

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #155, NOVEMBER 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

EXTENDING SOCIAL SECURITY

EXPANDING SOCIAL SECURITY

ADJUSTING 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY

MEDICARE DEADLINE

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

FORUM WEB SITE

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

There are several bills in the current session of Congress which address Social Security. Information on these is given below. We urge you to contact your Senator and Representative and urge him/her to support these bills. At least urge support for the first-mentioned bill (H.R.1391) To contact these legislators, either call the Congressional Switchboard toll free at [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) or go to Congress.gov, click on "members" at the top of the screen. Then under "How to Contact Your Member" click on either "Senators" or "Representatives" and select the one who represents you. These provide a means of contacting the person by email. State that you hope he/she will vote for bill #____.

EXTENDING SOCIAL SECURITY

The most wide sweeping of these bills are H.R.2078 and H.R.1391 which would repeal the cap on taxes on employment and self-employment compensation. Currently those making in excess of \$118,500 pay no taxes on remuneration over that limit. Removing the cap would extend Social Security for many more years. H.R.1391 would gradually increase Social Security benefits about 2% which would increase retirement income about \$300 per retiree, it would raise the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) using actual cost-of-living expenses (this year there was no COLA even though the cost of living increased slightly), and it would cut taxes for working seniors (those whose retirement income is inadequate to meet actual expenses). [Note: Some school systems, retirement funds and pensions were adversely affected and pensions were reduced as a because of the recession. This resulted in some retirees not getting the retirement income they were expecting, and they were forced to seek supplemental employment after retirement to cover their living expenses.] Removing the cap on Social Security

taxes would increase money in the Social Security Trust Fund due to larger amounts paid in by the extremely wealthy.

EXPANDING SOCIAL SECURITY

Another bill which would impact retirees is S.731 the Social Security Expansion Act. This bill amends Title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act to: (1) increase the primary insurance amount for all eligible beneficiaries, beginning in 2021, (2) use the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to calculate the Cost Of Living; (3) increase the special minimum primary insurance amount for lifetime low earners based on years worked.

ADJUSTING 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY

Because there was no cost of living increase in Social Security in 2016 a Senate bill (S.2251) would provide a one-time payment of \$581. This would apply to those receiving Social Security for that year only.

MEDICARE DEADLINE

The deadline for selecting a Medicare plan is December 7. A retiree can get help in selecting a plan by going to Medicare.gov. It would be wise to check other sources for Part D plans such as SilverScriptonline.com or www.MedicareSolutions.com. Once you have a Part D plan check the information book to find which pharmacies give better discounts.

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.