

## **U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #149, MAY 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](mailto: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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### **STRONG START FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN ACT**

The Strong Start for America's Children Act (H.R.2411; S.1380) would provide matching grants to states through the Department of Education. States would issue subgrants to local education providers to fund high quality prekindergarten programs for three and four year old children from low income families. Up to 15% of the state grant money could be applied to education programs for infants and toddlers from low income families. The bill would amend the Head Start Act to include more children in early learning experiences and would direct funding to providers of special education services for infants and toddlers.

### **EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

Several Executive Orders have been issued by the Obama administration. Although these can effect immediate change, they are only effective until another President is inaugurated. At that time the new President may rescind Executive Orders of the previous administration. The only binding long term legal change is legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. For example, the Executive Order dealing with "Dreamers" allows a group of illegal immigrants to avoid deportation; however, a new president can rescind the order. In that case those who have taken advantage of the previous administration's Executive Order may find themselves among the first to be deported because they have self-identified as illegals when they sought to take advantage of the previous administration's Executive Order.

### **REFINANCING STUDENT LOANS**

There are a number of bills pending which would allow refinancing of student loans. S.3008, H.R.5274, H.R.3786, H.R.3634, and H.R.3751 to name a few. Unfortunately, each of these bills was read and referred to committee where it languishes with no action being taken. Since this is an election year there are not many more days in which Congress will be in session as the members go home to campaign for reelection. Therefore, the likelihood of any of these bills being passed is small.

**PROGRAM IDEA**

To find out what is going on in classrooms in your area, consider inviting two or more first year teachers to describe what their classroom experience has been. You will be interested in what teaching materials they do or do not have available, what their classrooms have or what they lack, and how you and your chapter can help. Many state legislatures are cutting funds to education the result of which is reductions in staff, supplies and activities for students and teachers. Our chapter had such a program in the fall of 2015 which was extremely informative. The two new teachers invited to present our program were initiated into our chapter this spring.

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**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/>

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**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/> for members of the House of Representatives <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.**