



Feb. 9, 2026

The Honorable Members of the State Government Subcommittee  
Iowa General Assembly

Dear Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on HF 2043, relating to dues payments for interstate legislative organizations, including the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

NCSL exists solely to serve America's state legislatures. Our dues model is legislature-based—not individual-based—which means every elected member and every partisan and nonpartisan legislative staff person in Iowa receives full access to NCSL's services. Should HF 2043 pass as written, Iowa's legislative staff and members would lose access to that support, because NCSL cannot provide services to individuals outside of a dues-paying legislature. This is central to our governance model, which is bipartisan and controlled by its 50 legislatures and territories.

### **What Your Dues Support**

Your dues fund core services that benefit the *entire* General Assembly:

- Nonpartisan, rapid-response research for all members and staff. Last year alone, NCSL fielded more than 15,000 direct legislative research requests from across the states—many from caucus and committee staff working under significant deadline pressure.
- Professional development and training for new and returning legislators, as well as partisan and nonpartisan staff, including ethics, appropriations, bill drafting, committee operations and leadership development.
- State representation in Washington, D.C. NCSL advocates for state authority on federalism issues and regularly pushes back against unnecessary federal mandates. For example, NCSL strongly opposed federal efforts to preempt state authority over artificial intelligence regulation—an issue aligned with many conservative states' positions on maintaining state control.

### **Why This Matters for Iowa**

Iowa—like every state—relies on NCSL for support that is difficult or expensive to replicate internally: national comparisons, model options, fiscal analyses, legal landscape summaries and technical assistance. This work directly supports your staff's ability to serve committees, leaders and members efficiently.

Because dues are assessed per legislature (not per person), the cost covers all of Iowa's 150 legislators and all legislative staff, at a fraction of what it would cost Iowa to independently secure equivalent services, data infrastructure or national-level advocacy.

### **Opportunity to Provide Testimony**

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with members of the subcommittee—or the full committee—at your convenience, either in person or virtually. We are happy to answer any questions about NCSL's services, the dues structure and the implications of HF 2043.

#### **Marcus C. Evans Jr.**

President, NCSL  
Assistant Majority Leader,  
Illinois

#### **Lonnie Edgar**

Staff Chair, NCSL  
Mississippi Joint Legislative  
PEER Committee

#### **Tim Storey**

Chief Executive Officer,  
NCSL

Thank you for your careful consideration and for your service to the people of Iowa.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Storey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tim Storey  
NCSL Chief Executive Officer