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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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TITLE IX REVISITED

In Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 the Federal Government stated that no person should be discriminated against on the basis of sex. This was enforced against higher education when the federal government threatened to withhold all federal money from a college which did not afford equal rights to women as part of its higher education athletic program. Originally athletic programs were the main focus of this law. It is because of this that colleges and universities were forced to offer as many athletic scholarships to females as they did to males. More recently there was a move to extend Title IX to secondary schools by forcing schools to offer as many sports opportunities to females as to males. This would afford girls the opportunity to participate in sports in high school which would give more girls equal opportunities for college sports scholarships. The leverage for Title IX is the withholding of federal money from all activities at the educational institution. Thus an institution which did not provide athletic opportunities could lose federal funding for research and other activities.

More recently Title IX was the basis on which the federal government through the Department of Education and the Justice Department (Attorney General) weighed in on the transgender use of rest rooms in schools. The Justice Department in the Obama administration gave the opinion that it was the right of a transgender person to utilize the restroom of the current gender identity rather than that of the sex at birth.

The U.S. Supreme Court is due to take up this issue in its current session in the case of the Gloucester County Virginia School Board versus a transgender male concerning which bathroom the student should use. This case is likely to be argued before the court in the next month with a decision to be delivered by June of this year

Recently the newly confirmed U.S. Attorney General Sessions as part of the Trump administration has reversed the policy dealing with use of restroom facilities when he ruled that it is a state's right issue rather than a sexual rights issue covered by Title IX. This action is viewed by many as a lack of support for the LGBTQ community. Recent fears that resolving this issue in favor of the school board will drastically increase the number of transgender teen suicides mainly due to bullying. The teen suicide rate in the general population is between five and ten percent; while the suicide rate of transgender teens approaches 30%. Males are about three times as likely to commit suicide as females.

SUPREME COURT & AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

When sixth grader Ehlena Fry who suffers from cerebral palsy entered kindergarten in 2009, the school district (Napoleon Community Schools) denied her the ability to bring her service dog into the school. The district ruled that an adult could perform the tasks with which the dog helped her. The dog which was trained to open doors and pick up items, among other things, was designed to give her a measure of independence, so she would not have to rely on other peoples for help. The family is seeking monetary damages from the school rather than pursuing a lengthy administrative remedy process. Although the school eventually allowed her to bring the dog to school after two and a half years, they placed so many restrictions on the dog that Ehlena's parents decided to homeschool her. The family later located a school which allowed her to have the dog at the school. At issue is whether the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which would allow the dog to accompany her to school or whether the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which would allow the family to sue the school would take precedence. A ruling on the matter is expected later this year.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG UPDATE

A generic version of the EpiPen has recently become available. Since this is the delivery system rather than the drug, this gets around patent protection.

OFFICIAL 2017 FLAG FLYING DAYS

January 1 -- [New Year's Day](#)
January 16 -- [Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday](#)
January 20 -- Inauguration Day
February 12 -- Abraham Lincoln's birthday
February 20 -- President's Day/
February 22 -- [George Washington's](#) birthday
March 01 -- Ash Wednesday
March 17 -- St. Patrick's Day
April 16 -- Easter Sunday
April 19 -- Patriot's Day
May 4 -- National Day of Prayer
May 14 -- Mother's Day
May 15 -- Peace Officer's Day (flag at half staff)
May 21 -- [Armed Forces Day](#)
May 29 -- [Memorial Day](#) (flag at half staff until noon)
June 14 -- Flag Day

July 4 -- Independence Day
July 27 -- Korean War Veteran's Day
September 5 -- [Labor Day](#)
September 11 -- Patriot Day (flag at half staff)
September 17 -- Constitution Day
October 13 -- Navy Birthday
October 14 -- [Columbus Day](#)
November 11 -- [Veterans Day](#)
November 24 -- Thanksgiving Day
December 7 -- Pearl Harbor Day (flag at half staff)
December 25 -- Christmas Day

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/>

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

If you wish to contact your senator to express your opinion, you can call the Congressional Switchboard at [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. Another way of contacting your senator is via email or a telephone number which is not toll free both of which are available

at https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

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.
