



## **Memorandum of Understanding between CALRE and NCSL**

**CALRE (Conference of European Regional Assemblies)  
represented by its president Raffaele Cattaneo**

**And**

**NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures)  
represented by its president Debbie Smith**

Considering that the Conferences:

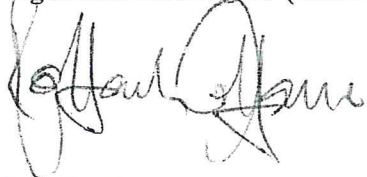
- Recognize the common cultural roots and values that have historically characterized the birth and growth of the United States of America and the European Union, communities of people who have always fought for and supported freedom and strength of democracy, always united to defend together the rights of their people;
- Recognize the importance of strengthening interinstitutional relations towards mutual understanding and exchange of experiences, while acknowledging mutual peculiarities and differences, in the recognition of common traditions and cultural values as well as in the respect of the principles of equality, democracy and rule of law;
- Affirm the opportunity that mutual relations can be a means of promoting cooperation, dialogue, deliberation and sharing to be represented in their respective countries and territories;
- Act as the forum that represents communities, able to effectively value the specificities of each territory and to guarantee the democratic participation of people in the building, developing and implementation of territorial policies;
- Affirm the necessity of valuing and guaranteeing the participation of the respective sub-national and national territories to be represented through political and institutional processes inspired by federalism and 'bottom-up' subsidiary and cooperation which take into account the uniqueness and needs of represented territories and single communities; and

- Support a system of interconnected and interparliamentary multilevel governance, which guarantees political dialogue and institutional cooperation among the authorities, all of which places at the centre of its 'mission' the protection and appreciation of civil society in every form, as subjects crucial and essential to meaningful growth of every country's system.

Agree to:

- Officially recognize themselves as principal interlocutors and distinguished representatives of, respectively, European regional assemblies and federal state legislatures of the United States of America;
- Strengthen the relations between the conferences on topics of mutual interest, in order to support and uphold the role of regional and sub-national legislative assemblies; improving the legislative quality of the respective authorities; narrowing the representativeness gap between institutions and people;
- Actively take part in institutional and conference events throughout the year, to ensure continual sharing of important ongoing policies, proposals and problems in their respective countries, conferences and represented legislative assemblies;
- Carry out a cooperative understanding to share, between United States and Europe, knowledge, experiences, information, ideas, procedures and best governance practices aimed to convey the distinct nature of each political-institutional experience of the respective Conferences; consolidating multilevel governance systems; allowing a constructive dialogue instrumental to the improvement and growth of the institutional and legislative activity of each member; and
- Foreseeing the possibility of organizing meetings or annual conferences on topics of mutual interests, which could ensure the importance and impact of common work of the two conferences with respect to mutual regional and territorial policies.

**Conference of European Regional  
Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)**



**Hon. Raffaele Cattaneo**  
President, Conference of European  
Regional Legislative Assemblies &  
President, Regional Council of  
Lombardy

**National Conference of State  
Legislatures (NCSL)**



**Hon. Debbie Smith**  
President, NCSL  
Minority Floor Leader, Nevada