



NGA Releases Report of Governors' Annual State of the State Addresses

As governors delivered their 2011 State of the State addresses, they continue to face fiscal stress and high unemployment, according to an issue brief released by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center).



Interim Analysis: 2011 State of the State Addresses signals that state government redesign is not a temporary issue; it is part a new reality that will bring about fundamental change in the nature and volume of state services. Therefore, this year's speeches focus on tough budget choices, smaller government and strategies to create jobs.

For more information on state government redesign, visit [NGA's redesign page](#) or visit www.nga.org.

NGA Center Issue Brief Highlights Ways to Improve Home Visiting Programs



As states continue to redesign and streamline state programs to make them more effective, a new issue brief from the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) offers states suggestions on how to better coordinate and integrate home visitation programs to improve early childhood initiatives.

Maximizing the Impact of State Early Childhood Home Visitation Programs examines how governors can better integrate home visiting programs into an effective and comprehensive early childhood system. Governors can promote coordinated planning and shared accountability across the agencies that fund home visiting and other early childhood programs; develop research-based quality standards and support ongoing program improvement; and improve data linkages to track outcomes and better target services.

Although outcomes vary, home visiting programs have demonstrated measurable gains, such as:

- Reducing cases of abuse and neglect;
- Improving school readiness and success in school;
- Enhancing prenatal and child health;
- Encouraging good parenting behaviors and attitudes;
- Promoting parental self-sufficiency; and
- Reducing youth crime and delinquency.

To learn more, please visit www.nga.org/center.

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NGA in the News:

- [GREGOIRE & HEINEMAN: State bankruptcy is not the answer](#)
- [REAL ID Compliance Deadline Extended](#)

Dear Friend:

After 28 years serving as NGA's executive director, it feels bittersweet to write my final letter. During my tenure here, I have worked with more than 300 governors, two of which became president and many of whom have become U.S. senators or Cabinet secretaries during the last four presidential administrations. For someone with a passion for public policy at both the state and federal level, this is one of the greatest jobs there is, and it has truly been an honor to serve so many of the nation's governors.



I am excited, however, to pass the torch to Dan Crippen, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office. Dan served as the chief counsel and economic advisor for Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker. He also worked in President Ronald Reagan's administration. Before moving to CBO, Dan was a partner in the Duberstein Group, an independent lobbying and consulting firm specializing in business strategy and legislative relations, and Washington Council, a law firm specializing in federal tax and health care policy. With his wealth of experience and enthusiasm, I am confident the association is in good hands.

This is an exciting time not only for the NGA staff, but also for the nation's governors. The 2011 Winter Meeting brought governors together for the first time since the elections. It gave them an opportunity to participate in business sessions with the President, members of his Cabinet, Congressional leaders, academic leaders, business executives and other experts for discussions about a variety of issues and challenges facing states. The meeting was highly productive, providing a forum for bipartisan cooperation and allowing governors to get to know their newest colleagues.

My sincerest thanks for your interest in NGA and your friendship over the years. To learn more about NGA, visit www.nga.org.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Scheppach
 Executive Director

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- [Governors Look for Means to Cope With Budgets](#)
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[Governors Praise Extension of REAL ID Compliance Deadline](#)



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- [Governors Seek to Identify Obstacles, Strengthen Partnership in Developing Domestic Resources](#)
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- [Governors Kick Off NGA's 2011 Winter Meeting](#)
- [Governors Think Globally to Improve Education](#)
- [NGA Center Report Provides Guidance for States on Clean Energy Financing Programs](#)

Get to Know the Governor:
Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin



Mary Fallin was sworn in as governor of Oklahoma on January 10, 2011. She is the first woman in Oklahoma to hold that office.

Before entering office, Fallin was a regional manager of a national hotel chain. She was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1990 before becoming Oklahoma's first female and first Republican lieutenant governor in 1995, a position which she held for 12 years. In 2006, Fallin was elected to the U.S. Congress, where she served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Small Business, and the Committee on Natural Resources. [Read More...](#)

Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 50 states, three territories and two commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit www.nga.org.

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