

## 8. POLICY POSITION

### COMMENDING THE STATE AND LOCAL LEGAL CENTER FOR ITS WORK REGARDING THE TENTH AMENDMENT

#### BACKGROUND

In 1983, the seven major organizations of state and local government officials founded the State and Local Legal Center. They gave the Legal Center a crucial mission -- establish an effective presence in the Supreme Court to protect the interests of the citizens they represent.

Governors, legislators and local government officials thought it essential to advance and defend their interests before the judicial branch, as well as the legislative and executive branches of our federal system. Before the Center's inception, state and local governments were losing two out of every three of their cases that were before the Supreme Court. Now the record has changed for the better, in part because of the assistance of the Legal Center, and the Center's advocacy regarding the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution has been particularly rewarding.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference commends the State and Local Legal Center for its effective work in advancing the policy positions of the Southern Legislative Conference and The Council of State Governments regarding the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution as evidenced by the opinion in the case of Gregory et al. v. Ashcroft, 39 Law Week 4714, U.S. Supreme Court (June 20, 1991). The Southern Legislative Conference encourages the State and Local Legal Center to continue this emphasis.

Further, the Southern Legislative Conference urges The Council of State Governments to adopt similar policy positions to this and further directs copies of this policy position be furnished to the State and Local Legal Center and The Council of State Governments.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference, July 23, 1991.

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