



# NCSL NEWS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

WILLIAM T. POUND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## State Policymakers Working for Our Troops

SAN ANTONIO – Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence), a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs, worked with state legislators from across the country on a series of important issues affecting our troops. The task force met August 8 -11 during NCSL's annual Legislative Summit, held in San Antonio, Texas.

“Military issues are often thought to be something that only the federal government handles,” said Sloan. “But state governments have a major role to play—whether it’s ensuring that our troops get to vote in elections, or providing for their family’s health care. I am pleased to have been able to help address these issues with other state lawmakers.”

Issues discussed during the task force’s meeting include:

- How states are complying with the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, which protects the right to vote for military and overseas voters.
- What states are doing to prepare for bringing the troops home from combat.
- How the military can share the electronic health records of service members and their families with states to improve their health care.

The Military and Veterans Affairs Task Force was created in 2007 as a way for state legislators to work with the Department of Defense. The task force is composed of state legislators who represent districts that have military bases.

Rep. Sloan sponsored several Resolutions calling on the Dept. of Defense to partner with state and non-government agencies to protect wildlife habitat, particularly near military facilities. He was recognized for his leadership during the 2011 Kansas legislative session on several bills important to the Department and military personnel.

Sloan also serves on the NCSL Energy Supply Task Force that met during these same days.

NCSL’s Legislative Summit is an annual meeting designed to give state lawmakers the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss policy solutions with thousands of legislators,

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legislative staff and policy experts from across the country. NCSL is a bipartisan organization representing every state legislator and legislative staffer from the 50 states and U.S. territories.

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