LAW, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

2017 NCSL Legislative Summit
Boston, Mass.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLICY: FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS................................................................. 2

POLICY: NCSL urges the United States Congress to swiftly pass the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act ("The STOP Act")......................3

POLICY: NCSL URGES the PRESIDENT AND the CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES to ENACT VOTER PRIVACY PROTECTIONS............................... 5
The U. S. Constitution requires that a federal decennial census be conducted every ten years. This responsibility is delegated to the U.S. Census Bureau. Since the first census was conducted in 1790, states have relied on federal census data. Currently, these data are used to redraw congressional and state legislative district boundaries and also to help federal, state, and local governments develop informed, cost-effective policies that promote economic growth, the well-being of individuals and families, and public safety in all communities.

The Census Bureau must be able to fulfill the constitutional mandate that is critically needed by the states and valued by all Americans. Adequate funding for the decennial census is necessary for an accurate count of the nation’s population and is critical for the Census Bureau to maintain the level of preparedness and planning necessary to conduct each decennial census. NCSL has long partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau to provide state legislators and staff with timely information on census activity and to provide feedback on their services and research.

NCSL supports a full and complete census count and will work with the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct its decennial census, related research programs and outreach efforts.
WHEREAS, The United States has experienced a significant increase in the illegal use, sale, and trafficking of dangerous and potentially fatal synthetic drugs, including synthetic cannabinoids, opioids, and carfentanils;

WHEREAS, An opioid epidemic is sweeping the United States and has reached crisis proportions, killing thousands of Americans, straining the ability of first responders, and pressuring already critically stressed state and local budgets;

WHEREAS, there are more than 300 synthetic drugs imported into the United States and more than 500 distributed globally, most of them produced in China, according to the United States Department of State;

WHEREAS, the United States Customs and Border Protection has implemented advance electronic manifesting and security screening as a key tool for identifying and intercepting high-risk shipments that may include illegal or dangerous goods such as synthetic drugs;

WHEREAS, the Trade Act of 2002 required the provision of advance electronic manifests and security screening data to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol on all shipments into the United States except for parcel shipments from foreign posts;

WHEREAS, this gap in security screening of goods entering the U.S. constitutes a threat to U.S. national security;

WHEREAS, a major avenue for the importation of synthetic drugs is the shipment of small parcels through the international mail system via foreign postal services, and such
shipments are the only commercial import shipments that do not currently provide
advance electronic manifests and security screening data to federal agencies;

WHEREAS, the steady growth of internet commerce and electronic platforms that
facilitate online purchases has resulted in an enormous increase in the volume of
shipments that are imported into the United States from sellers in other countries;

WHEREAS, the lack of data necessary for the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to
screen imported purchases has made it easier to import illegal products, including
opioids and synthetic substances, into the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Conference of State Legislatures
urges the United States Congress to swiftly pass and send to the President’s desk for
enactment the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act (“The STOP Act”),
which would require advance electronic data screening of all inbound shipments to the
United States to facilitate identification and interception of illegal synthetic drugs and
chemicals, and other dangerous, counterfeit or illicit goods.
COMMITTEE: LAW, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICY: NCSL URGES the PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES to ENACT VOTER PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.

TYPE: NEW POLICY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Voting is a fundamental right at the heart of our system of government, and guaranteed to all qualified citizens of the United States by the United States Constitution and the constitution and laws of each state;

WHEREAS, Each state has tested and trusted procedures in place to ensure that legally qualified voters can exercise their right to vote in federal, state and local elections;

WHEREAS, It is essential that the information that each individual provides to the appropriate jurisdiction to prove that he or she is qualified to vote must be kept private and safe and protected from manipulation, damage or anything that could impede the individual’s ability to vote for his or her candidate of choice;

WHEREAS, It is widely believed by authoritative sources that the electronic information systems in each state that contain and protect the privacy and integrity of voter information may have been secretly and illegally attacked and infiltrated in recent years by malicious agents or foreign governments;

WHEREAS, It is likely that the intention of such actors was to disrupt the American system of government, raise questions about the validity of the results of state and federal elections, and ultimately, undermine the legitimacy of officeholders and their policies at every level of government;

WHEREAS, It is the duty of the President and Congress of the United to enact laws and provide such assistance as may be necessary to guarantee that the privacy of voter information is protected on the state level and that the threat to that information from malicious agents or foreign government is eliminated so that no serious questions can be raised about the legitimacy and authority of those holding public office in this country;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Conference of State Legislatures urges the President and Congress of the United States to enact laws and provide such assistance as may be necessary to guarantee that the privacy of voter information is protected on the state level and that the threat to that information from malicious agents or foreign government is eliminated.