. Neena Mittal, Shri. Jarnail Singh, Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat
Shri. Rajesh Gupta, Shri. Vishesh Ravi

understandable to average voters who might not be familiar with these terms?

Ben Hovland: Addressing the challenge of communicating election processes to the public involves simplifying jargon and making complex concepts more accessible. Historically, election officials have communicated primarily with professionals, using specialized terminology that may not resonate with the average voter. For instance, terms like "logic and accuracy testing" might not be clear to many people. To bridge this gap, it's essential to shift the focus from technical details to more relatable explanations. For example, instead of discussing "logic and accuracy testing," officials could describe it as a routine check to ensure that votes are counted correctly, akin to a thorough quality check. Engaging with the public more effectively requires moving beyond professional circles and finding ways to make election processes understandable and relevant to everyone.

Dawn Euer: To effectively communicate election processes to the public, using infographics and social media can be very impactful. In recent election cycles, especially with increasing distrust, there has been a push to educate constituents through visual and accessible formats. By creating infographics and sharing them on social media, election officials can demystify complex processes and provide clear information. Additionally, it's beneficial to have content reviewed for accuracy by experts to ensure reliable information is shared. Engaging with the public in ways they consume information, like quick, visual updates, helps make election processes more understandable and transparent.

Michael Adams: In Kentucky, the requirement

to run for office to retain one's job keeps public officials grounded and relatable. This process helps avoid the use of jargon and encourages clear communication. For example, instead of using technical terms like "optical scanner," officials might refer to it as a "scan machine," which is more familiar to the average person. Additionally, showing behind-the-scenes processes, such as using fax machines for vote reporting, can make the election process more transparent and relatable. This approach not only demystifies the process but also helps build public trust by presenting it in a straightforward, accessible manner.

5) **Question:** In Rhode Island, you mentioned issues with signature verification and how you were able to identify problems internally. Did these internal issues lead to changes in your statutes to address the problem more effectively, or did you primarily handle it reactively through media and other immediate measures?

Dawn Euer: In response to the signature verification issues, Rhode Island made statutory changes to improve communication among boards of canvassers, the Board of Elections, and the Secretary of State. This clarification ensures better coordination if similar issues arise in the future. Additionally, individuals involved in the problematic canvassing have been charged with felonies and are facing felony election for charges.

Moderator: That's a great point. As "laboratories of democracy," when issues arise, they alert us to problems, allowing us to address and resolve them to improve our processes.

Tod Weiler: In Utah, two contested races are

headed to the state Supreme Court:

- **Congressional Race:** A candidate who lost a special election by 176 votes is challenging the results due to postmark issues. He argues that ballots from different parts of his district were postmarked on different days—some before the election and some after—affecting the outcome. He's seeking to overturn the results based on equal protection, having already lost a similar case in federal court.

- **Gubernatorial Race:** A candidate who lost by 38,000 votes is suing to verify the incumbent Governor's signatures. The challenger claims that the state elections office is withholding some signature packets due to privacy concerns. The state Supreme Court is expected to rule on these issues this month.

Wayne Williams: Have you considered implementing a more comprehensive system to detect both less sophisticated and more intelligent forms of candidate fraud? For example, while we previously focused on catching obvious fraud like signatures from deceased individuals, we've now moved to verifying signatures on every candidate petition. Have you explored similar measures to address more sophisticated attempts at fraud, even if it requires additional work?

Dawn Euer: We've considered addressing various forms of signature fraud, including more sophisticated methods. One common issue is spouses signing for each other. Although this is legally problematic, it's often done with good intentions. Instead of pursuing felony charges against every spouse who signs for their partner, we need a practical approach that acknowledges how people interact with our election system while still enforcing the law.

Key Takeaways:

1) **Transparency:** It's crucial to openly share the election process's strengths and weaknesses. For example, if there are issues with voter maintenance lists, addressing them transparently helps build trust. In small communities, knowing local election officials and poll workers can reinforce the integrity of the system because people trust their neighbors who are involved in the process.

2) **Year-Round Commitment:** Election officials work year-round on tasks like list maintenance, preparing for Election Day, and conducting post-election audits. In Rhode Island, every election is subject to a post-election audit to ensure accuracy and transparency.

3) **Emotional Reactions:** The 2016 and 2020 presidential elections sparked significant emotional reactions and allegations of fraud from both major parties. This emotional response can lead to distrust in the system. After the 2020 election, some states implemented new communication channels to address concerns and improve transparency.

4) **Involvement:** Encouraging public participation, such as serving as poll workers or observing audits, helps demystify the election process. For example, in Colorado, the secretary of state's office collects updated signatures over time to ensure accuracy in voter verification, which helps build confidence in the system.

Shri. Kiran Sarlaik Shri. U.T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri. Alexander Laloo Hek Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry, vterinary, Fisheries, Printing, Stationery & Secretariat Administration, Meghalaya, Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, Shri. Manjunath Bhandari

DAY: 2

Session 6

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Surface Transportation: What's Ahead on the Hill?

EMINENT SPEAKERS

Mr. Jordan Baugh
Senior policy advisor for the majority staff of the Senate Environment Public Works committee

Susan Howard
Director of policy and government relations At the American Association of State Highway and Transportation

Surface Transportation: What's Ahead on the Hill?

Mr. Jordan Baugh
Senior Policy Advisor, Majority Staff, Senate Energy and
Public Works Committee

Susan Howard
Director of Policy and Government Relations at the
American Association of State Highway and Transportation

Mr. Jordan Baugh focused on the importance of bipartisan collaboration in drafting and implementing infrastructure legislation in the United States, specifically through the Highway Bill and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The speaker emphasizes the need for cooperation between federal and state governments to ensure the success of infrastructure projects, highlighting the challenges and priorities such as climate change, safety, technological advancements, and sustainable funding for the highway trust fund.

According to the speaker, the Highway Bill is a part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and marks a historic $1.2 trillion investment over five years. The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee oversees federal highway programs, while other committees manage public transit, transportation policy, and funding. Bipartisan cooperation was key in drafting the bill. The reauthorization of highway programs in 2026 will consider the bill's scope, address safety, and technology integration, and explore alternative funding. Federal-state collaboration remains crucial for effective implementation.

The main takeaway from the session is the importance of collaboration between various levels of government, central, state, and local in infrastructure development. It underscores the need for clear policy direction, adequate funding, and capacity building at the regional level to implement infrastructure projects successfully. For India, this would translate to the necessity of aligning national infrastructure goals with state and local priorities, ensuring that all stakeholders are equipped to handle complex projects, and exploring sustainable funding mechanisms for long-term infrastructure development.

The speaker representing AASHTO discussed the importance of surface transportation reauthorization, emphasizing AASHTO's role in bringing state DOT perspectives to federal policy. AASHTO has initiated the development of recommendations, focusing on areas like resilience, electric vehicles, workforce, equity, and funding, aiming to have them ready by September 2025. She highlighted the effective implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), noting a high obligation rate for formula dollars. Susan also discussed the broad scope of the IIJA, including its focus on resilience, carbon reduction, safety, and equity, and the importance of future legislative planning.

We can draw lessons from AASHTO's approach to developing comprehensive policy and legislation through expert committees, addressing key issues like resilience, electric vehicles, workforce equity, funding, and safety. The focus on delivering promised infrastructure projects, utilizing formula funding effectively, and preparing for future reauthorization by evaluating current programs can guide India in enhancing its own infrastructure planning, execution, and policy formulation. Adopting a similar multi-modal and inclusive strategy can help India achieve broader transportation and infrastructure goals.

Additionally, integrating sustainability and safety measures, while prioritizing equitable access, can ensure long-term benefits. AASHTO's multi-faceted approach provides a roadmap for India to adopt forward-thinking strategies, fostering a more resilient and inclusive transportation system.

Q&A Highlights:

1) **Krist Offerson:** What is the role of federal and state governments in transportation? Is it time to re-evaluate the federal transportation program and consider turning it over to the states, allowing them to manage the funding and programs themselves?

   Susan Howard recognized the possibility of "devolution," in which federal programs could be transferred to state governments. Federal transportation programs and the federal gas tax are eliminated in favor of state control, which has been proposed but lacks strong congressional support. She emphasized the importance of a federal program for addressing national priorities that transcend state borders. Federal funding comes with strings attached, which can make projects more complicated and costly. The response also highlighted the combination of federal, state, and local funding in most transportation projects.

2) **Dwayne Johnson:** Are there any congressional discussions or proposals regarding minimum liability insurance thresholds for maritime vessels involved in incidents like the Francis Key Bridge incident?

   Mr. Jordan Baugh: The response clarified that this issue does not fall under the committee's jurisdiction and that there are no specific legislative proposals in Congress addressing this, but federal emergency relief funding is being used for the bridge's reconstruction, and insurance claims will eventually reimburse the federal program.

3) **Jared Selman:** Is there any discussion about restarting the Affordable Connectivity Program to support internet access?

   Mr. Jordan Baugh, The Affordable Connectivity Program falls under the Commerce Committee's jurisdiction. I do not have specific insights on this, but I can connect you with colleagues who might have more information.

4) **Phil Pouch:** Given the insufficiency of the gas tax to support Vermont's transportation needs, is there any federal action expected to address this issue, and what alternatives are being considered?

   Mr. Jordan Baugh, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established a Federal Funding Alternatives Advisory Board and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) pilot program to explore new revenue collection methods for the Highway Trust Fund. There is bipartisan acknowledgment in Congress that new funding solutions are needed, although specific legislative actions are still in development.

   Susan Howard, Sustainable funding was a top priority not fully addressed in the IIJA. To maintain current funding levels in a new five-year bill, significant additional revenue will be needed. Options include raising existing fees, finding new revenue sources, or drastically cutting the program, which is undesirable. AASHTO has identified numerous potential revenue sources, but congressional action is still pending.

Shri U. T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly Felicitating Shri. Kannan Srinivasan, Others in photo : Shri. Saleem Ahmed, Shri. A. N. Shamseer , Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri. Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, Shri. Manjunath Bhandari, Smt. Jeevan Jyot Kaur, Shri. Ravjot Singh

Key Takeaways:

1) **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Future Legislation:** The BIL, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, was highlighted as a significant achievement, providing the largest federal investment in surface transportation in U.S. history, totaling $1.2 trillion over five years. This landmark legislation aims to improve the nation's infrastructure through enhancements to roads, bridges, and public transit, as well as investments in broadband expansion and clean energy projects. The success of the BIL sets a precedent for continued bipartisan cooperation on infrastructure and other critical areas of national interest.

2) **Discretionary Grant Programs:** The session discussed the creation of new discretionary grant programs under the BIL, which have opened up funding opportunities for local governments and metropolitan planning organizations. However, smaller cities and local governments often face challenges in applying for and administering these grants due to limited resources and experience. More technical assistance and support are needed to help these communities build capacity and successfully implement projects.

3) **Safety and Resilience Priorities:** Safety, particularly in work zones and for vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists, is a major focus. The session highlighted the need for continued funding for bridge replacement and rehabilitation projects, as well as measures to protect bridges from collisions. Additionally, there is a growing emphasis on integrating advanced technologies such as smart sensors and automated traffic management systems to enhance safety and operational efficiency. These efforts are crucial in ensuring that infrastructure investments not only improve current conditions but also contribute to long-term safety and resilience.

4) **Funding Challenges:** The sustainability of the Highway Trust Fund remains a critical issue, with the current gas tax revenue being insufficient to meet future funding needs. The session emphasized the need for alternative funding sources and pilot programs to explore options beyond the gas tax. Additionally, there is a push for innovative financing mechanisms such as road usage charges, congestion pricing, and public-private partnerships.

Shri. Manjunath Bhandari, Shri Sivasankar Muthukesava, Shri. U.T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri. Najeeburahiman Pandikadavil, Shri. Saleem Ahmed, Shri . Vishesh Ravi, Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, Shri. A. N. Shamseer , Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly Shri Manoharan Ramaswamy,

Session 7

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Cybersecurity: Expensive but Necessary

MODERATOR

Sean McSpaden
Principal Legislative IT Analyst,
Oregon Legislative Assembly

EMINENT SPEAKERS

Meredith Ward
Deputy Executive Director,
National Association of State Chief
Information Officers (NASCIO)

Giovanni Capriglione
Texas State Representative

Brady Vaughn
Chief Strategy and Stakeholder
Engagement Officer, Texas
Department of Information
Resources

Cybersecurity: Expensive but Necessary

Meredith Ward
Deputy Executive Director,
National Association of State Chief
Information Officers (NASCIO)

Sean McSpaden
Principal Legislative IT Analyst,
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Cyberattacks, including ransomware, pose severe threats to national cybersecurity, the economy, public health, and safety. The increasing severity of these threats affects all sectors and often outpaces the capabilities of state and local cybersecurity teams, which are hindered by limited resources and funding. Despite existing workforce development programs, the demand for qualified cybersecurity professionals remains high, and funding is inadequate to meet this need.

State and local governments, alongside educational institutions, are facing escalating cybersecurity threats and IT modernization needs, frequently lacking the resources to address them independently. To address this, the federal government has introduced the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, providing approximately $1 billion in funding, with required state matching funds between FY 2022 and FY 2025. Additionally, the US Government Accountability Office has identified another $827 million in federal grants for cybersecurity.

To effectively utilize these funds, coordinated efforts between state legislatures, the executive branch, and local entities are crucial. The National Conference of State Legislatures stresses the importance of integrating cybersecurity into state budgets as a continuous process rather than a one-time expense. Legislators and their staff must understand cybersecurity risks and budgeting to effectively plan and address these challenges.

Cybersecurity has gained increasing recognition and importance over the past decade, even among the general public, including the elderly. State governments, which manage vast amounts of sensitive data such as tax records, are under constant cyber threats. Although progress has been made in cybersecurity awareness and funding—where states now allocate about 2-5% of their IT budgets to cybersecurity, compared to 10-12% in the federal government and private sector—cyber incidents remain a daily concern. Some states have improved by dedicating specific budget lines to cybersecurity and recently increasing their budgets. However, continuous investment and adaptation are essential as cyber threats evolve and persist.

To address these challenges, states must adopt a proactive approach that includes regular updates to security protocols and investing in advanced technologies such as threat detection systems and encryption. Collaboration with federal agencies and private sector partners can enhance information sharing and response strategies. Training and awareness programs for state employees and the public can also play a crucial role in preventing cyber threats and improving overall security posture.

Furthermore, states should consider establishing dedicated cybersecurity task forces or offices to focus on the development and implementation of comprehensive cybersecurity policies.

Giovanni Capriglione
Texas State Representative

Brady Vaughn
Chief Strategy and Stakeholder
Engagement Officer, Texas
Department of Information
Resources

Cybersecurity, akin to public education and infrastructure, is a critical government responsibility that requires substantial investment. This investment not only protects citizens' safety, privacy, and personal data but also fosters economic growth and job creation. For example, Texas allocates around $350 to $360 billion in its biennial budget, including funds for cybersecurity. This funding has effectively shielded against cyberattacks and created high-paying jobs. Continued investment in cybersecurity is vital, and I am committed to working with my colleagues to emphasize its importance.

In addition to safeguarding data and creating jobs, investing in cybersecurity infrastructure helps build public trust in digital systems and services. It ensures that government operations remain uninterrupted and secure, which is crucial for maintaining the functionality of essential services. Expanding cybersecurity budgets can also drive innovation in technology and security practices, keeping pace with evolving threats.

In Texas, cybersecurity has advanced significantly under Chairman Capriglione's leadership and the Department of Information Resources (DIR). DIR, with its federated model, sets statewide standards and operates one of the largest cooperative contract programs in the nation. It provides shared technology services, including data center and security services, to both state and local agencies and helps manage cybersecurity incidents.

State cybersecurity is a collaborative effort involving internal staff and external partners. While no single solution can address all issues, DIR ensures continuous protection and effective incident response. Recent incidents, such as SolarWinds and CrowdStrike, underscore the importance of basic cybersecurity practices like patching. Despite these challenges, Texas has shown resilience; for example, after the CrowdStrike incident, 50% of critical infrastructure was restored by the end of the day, and full restoration was achieved within 24 hours.

Q&A Highlights:

Meredith Ward: In cybersecurity and IT, technical terms and acronyms can be confusing. For instance, software updates on an iPhone can serve as an analogy for patching. Just as apps receive updates to fix issues, a patch is a software update that addresses problems identified by developers.

Sean McSpaden: Can you discuss the intersection of these important topics from your perspective as a leader in the state legislature?

Representative: In my role on the House Select Committee on AI and Emerging Technologies and the Advisory Council, I oversee the development of AI frameworks and acceptable use policies for state agencies. AI relies heavily on data, making data privacy crucial. Sensitive information, such as fingerprints and Social Security numbers, must be protected to prevent theft. Recently, we passed a bill requiring agencies to inventory their AI usage. The report revealed around 500 AI programs across

200 agencies, many focused on cybersecurity. While AI aids in threat detection, it can also be exploited by malicious actors, highlighting the evolving and complex nature of cybersecurity challenges.

Sean McSpaden: Certainly, we need to address the issue of employees bringing their own AI tools into the work environment, whether or not these tools are on an approved list. Employees are accessing their private accounts and using various generative AI solutions like ChatGPT and Perplexity. It is crucial for state and local government IT officials to understand this trend and work with employees on training and literacy regarding these technologies.

Representative Capriglione: A public AI use policy for state agencies will be essential. It should clearly outline how and when AI can be used and ensure that people's confidential information is protected. The policy must address measures to prevent data breaches or theft and maintain the security of sensitive information throughout the process.

Sean McSpaden: Meredith mentioned two predominant IT organizational models: federated and centralized. In Texas, the federated approach is prevalent. We've discussed how the primary IT organization in Texas interacts with the legislature, but there are also numerous agency boards and commissions involved. Could you both discuss how this complexity in organizational structure affects discussions on cybersecurity? Additionally, if you have examples of productive interactions or notable work between the agencies and the legislature, please highlight those.

Brady Vaughn and Representative Capriglione: Texas legislators, led by Chairman Capriglione, have effectively addressed technology and cybersecurity issues through thoughtful initiatives. Notable efforts include the Prioritize Cybersecurity and Legacy Systems Report, which helps prioritize and assess funding requests based on cybersecurity needs and legacy system considerations. The establishment of the AI Advisory Council and the House Select Committee on AI and Emerging Technologies reflects a proactive stance on emerging technologies. Effective communication between agencies and the legislature is crucial, especially given the challenge of prioritizing issues among the numerous bills filed each session. The growth of the IT Caucus, now the second-largest in Texas, demonstrates increasing legislative focus on IT issues. This ongoing dialogue and emphasis on updated systems highlight the importance of strong relationships between legislators and agencies like the Department of Information Resources (DIR).

Sean McSpaden: Are things improving or deteriorating across the states? Could you provide an overview of NACIO's perspective on the current state of cybersecurity nationwide?

Meredith Ward: Over the past decade, there has been notable progress in addressing cybersecurity issues, which legislators must understand. It's crucial to avoid complacency, as complete security is unattainable, and overly confident declarations can attract new attacks. Investing in cybersecurity prevention is more cost-effective than dealing with the fallout from inadequate preparation. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities in outdated systems, known as "technical debt," prompting states to focus on modernizing these systems. Ongoing funding and vigilance are crucial as the threat landscape continually evolves.

Sean McSpaden: One of our focus areas today is the funding available to states, particularly in the context of cybersecurity. I mentioned some federal grant programs in my opening remarks. Could you both discuss how Texas is utilizing federal grant funds for cybersecurity? Additionally, please address the issue of one-time versus ongoing funding. Federal grants are often used for initial investments, but states will need to provide ongoing support and maintenance for these solutions over time. I would appreciate your perspectives on these issues.

Representative and Brady Vaughn: In Texas, we are collaborating with the governor's office and members to address significant cybersecurity needs at both state and local levels. Local governments and independent school districts are particularly vulnerable to frequent cyberattacks. Currently, $8 million is allocated for the first year of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), but local entities have requested $50 million, highlighting a substantial funding gap.

The grant process, characterized by red tape and complex requirements, has hindered local municipalities from effectively utilizing these funds. A more streamlined approach, similar to the straightforward parameters used for COVID-19 relief grants, would help local governments better manage and deploy cybersecurity resources. Recent polling indicates that voters prioritize cybersecurity investments even more than border security, emphasizing the need for more accessible funding to protect against cyber threats that impact citizens directly.

Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, with delegation from Bharat while attending an NCSL Session

1) **Representative Steven Meeks, Arkansas:** How do we balance the need for transparency under FOIA laws with protecting our vulnerabilities from potential adversaries? For example, when a local school board faced a ransomware attack and negotiated a payment down to $160,000, the approved expenditure was raised to $250,000, which led to the ransom amount increasing. How can we ensure transparency while safeguarding sensitive information?

Answer: When crafting cybersecurity laws, we emphasize transparency but also recognize the need to keep certain details confidential. We include provisions for executive or closed sessions to protect sensitive information. Public information requests are managed to balance transparency with confidentiality during negotiations. Once a resolution is reached, details are disclosed only after contracts are finalized to inform taxpayers.

Texas advises against paying ransoms. Instead, we support rebuilding systems cost-effectively and reducing incentives for attackers. The FBI and some states recommend against ransom payments, with legislation in place to prevent such payments by local governments and school districts. While avoiding ransom payments entirely may not always be feasible, strong cybersecurity measures and recovery plans are essential. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) offers free resources on basic cybersecurity practices to help manage and mitigate threats.

2) **Julie from Texas:** Is there research into best practices for structuring state funding for cybersecurity initiatives?

Meredith Ward: State CIOs often advocate for a hybrid funding approach that balances flexibility and control. Depending on their authority, CIOs or CISOs may mandate basic cybersecurity services or lack that authority. Legacy modernization and cyber investments are crucial. States like Massachusetts have secured one-time funding for cybersecurity needs, ensuring transparency and accountability. Agencies with large budgets may collaborate with CIOs on pilot projects, using their own funds to expand successful initiatives.

3) **Chase Coffey:** We have a multi-state pilot program that trains students in cybersecurity, leading to

CompTIA credentials. Do you have a preferred credentialing agency, and are you building a workforce pipeline at the secondary and primary school levels?

Meredith Ward and Brady Vaughn: Engaging young people in cybersecurity early is crucial to address diversity gaps in the field. Encouraging more women and people of color to pursue cybersecurity careers helps balance gender disparity in STEM.

Certifications like CISSP and CompTIA are common among CISOs, and states that fund these certifications often see internal talent growth. Programs for younger students, such as those offering hands-on cybersecurity experience, are effective in nurturing future talent. Collaborating with universities can further support this growth, though retaining talent in government roles can be challenging. Early involvement and ongoing support can encourage consideration of government positions.

4) **Question:** If you don't know your tech champion in the state house or senate, consider becoming that person. Support in this area is crucial for your state and the country. Proper budgeting for cybersecurity is essential.

   Meredith Ward: Continue to invest in your people.

Key Takeaways:

1) **Cybersecurity Landscape:** Speakers discussed ransomware and cyberattacks, which are growing threats to infrastructure, the economy, public health and safety. The landscape is constantly shifting, making it difficult for state and local governments to keep up. There also is a significant shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals. Existing training programs often lack sufficient funding to produce enough qualified professionals.

2) **State and Local Government Efforts:** Periodic audits and assessments are conducted to identify cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities. However, many organizations lack the funding or capacity to address these issues alone. Collaborating is essential, with the idea that cybersecurity is a "team sport" requiring joint efforts across sectors and jurisdictions.

3) **Federal Support:** The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program provides $1 billion in grants to support state and local cybersecurity efforts. The program requires state matching funds and mandates that 80% of the funds be distributed to local entities.

4) **Budgeting for Cybersecurity:** Cybersecurity requires continuous investment and cannot be treated as a one-time expense. The importance of integrating security measures from the start of system development was emphasized.

Shri. Rahul V. Karad,Convener,, NLC Bharat, Shri. A. N. Shamseer, Hon'ble Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri. U. T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri Thomas A Sangma, Hon'ble Speaker of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly along with other delegates in a meeting with NCSL Delegation

DAY: 3

Session 8

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

The Supremes: Unpacking Cases That Matter to States

EMINENT SPEAKER

Amy Howe
Editor and Reporter, SCOTUS Blog,
"Howe on the Court"

The Supremes: Unpacking Cases That Matter to States

Amy Howe
Editor and Reporter, SCOTUS Blog, "Howe on the Court"

Presentation on Key Cases

Grants Pass vs. Johnson

The first case discussed was Grants Pass vs. Johnson, which addressed the constitutionality of a city's anti-camping ordinance under the 8th Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. The case arose from Grants Pass, Oregon, where a public camping ban was implemented, significantly impacting the homeless population. The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision, upheld the ban. Justice Grouch, writing for the majority, clarified that the 8th Amendment governs the methods of punishment after conviction, not the criminalization of certain behaviors. However, the dissent, led by Justice Sotomayor, criticized the majority for not considering the underlying causes of homelessness, arguing that the ban effectively criminalizes the state of being homeless.

United States vs. Rahimi

The next case under review was United States vs. Rahimi, which scrutinized the Federal law prohibiting firearm possession by individuals under domestic violence restraining orders. This case gained prominence following the Supreme Court's *Bruin* decision, which led the 5th Circuit to initially rule in favor of Rahimi. However, the Supreme Court reversed this ruling, providing clarity that modern regulations must be "relevantly similar" to historical laws. The decision emphasized that contemporary restrictions, while not needing to mirror historical regulations exactly, must address comparable concerns, particularly the threat of violence.

Loper Bright Enterprises vs. Raimondo

In Loper Bright Enterprises vs. Raimondo, the Supreme Court made a significant ruling by overturning the Chevron doctrine, a legal principle that had allowed courts to defer to agency interpretations of ambiguous statutes. This landmark decision marks a shift in the balance of power, limiting the extent to which agencies can interpret laws without explicit congressional intent. The Court's ruling is expected to lead to increased judicial intervention in matters of statutory interpretation.

Duvalier v. Texas

The case of Duvalier v. Texas is notable for its implications in the realm of 5th Amendment takings law, particularly concerning state sovereign immunity and the private right of action under the takings clause.

Background of the Case

This case arose when the state of Texas erected a three-foot barrier along the median of the I-10 highway to mitigate flooding during emergencies such as Hurricane Harvey. While the barrier succeeded in protecting the highway, it inadvertently prevented water from draining into the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in repeated flooding on nearby private land. The flooding caused extensive damage to crops and livestock, prompting one of the affected landowners, Duvalier, along with approximately 100 others, to argue that Texas had effectively taken their land

without just compensation, in violation of both the U.S. Constitution's 5th Amendment Takings Clause and the Texas Constitution.

Legal Question

The central legal question in this case was whether a property owner could bring a takings claim directly under the 5th Amendment in federal court, or whether such a claim must be pursued through state law mechanisms, considering the issue of state sovereign immunity.

Supreme Court's Decision

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision authored by Justice Clarence Thomas, chose not to definitively resolve whether the 5th Amendment's Takings Clause provides a direct cause of action against a state in federal court. Instead, the Court focused on the specific context of the case, pointing out that Duvalier had a viable cause of action under Texas state law (known as inverse condemnation). Therefore, the broader constitutional question remained unaddressed, with the ruling allowing Duvalier and others in similar situations to seek compensation under state law. This decision is procedural and narrow, without broad implications for federal takings doctrine, but it leaves the question open as to whether the 5th Amendment alone can support a takings claim in the absence of adequate state remedies.

Shri. John Kumar, Shri. Rahul V. Karad,Convener,, NLC Bharat,
Shri. U. T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly,
Shri. Sukhato Akhavi Sema, Shri Saleem Ahmed, with other delegates in NCSL Summit

Conclusion

The recent Supreme Court cases discussed do not radically alter the legal landscape but rather emphasize the procedural hurdles and complexities involved in constitutional litigation. The Duvalier v. Texas case, in particular, serves as a reminder of the challenges property owners face when contesting state actions under the 5th Amendment. While the broader questions surrounding federal takings doctrine and state sovereign immunity remain open, these cases highlight the ongoing interplay between federal constitutional protections and state immunity, suggesting that similar issues may arise in future litigation.

Additionally, these cases may prompt legislative action or reform as stakeholders seek to address gaps or ambiguities in existing legal doctrines. By analyzing the Court's interpretations and the challenges highlighted, lawmakers and legal scholars can work towards clearer guidelines and more equitable solutions for property owners and state entities alike. The ongoing dialogue between the judiciary, legislature, and legal community will be essential in shaping the future of constitutional litigation and ensuring fair and just outcomes.

Key Takeaways:

1) **Eighth Amendment and Public Camping Ban:** The U.S. Supreme Court upheld a public camping ban in Grants Pass, Ore., which prohibits unhoused individuals from using blankets, pillows and cardboard for protection. This decision was made by a 6-3 vote, with Justice Neil Gorsuch writing the majority opinion.

2) **Domestic Violence and Firearm Possession:** The case of United States v. Rahimi addressed the federal law prohibiting firearm possession by individuals subject to domestic violence restraining orders. The Supreme Court reversed the 5th Circuit's ruling, which had found the law unconstitutional under the Second Amendment.

3) **Chevron Doctrine Overturned:** In Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo, the Supreme Court overturned the Chevron doctrine, which had allowed courts to defer to administrative agencies' interpretations of ambiguous statutes. Chief Justice Roberts argued that the Administrative Procedure Act intended for courts to decide legal questions using their own judgment, not deferring to agencies.

4) **Fifth Amendment Takings Clause:** In Dier v. Texas, the Supreme Court addressed whether a takings claim can be brought directly under the Fifth Amendment. The case involved Texas using private land to store stormwater, which flooded and damaged the land. The Court did not answer the constitutional question directly but allowed the case to proceed under state law for inverse condemnation.

Shri. Najeeburahiman Pandikadavil, Shri Arjunsinh Udesinh Chauhan, Shri. Manoharan Ramaswamy, Shri Suresh Kumar Koradiya, Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener, NLC Bharat, Shri. U. T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri Saleem Ahmed, Shri Vikram Kale, Shri Sukhato Akhavi Sema, Shri Kiran Sarnaik, Smt Jeevan Jyot Kaur, Smt Neena Mittal, Shri Marcuise N. Marak, Hon'ble Minister of Soil and Water Conservation of Meghalaya, Shri. Thomas A. Sangma, Hon'ble Speaker of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri. Rupert Momin, Shri. Mizanur Rahman Kazi, Shri Manjunath Bhandari, Shri Rajesh Gupta, Shri. Sivasankar Muthukesava, Shri. Sukhveer Singh, Shri Wailadmiki Shylla, Shri Amritpal Singh Sidhu, Shri.Jarnail Singh, Shri. Surabhi Dohare, Shri Vivilian Richards, Shri Dhirendra Singh, Shri Dilip Kumar Pandey

DAY: 2

Special Session

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Special Session Conversations

DELEGATES

Nima Kulkarni
State Representatives
Kentucky House of
Representatives

Kannan Srinivasan
Director of policy and government
relations At the American
Association of State Highway and
Transportation

A special session was organized for the legislators from Bharat, where they engaged in meaningful discussions with American lawmakers of Bharatiya origin. The delegation interacted with Nima Kulkarni, a Democratic member of the Kentucky House of Representatives representing District 40, and Kannan Srinivasan, a Democrat politician from Virginia representing District 26. The American lawmakers shared insights with their Bharatiya counterparts focusing on the topics discussed during the NCSL Legislative Summit but viewed through the lens of Bharat's unique challenges and opportunities.

The Highlights of Discussions

The Future of Education: Creating a Vision for Excellence

In Bharat, the future of education is being shaped by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which envisions transforming the education system to meet the needs of the 21st century. The NEP emphasizes holistic and multidisciplinary education, flexibility in course choices, and the integration of vocational education. Efforts are also underway to leverage technology in education through initiatives like DIKSHA and SWAYAM, which offer digital learning platforms. The policy focuses on critical thinking, creativity, and the overall development of students, aiming to create a globally competitive education system.

AI 101: Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges

Bharat is rapidly embracing Artificial Intelligence (AI) with initiatives like the National AI Strategy and the establishment of the National AI Portal. The government is focusing on AI's role in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, and smart cities. However, challenges such as data privacy, ethical concerns, and the need for skilled professionals are also being addressed. Collaborative efforts between the government, industry, and academia are being made to harness AI's potential while mitigating its risks.

Building an AI-Ready Workforce

Recognizing the need for an AI-ready workforce, Bharat is investing in skill development through programs like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and partnerships with tech companies for AI training. The focus is on upskilling the existing workforce and integrating AI-related courses into the higher education curriculum. The government is also promoting AI research and development through centers of excellence, aiming to position Bharat as a global leader in AI innovation. Additionally, efforts are being made to foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government to ensure that AI advancements.

Innovative Policies to Serve the Nation's Veterans

Bharat has introduced several policies to support its veterans, including the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, which ensures uniform pension payments across the same rank and length of service. The government has also established veteran welfare boards and offers healthcare benefits, resettlement training, and employment opportunities. These efforts aim to honor the service of veterans and provide them with the necessary support for a dignified post-service life.

Additionally, recent initiatives include mental health support programs and digital platforms to streamline access to benefits and services, enhancing the overall support network for veterans.

Ms. Nima Kulkarni interacting with the Participants of the NCSL

Communicating for Voter Confidence

In Bharat, efforts to build voter confidence include the implementation of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems to ensure transparency and accuracy in elections. The Election Commission of Bharat (ECI) has also launched voter education campaigns like the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program. These initiatives aim to increase voter awareness, participation, and trust in the electoral process.

Cybersecurity: Expensive but Necessary

As Bharat rapidly digitizes, cybersecurity has become a top priority. The government has launched the National Cyber Security Policy and established the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) to monitor and respond to cyber threats. Investments are being made in cybersecurity infrastructure, awareness programs, and capacity building. Despite the high costs, these measures are crucial to protecting national security, critical infrastructure, and citizens' data in an increasingly connected world.

Surface Transportation: What's Ahead on the Hill?

Bharat's surface transportation is undergoing significant transformation with the Bharatmala Pariyojana, a large-scale road and highway development project. The government is also focusing on expanding public transportation networks, including metro rail systems in various cities. Policies promoting electric vehicles (EVs) and sustainable transportation are being implemented to reduce pollution and improve urban mobility. These initiatives are critical for supporting Bharat's economic growth and addressing the challenges of urbanization.

The Supremes: Unpacking Cases That Matter to States

Bharat's Supreme Court plays a pivotal role in shaping the legal landscape, particularly in cases involving states' rights and federalism. Landmark rulings on issues like the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the right to privacy, and the abrogation of Article 370 have significant implications for state governance. These cases reflect the balance of power between the central and state governments and underscore the Supreme Court's role in interpreting the Constitution and safeguarding democratic principles.

Mr. Kannan Srinivasan sharing his insights with the Participants from Bharat

Conclusion and Future Outlook

The recent NCSL 2024 Legislative Summit was an immensely valuable experience for the NLC Bharat delegation. Our participation provided an exceptional platform for engaging with a diverse array of legislators, policy experts, and thought leaders from across the globe. The summit's sessions and discussions offered profound insights into the evolving landscape of legislative governance, addressing crucial topics such as cybersecurity, infrastructure, and electoral reforms.

The collaborative spirit at the summit was palpable, reflecting the shared commitment to advancing legislative practices and enhancing public service. Our interactions highlighted the significant impact of partnerships between organizations like NLC Bharat and NCSL. This synergy has proven instrumental in fostering innovative solutions and driving progress in key areas of governance. The exchange of ideas and best practices has not only enriched our understanding but also positioned us to better serve our constituents with enhanced policies and strategies.

The NCSL 2024 conference has set a high standard for future gatherings, showcasing the importance of cross-sector collaboration and continuous dialogue in shaping effective legislation. As we look forward to the next chapter of this collaborative journey, we are excited about the upcoming NCSL Legislative Summit in Boston, scheduled for August 4-6, 2025. This event promises to build on the momentum of the 2024 summit, offering further opportunities for meaningful engagement and shared learning.

We anticipate that the Boston conference will continue to strengthen our partnership with NCSL and offer new avenues for addressing legislative challenges. The experience and insights gained from these events will undoubtedly contribute to our ongoing efforts to improve governance and public service. We extend our gratitude to NCSL for their exceptional hosting and to all participants for their contributions. Together, we look forward to another successful and impactful summit in Boston.

Participants from Bharat from NCSL Summit

List of Participants

Sr.	Name	Designation	Constituency
1	U. T. Khader Fareed	Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly	Mangalore
2	Thomas A. Sangma	Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly	North Tura
3	A. N. Shamseer	Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly	Thalassery
4	Rudrappa M. Lamani	Deputy Speaker, Karnataka	Haveri
5	Alexander Laloo Hek	Minister of Animal Husbandry, Veterinary, Fisheries, Printing, Stationery and Secretariat Administration, Meghalaya	Pynhormkhrah
6	Marcuise N. Marak	Minister of Soil and Water Conservation of Meghalaya	Williamnagar
7	Saleem Ahmed	Member of Legislative Council, Karnataka	Haveri
8	Manjunath Bhandari	Member of Legislative Council, Karnataka	Local Authorities
9	Kiran Sarnaik	Member of Legislative Council, Maharashtra	Teacher Constituency
10	Vikram Kale	Member of Legislative Council, Maharashtra	Teacher Constituency
11	Rajhans Dhananjay Singh	Member of Legislative Council, Maharashtra	Dindhoshi
12	Dilip Kumar Pandey	Member of Legislative Assembly, Delhi	Timarpur
13	Jarnail Singh	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Delhi	Tilak Nagar
14	Rajesh Gupta	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Delhi	Wazirpur
15	Vishesh Ravi	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Delhi	Karol Bagh
16	Arjunsinh U. Chauhan	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Gujarat	Mehmedabad
17	Hemant H. Khava	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Gujarat	Jamjodhpur
18	Sureshkumar K. Koradiya	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Gujarat	Junagadh
19	Najeeburahiman Pandikadavil	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Kerala	Perinthalmanna
20	Job Michil	Member of Legislative Assembly, Kerala	Changanassery
21	Wailadmiki Shylla	Member of Legislative Assembly, Meghalaya	Jowai
22	Charles Pyngrope	Member of Legislative Assembly, Meghalaya	Nongthymmai
23	Rupert Momin	Member of Legislative Assembly, Meghalaya	Kharkutta
24	Dr. Mizanur Rahman Kazi	Member of Legislative Assembly, Meghalaya	Rajabala
25	Sukhato Akhavi Sema	Member of Legislative Assembly, Nagaland	Pughoboto
26	Richards Johnkumar	Member of Legislative Assembly, Puducherry	Nellithope
27	Sivasankar Muthukesava	Member of Legislativelstive Assembly, Puducherry	Ozhukarai
28	John Kumar Antoine	Member of Legislative Assembly, Puducherry	Kamaraj Nagar
29	Jeevan Jyot Kaur	Member of Legislative Assembly, Punjab	Amritsar East
30	Neena Mittal	Member of Legislative Assembly, Punjab	Rajpura
31	Sukhveer Singh	Member of Legislative Assembly, Punjab	Maur
32	Ravjot Singh	Member of Legislative Assembly, Punjab	Sham Chaurasi
33	Amritpal Singh Sidhu	Member of Legislative Assembly, Punjab	Bhagha Purana
34	Manoharan Ramaswamy	Member of Legislative Assembly, Tamil Nadu	Nanguneri
35	Sanjay Kumar Sharma	Member of Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh	Anupshahr
36	Surabhi Dohare	Member of Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh	Kaimganj
37	Dhirendra Singh	Member of Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh	Jewar
38	Vivek Gupta	Member of Legislative Assembly, West Bengal	Jorasanko
39	Ashok Pattan	Member of Legislative Assembly, Karnataka	Ramdurg

Tour of the Kentucky State Capitol Building

The Kentucky State Capitol Building located in Frankfort serves as the seat of government for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Designed by architect Frank L. Miller and completed in 1910, the neoclassical structure stands out with its grand dome and classical columns, reflecting the architectural style of the early 20th century. The building's façade is adorned with Tennessee marble and features a prominent central dome, which reaches 246 feet in height. Inside, the Capitol houses the offices of the Governor and the legislative chambers for the Kentucky General Assembly. The building is also home to intricate murals, ornate woodwork, and statues that commemorate Kentucky's history and heritage. Notable features include the rotunda, with its impressive dome and decorative mosaics, and the legislative chambers, which are designed to accommodate both the Senate and House of Representatives. The Capitol is surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds and serves as a symbol of Kentucky's democratic governance and historical legacy.

The visit of Bharat's lawmakers to this iconic building was truly memorable, offering them a profound insight into Kentucky's governance and architectural grandeur.

Shri Rahul V. Karad, Convener,, NLC Bharat, Shri. U. T. Khader Fareed, Hon'ble Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Shri Thomas A Sangma, Hon'ble Speaker of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri Marcuise N. Marak, Hon'ble Minister of Soil and Water Conservation of Meghalaya and other participants from Bharat.

Awarding Certificates of Participation

During their study visit to the NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville, Kentucky, Bharat's lawmakers were honored with a Certificate of Participation presented by Shri Rahul V. Karad, Founder and Convener of NLC Bharat.

|| विधानं राष्ट्र-धर्मः ||

NATIONAL LEGISLATORS' CONFERENCE BHARAT (INDIA)
राष्ट्रीय विधायक सम्मेलन भारत 2024

Academic Partnership with

NCSL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Certificate of Appreciation and Participation

Awarded to

Minister of Animal Husbandry, Veterinary,
Fisheries, Printing, Stationery and Secretariat Administration, Meghalaya

This certificate is proudly presented in appreciation of your valuable participation in the
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) summit held on **August 5, 6, & 7, 2024**, in Louisville, Kentucky, USA. Your engagement in this esteemed event, organized in collaboration between
NLC Bharat and NCSL USA, reflects your commitment to legislative excellence and the spirit of collaborative governance.

National Legislators' Conference (NLC) Bharat, remains steadfast in its mission to enhance the capacity building of Indian legislators by facilitating collaboration with interstate and international legislators, as it aims to elevate legislative frameworks through knowledge exchange, sharing best practices and exposing legislators to innovative developmental models.

By your active involvement, you have not only represented the Indian legislative community but also embraced the opportunity to learn, collaborate, and exchange ideas with legislators from around the world. This experience will undoubtedly aid in the legislative business and activities in Bharat, strengthening the ethos of our democracy.

We commend you for being a valuable stakeholder in legislative advancement.

With sincere appreciation
in August presence of

A. N. Shamseer
Speaker,
Kerala Legislative Assembly

Thomas A. Sangma
Speaker,
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly

U. T. Khader Fareed
Speaker,
Karnataka Legislative Assembly

• Patrons •

Sumitra Mahajan
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

Dr. Meira Kumar
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

Shivraj Patil
Former Speaker, Lok Sabha

• Convenor •

Rahul V. Karad
Founder, NLC Bharat

MIT-SOG **MIT School of Government**
Bharat's First School to Create Future Political Leaders

ATULYA BHARAT NIRMAN

MIT-WPU

Shri. U. T. Khader Fareed receiving Certificate of
Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. A. N. Shamseer receiving Certificate of
Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Kiran Sarnaik receiving Certificate of
Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Mizanur Rahman Kazi receiving Certificate of
Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Jarnail Singh receiving Certificate of
Participation from Shri Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Manoharan Ramaswamy receiving Certificate
of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Smt. Surabhi Dohare receiving Certificate of
Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Hemant Hardasbhai Khava receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Rupert Momin Khava receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Sureshkumar Koradiya receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Saleem Ahmed receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Vishesh Ravi receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Smt. Jeevan Jyot Kaur receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Rajesh Gupta receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Sukhto Akhavi Sema receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Ravjot Singh receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Amritpal Singh Sidhu receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Vikram Kale receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Wailadmiki Shylla receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Dilip Kumar Pandey receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Ashok M. Pattan receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Johnkumar Antoine receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Manjunath Bhandari receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Najib Pandikadavil receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Neena Mittal receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Shri. Richard Johnkumar receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Smt. Rudrappa Lamani receiving Certificate of Participation from Shri. Rahul V. Karad.

Reflections and Feedback from the Participants

Our visit was an excellent learning opportunity. It was a valuable experience to see politicians from across the political spectrum come together on one platform and exchange ideas. It would be wonderful to see more such conferences and meetings happening in the future. I sincerely extend my gratitude to Shri Rahul V. Karad and the NLC team.

Shri. Thomas Sangma
Hon'ble Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly

Under the guidance of Shri. Rahul V. Karad, we had the opportunity to participate in the Conference and gain valuable insights. I have shared these learnings with fellow politicians in Gujarat. I am deeply grateful to Rahul Sir and the entire team for making this experience possible.

Shri. Arjunsinh Udesinh Chauhan
Member of Legislative Assembly, Mehmedabad, Gujarat

Thank you sincerely for everything, especially to Rahul Karad Ji and his team. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all NCSL members for their excellent arrangements and warm hospitality. We eagerly look forward to more meaningful meetings and continued collaboration in the near future.

Shri. Alexander Laloo Hek
Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry, Veterinary, Fisheries, Printing, Stationery & Secretariat Administration, Pynhormkhrah, Meghalaya

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this summit; it has been an enriching experience. We deeply appreciate Rahul Ji and the entire NLC Bharat team for their exceptional support and organization. Your efforts have made this event memorable and impactful.

Shri Vivek Gupta
Member of Legislative Assembly, Jorasanko, West Bengal

Thank you, Rahul Ji, and your team for your exceptional care, hospitality, and visionary leadership. Your thoughtful guidance has been truly inspiring. May God bless the fulfillment of your visionary goals and the success of your endeavors.

Shri. Sukhato Akhavi Sema
Member of Legislative Assembly, Pughoboto, Nagaland

Thank you, NLC Bharat, Mr. Rahul Karad, and your team for organizing such a remarkable program. I would even call it a historic moment. We are all returning enriched with fresh ideas on governance and policy-making.

Shri. Mohammed Mizanur Rahman Kazi
Member of Legislative Assembly, Rajabala, Meghalaya

A big thank you to Rahul Sir for his visionary leadership! For the first time, an individual has taken the initiative to bring legislators together on a single platform, demonstrating his commitment to fostering collaboration. Now, expanding this effort to an international level is truly commendable and speaks volumes about his dedication to building bridges across borders.

Shri. Manjunath Bhandari
Member of Legislative Council, Karnataka

A heartfelt thank you to Smt. Sumitra Tai Ji, Shri. Shivraj Patil Ji, and Rahul V Karad,for providing us with this incredible opportunity. Their efforts made it possible to meet new people and engage in meaningful discussions about important and noble causes. This experience was truly enlightening and inspiring, and I am grateful for the chance to be a part of it.

Smt. Neena Mittal
Member of Legislative Assembly, Rajpura, Punjab

I extend my sincere thanks to Rahul Sir for his remarkable initiative with the NCSL, which has set a new standard for leadership and collaboration. His vision has not only created a platform for meaningful dialogue but also will inspire new legislators to actively participate in shaping the future. His dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders is truly commendable, and I am grateful for his continued motivation and support.

Shri. Rudrappa Lamani
Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Haveri, Karnataka

A special thanks to Rahul Ji and the NLC team for providing us with this invaluable opportunity and platform. The trip was both memorable and enlightening on different aspects of governance, and we deeply appreciate your efforts in making it so impactful.

Smt. Jeevan Jyot Kaur
Member of Legislative Assembly
Amritsar East, Punjab

Thank you, Rahul Ji, and the entire NLC team for making this trip truly memorable. Having attended NLC Bharat, BCS in Pune, and now this summit in Louisville, I feel deeply connected to the MIT-WPU family.

Dr. Surabhi Dohare
Member of Legislative Assembly
Kaimganj, Uttar Pradesh

A heartfelt thank you to Rahul Ji and his dedicated team! Rahul Sir's ability to bring so many leaders together on one platform, time and again, truly showcases his exceptional leadership skills and commitment to fostering meaningful dialogue. It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of this event and to witness such a remarkable gathering of minds.

Shri. Dilip Kumar Pandey
Member of Legislative Assembly, Timarpur, Delhi

"

Dear Rahul Karad Ji,
The credit for introducing such grand legislative summits in Bharat goes to you and your dedicated Team NLC. Thank you for inviting us to Louisville, USA. The experience was both wonderful and memorable, offering valuable insights and learnings. We look forward to more exceptional summits in the future.

Shri. Jarnail Singh
Member of Legislative Assembly, Tilak Nagar, Delhi

Thank you very much, Rahul Karad ji. Spending this valuable time was truly enriching. Keep up the great work — we gained a lot of insights and learned so much.

Shri. Amritpal Singh Sidhu
Member of Legislative Assembly,
Bhagha Purana, Punjab

We gained a wealth of knowledge and valuable insights during this experience. I am sincerely grateful to Rahul Sir for his exceptional guidance and support. A special thanks also goes to the entire NLC team for their hard work in organizing this opportunity.

Shri. Kiran Sarnaik
Member of Legislative Council,
Maharashtra

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the NLC Patrons and Leadership for their unwavering support and dedication. A special thanks goes to Rahul Karad Sir for being a constant source of inspiration and guidance throughout our journey. His vision and commitment have been instrumental in shaping our experiences and learning. I am truly grateful for his leadership and the opportunities provided by the entire NLC team.

Shri. Sureshkumar Koradia
Member of Legislative Assembly, Junagadh, Gujarat

... you for the opportunity to participate ... this summit; it has been an enriching experience. We deeply appreciate Rahul. Ji and the entire NLC Bharat team for their exceptional support and organization. Your efforts have made this event memorable and impactful.

Shri. Vishesh Ravi
Member of Legislative Assembly
Karol Bagh, Delhi

Bringing politicians from multiple parties together on one platform NLC Bharat was truly inspiring and showcased the power of collaborative dialogue. Similarly, the insights gained in NCSL Summit on law making, especially in the context of AI, were incredibly thought-provoking. I am grateful to Shri. Rahul V. Karad for the opportunity to witness and learn from such a dynamic and forward-thinking discussion.

Shri. Dhirendra Singh
Member of Legislative Assembly, Jewar, Uttar Pradesh

A heartfelt thank you to Shri. Rahul Sir and NLC Bharat Team for providing us with this incredible opportunity. Your support and dedication have made it possible for us to learn, grow, and connect with influential leaders from diverse backgrounds. I am truly grateful for the chance to be part of such an enriching experience that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact.

Shri. Saleem Ahmed
Member of Legislative Assembly, Haveri, Karnataka

NCSL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT BO5TON

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS | AUG 4-6, 2025

Mark Your Calendars for the 2025 NCSL Legislative Summit in Boston

Join us from Aug. 4-6, 2025, for the NCSL Legislative Summit in Boston, packed with the latest trends in public policy, insights from the nation's leading experts, and personal development opportunities. This year marks NCSL's 50th anniversary, and we're pulling out all the stops for a gathering you won't want to miss. Engage in transformative discussions, gain valuable insights, and develop new skills to elevate your career against the backdrop of Boston's rich historical heritage. Registration opens in April 2025-plan to secure your spot and prepare for the policy challenges ahead!

APPEAL

Towards a brighter, more collaborative future for Bharat and the world...

Hon'ble Legislators of Bharat,

As the global stage continues to evolve, the Bharat-USA relationship stands as a beacon of shared values—democracy, freedom, and the pursuit of legislative excellence. In this rapidly changing world, it is essential that our two great nations collaborate more closely to address the challenges of governance, technology, and economic development.

Through the NLC Bharat and NCSL partnership, we are forging a pathway of mutual learning, where lawmakers from Bharat can engage with their U.S. counterparts to exchange best practices, debate solutions, and enhance our legislative systems. The outcomes of this collaboration will not only strengthen our individual democracies but also serve as a model of global cooperation.

As we prepare for the *next NCSL Legislative Summit in Boston, August 4-6, 2025*, I extend an invitation to every legislator from Bharat to join this mission of learning, growth, and transformation. Your participation is crucial to building a more responsive, innovative, and effective legislative framework for Bharat. Together, we can bring back the wisdom of global best practices to our legislative houses, creating a future of prosperity and accountability for our nation.

Let us walk this journey together - towards a brighter, more collaborative future for Bharat and the world.

Warm regards,

Rahul V. Karad
Convenor, NLC Bharat

Since 2005

MIT School of Government

Bharat's First School to Create Future Political Leaders