

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #148, APRIL 2016

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 80,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

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EDUCATION BILL (ESSA) SUMMARY

To see a summary of the new education bill go to <http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/every-student-succeeds-act/index.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1-RM>. I am concerned by two facts. (1) There will be a new U.S. President in 2017, and (2) there will probably be a new Secretary of Education in 2017. With the new law taking effect in the 2017-18 school year, will there be adequate time to see that all states have their plans in and approved? (That is probably only a six month window of time to carry out all that goes with such a large change in all states.)

ESSA PROBLEMS

There are potential problems brewing between Congress specifically between the Senate Health Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the newly confirmed Secretary of Education John King. The essence of the disagreement is how Title I funds would be spent. There is concern that instead of federal money being used to supplement local funding to adequately staff Title I programs, the money will be used for routine expenses thus limiting the money needed to carry out the intent of Title I funding. Senator Alexander indicated that he is willing to use Congressional appropriations to insure that congressional intent is heeded. With a new president and, presumably, a new Secretary of Education taking office after the first of the year, this disagreement has the potential to cause problems with the implementation of the new education law. (For more detailed information on this issue go to <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/04/13/didnt-take-long-new-education-secretary-starts-butting-heads-in-nations-capital/>)

RETROACTIVE DIPLOMAS

With the change in required exit exams to get a high school diploma, some states are granting high school diplomas retroactively to students who failed the state exit exams but who passed the coursework which the state now requires. In the past nine months, Georgia has retroactively awarded high school diplomas to over 17,000 students. Texas has awarded 4,000 diplomas and anticipates that an additional 12,000 will be eligible to get retroactive diplomas. \Some other states that have passed legislation to allow students who did not pass formerly required exit exams but passed end of course exams to get high school diplomas are California, South Carolina, Arizona and Alaska. If your state has dropped high school graduation tests and you know of students who might be eligible for a retroactive diploma; contact your state Department of Education.

REVISED GED STANDARDS

The GED Testing Service has recently lowered the passing score for the test. This will allow states to lower the score needed to pass the GED. Every section will go from 150 of 200 to pass to 145 of 200. This is retroactive and is estimated to result in approximately 25,000 additional individuals passing the GED based on exams they have already taken. States would have to agree to make the change. To find out whether this change affects you or someone you know check with an institution near you which is part of the GED program. This may be a community college or your state department of education. A person having this high school equivalency certificate will have better job opportunities.

SOME WOMEN INVENTORS

In response to a request to include more information about women's successes, I offer the following:

It was not until the late 1800s that women could be the owner of record for property or enter into legal agreements in their own name. Instead, a woman's property was in the name of her father or husband. Sybilla Masters may have been the first American woman inventor. She invented a new corn mill, but was denied a patent in 1712 because she was a woman. Three years later the patent was granted when it was filed in her husband's name.

Some other interesting inventions by women are the Apgar Test credited to Virginia Apgar in 1952, the disposable diaper patented by Marion Donovan in 1950 and the dishwasher invented by Josephine Cochran in 1872. Lest you think that women invented only things for the home, note that the windshield wiper was invented by Mary Anderson in 1903, the Rotary engine patented by Margaret Knight in 1904 and the engine muffler exhaust credited to El Dorado Jones in 1917.

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

Email access and addresses

[http://www.house.gov/](http://www.house.gov) for members of the House of

Representatives [http://www.senate.gov/](http://www.senate.gov) for members of the U.S. Senate

White House [1-202-456-1111](tel:1-202-456-1111)

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.
