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RESOLUTION, #EDU-2017-02

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS OR
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE COMPACTS TO ALIGN TEACHER
LICENSING ACROSS STATES

Whereas, a strong and effective school system is essential to the economic prosperity of ERC states and to ensure the economic competitiveness of the U.S.; and

Whereas, the foundation of any education system are teachers; and

Whereas, qualified, dedicated teachers are critical to the success of state education systems; and

Whereas, teachers prepare the next generation of Americans for success in school and in life; and

Whereas, at least 90% of the nation's public school students at the primary and secondary levels were taught by teachers with state certification in 2011-2015; and

Whereas, the United States is an increasingly mobile society and the impact of this increasing mobility is keenly felt by individuals of professions licensed by the states, including teaching; and

Whereas, states license the occupation of teaching and currently most states do not have reciprocity agreements to allow teachers licensed in another state to teach in their state; and

Whereas, teacher certification reciprocity can be a complicated topic, and one that requires thorough research into the policies of the states where you want to teach; and

Whereas, one possible way to solve this problem is the formation of an interstate compact, which would allow member states to work cooperatively to address interstate licensing challenges; and

Whereas, the National Center for Interstate Compacts is a policy program developed by CSG to assist states in developing interstate compacts; and

Whereas, state governments often prefer to direct themselves collaboratively when addressing problems that span boundaries, and compacts have proved to be an effective mechanism for states to jointly problem-solve, often avoiding federal intervention; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, that CSG/ERC supports the creation of reciprocity agreements or an occupational licensure compact to align teacher licensing requirements and/or certification to best meet the needs of member states and our constituents.

Adopted August 16 at the CSG/ERC Annual Meeting and Policy Forum Uncasville, Connecticut