

Restore the Partnership Act of 2009 (H.R. 3332)

The legislation would establish a National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (NCIR), which would be a permanent, independent, bi-partisan group to study and consider the federal government's intergovernmental relationships with all other levels of government. Creating NCIR will ensure dialogue and collaboration among federal, state and local governments.



RESTORE THE PARTNERSHIP

A Campaign to Reestablish the
Federal-County Partnership

NACO National Association of Counties
The Voice of America's Counties

What Legislation Would Do

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) introduced the Restore the Partnership Act of 2009 (H.R. 3332), co-sponsored by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-N.J.), earlier this year. The legislation would establish the National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (NCIR), a key legislative priority for NACo. The goal of the legislation is to facilitate the fullest cooperation and coordination among all levels of government. NACo's membership approved a resolution in support of H.R. 3332 at the association's Annual Conference in July 2009. Connolly is the former chair of the Fairfax County, Va. Board of Supervisors.

As a part of the Restore the Partnership Campaign, NACo has been working to establish NCIR, a permanent, independent, bipartisan group that would study and consider the federal government's intergovernmental relationships with all levels of government. The commission would be comprised of elected officials from all three levels of government: federal, state and local.

To read the full text of the Restore the Partnership Act of 2009 (H.R. 3332) visit NACo's homepage at www.naco.org.

Background

In 1959, the 86th Congress created an Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) to foster a stronger relationship among local, state and federal government to influence national policy. The commission was a combination of presidential appointees, members of the Senate and House, governors, state legislators, county supervisors/commissioners, city council members and tribal officials. The commission provided an opportunity for all levels of government to share views, practices and to discuss the impacts of legislation and policy across all levels of government. The 104th Congress terminated the ACIR in 1995.

Since its termination, that partnership has been badly damaged. There is more conflict among the levels of government and an attitude at the federal level that state and local governments are special interest groups rather than partners in identifying and solving common problems and issues.

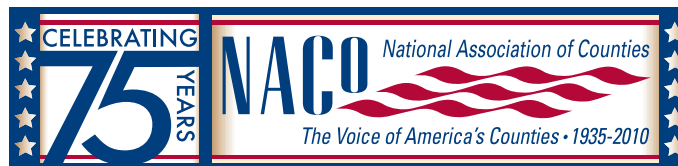


Talking Points

- ★ H.R. 3332 would establish a National Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (NCIR), which would be a permanent, independent, bipartisan group to study and consider the federal government's intergovernmental relationships with all other levels of government.
- ★ The commission would be composed of 30 individuals who represent federal, state and local governments. It would be the only established, freestanding part of the federal system in which the views of intergovernmental partners could be openly aired and in which difficulties and inefficiencies of the federal system's intergovernmental relationship could be examined.
- ★ Creating NCIR will ensure that county officials have a greater voice in Washington, DC in the national policy debate. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the perfect example of cooperation and coordination among all levels of government. Creating NCIR will help ensure that same dialogue and collaboration continues among federal, state and local governments. ARRA has had a significant impact on counties and perhaps best highlights the need to bring decision-makers together to share experiences, to educate the public and one another about intergovernmental relationship and responsibilities, to look for efficiencies, and to foster greater communication and coordination.

Encourage your member(s) of Congress to co-sponsor the Restore the Partnership Act (H.R. 3332)

If you have questions about this legislation, please contact Kasia Witkowski at 202/942-4225
or kwitkowski@naco.org.



About NACo

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. Visit www.naco.org.



**RESTORE THE
PARTNERSHIP**