

August 31, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: State Technology Priorities for Congress Following the August Recess

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) is the collective voice of the nation's state and territorial chief information officers, chief information security officers, chief privacy officers and chief artificial intelligence officers. Our mission is to advance government excellence through trusted collaboration, partnerships and technology leadership. To that end, we urge you to prioritize the following issues that are critical to the ability of states to deliver secure, reliable and innovative technology services to the public.

Reauthorize the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

As recent attacks on municipal waters systems demonstrate, states continue to face sophisticated and growing cyber threats targeting government networks and critical infrastructure. SLCGP has provided essential resources to strengthen state and local cybersecurity capabilities and improve coordination across all levels of government. Congress should move promptly to provide a long-term and appropriately funded reauthorization of SLCGP to ensure states can continue this critical work. Earlier this year, NASCIO and several other organizations representing state and local governments [requested](#) 300 million in FY2027 funding for SLCGP.

Reauthorize FirstNet

FirstNet has transformed public safety communications by providing a dedicated, nationwide broadband network for first responders. As Congress considers the future of FirstNet, we urge bipartisan action to reauthorize the program and preserve its unique mission, governance structure and commitment to serving the needs of public safety.

Preserve State Authority to Govern Artificial Intelligence

In the absence of federal action on generative AI, states have developed thoughtful, stakeholder-driven AI policies tailored to their citizens' needs. Efforts in Congress to halt or preempt these efforts would undermine democratic governance and public trust. NASCIO remains committed to ensuring responsible AI development and we affirm that preemption or moratoria on state AI laws and regulations are deeply misaligned with both the interests of state governments and the needs of residents. Congress should reject efforts to broadly preempt state AI laws and instead pursue a federal framework that recognizes and preserves the states' longstanding role as policy innovators and regulators.





Strong federal-state partnerships are essential to ensuring that technology strengthens government, protects Americans and delivers better public services. While these are far from the only issues we are committed to working on with you, we believe that addressing these matters would contribute greatly to a stronger and more secure cybersecurity and technology position for our Nation.

Sincerely,

Doug Robinson
Executive Director
National Association of State Chief Information Officers

