

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #151, JULY 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.

IN THIS ISSUE

FORUM APPROVES RESOLUTION ON BULLYING

RESOLUTION TEXT

SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT REPORTING

2016-18 U.S. FORUM COMMITTEE ELECTED

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

FORUM WEB SITE

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

FORUM APPROVES RESOLUTION ON BULLYING

The U.S. Forum session at the Nashville International Convention approved a resolution on bullying and cyberbullying. The text is given below. We urge each of you to contact your U.S. Senator and Representative and express your concern about this problem asking him/her to support legislation to control this national problem which has resulted in the death of a number of children in our nation. You can contact members of Congress as well as their staff toll free by requesting to be connected to their office through the **Congressional Switchboard** [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670).

RESOLUTION TEXT

Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying in schools is an increasingly pervasive problem with statistics showing one in four U.S. students is bullied on a regular basis which negatively impacts the right of students to live and learn in a safe environment without fear, and has negative lifelong consequences for those who are targets and for those who are bullies; and

Whereas, Bullying/Cyber bullying incidents have increased through use of social media (leading to 4,400 adolescent suicides per year), suicidal tendencies (for every death there are 100 attempts), and severe depression (14% of high schoolers consider suicide); and

Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying U.S. statistics show 30% of students report they are a bullying victim, a bully, or both with 43% of those students reporting they are bullied on-line; and

Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying others and being the target of bullies are considered risk factors for youth violence by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and other relevant organizations; and

Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying behavior that goes unchallenged creates a risk of bullies becoming violent adults, engaging in domestic violence and child abuse; and

Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying behavior is a topic with which many parents are unaware of the severity of the problem and, therefore, neglect talking about it with their children; and

Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying behavior is unchallenged by adults, as in 85% of bullying cases (statistics gathered from annual school reporting to state departments) no interventions or efforts to stop it are made and with some school personnel viewing bullying as a harmless rite of passage that is best ignored, opens the door for more harassment from bullies; and
Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying has created a situation whereby 160,000 students nationwide miss school every day out of fear of bullies; and
Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying attracts passive participants who are affected by hostile acts and in turn encourage bullying by creating an audience, become desensitized to cruelty, learn to imitate bullying behavior and become bullies themselves or may become fearful of their own safety, adding to feelings of insecurity; and
Whereas, Bullying/Cyber Bullying in the adult work place is prevalent and is often unreported creating a setting of fear which contributes to health issues, diminished performance, and loss of time for employer and employee; therefore, be it

Resolved. That the key women educator organization, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, U.S. Forum members support a federal law with provisions for policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention, and elimination of bullying/cyber bullying;

Resolved, That the key women educator organization, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society international, U.S Forum members promote messages of bullying/cyber bullying prevention utilizing educational literature, programs and projects for students, school personnel, and parents to establish an acceptance of zero tolerance for bullying behavior and a message that the bullying behavior will not be tolerated any time or any place;

Resolved, That the key women educator organization, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society international, U.S. Forum members work with agencies, organizations, and legislators in a national effort to inform the general public about the risks and costs of bullying/cyber bullying for both the bully and the target, as well as those who witness bullying, to bring about a change in societal attitudes toward bullying and eliminate the suicides of those subjected to bullying.

Resolved, That the key women educator organization, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, U.S. Forum members contact members of Congress to offer support and expertise to develop a national bullying/cyber bullying prevention law.

SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING

There are currently two bills concerning the Cost of Living (COLA) increases for Social Security recipients which are pending in Congress. They are H.R. 3588 which would guarantee a 3% annual Cost of Living increase for retirees on Social Security, and H.R. 5295 introduced in May 2016 which indexes Cost of Living increases to the annual income of retirees. This ranges from 1-2% for those with incomes of \$48,000 for an individual or \$20,000 for a couple, 3-4% for an individual with an income of \$18,000 or a couple with an income of \$20,000. To get more specific information on these bills go to www.Congress.gov and type in the bill number in the box to the left of the magnifying glass emblem.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) REPORTING

The new education law requests reporting of some specific data that was not previously required which involves how schools spend money. Districts are required to report how much money each school gets and the sources from which the money came. This includes money from the district, the state and the federal government. Academic data, graduation rate and test results are also requested. One anticipated outcome of this data collection and reporting is that each school will use the data it reports to improve the educational outcomes of students in the school.

2016-18 U.S. FORUM COMMITTEE ELECTED

The new U.S. Forum Committee elected at the International Convention in Nashville on July 7 are Chair Carmela DeMarco from New Jersey, Northeast Regional Representative Barbara Bostwick-Quinn from New York, Northwest Regional Representative Darlene Cook from Oregon, Southeast Regional Representative Candace Martin from Arkansas, and Southwest Regional Representative Kathy Davis from Oklahoma.

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/> 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.