

US FORUM CONNECTION #100, APRIL 2012

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 100,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu. 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. This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children.

FRIDAY FORUM SESSION AT INTERNATIONAL NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR PROMISING ALZHEIMERS MEDICATIONS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

FRIDAY FORUM SESSION AT INTERNATIONAL

The U. S. Forum session at International Convention in New York will begin at 3:15 p.m. on Friday afternoon. Be sure to save this time to share information about your legislative concerns.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

If you did not go to the National Legislative Seminar you missed a lot of fun, information, and good laughs. There were 70 registered participants for NLS. About half the participants elected to come early to take a tour of Mount Vernon and other historic sites. (This was a real bargain a \$82 tour for \$62.) Monday night most of the attendees visited the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts either as part of a special guided tour or to attend the free performance on the Millennium Stage. Tuesday was the Day on the Hill. **Reports from the visits by some of the states are posted on the U.S. Forum Web Site**<http://deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/index.html>.

Activities on the Hill included getting lost in the Capital, sighting President Obama, and informing a Representative about office personnel who ignored requests for appointments with the Representative. (The staff called to apologize within an hour of the encounter.)

Speakers at the seminar included Susan Scanlan (President, Women's Research & Education Institute) who was the opening night speaker. Monday morning started with a session on Social Security and Medicare with a panel consisting of Jan Witt (Grassroots Manager, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare), Beth Scott (Regulatory Affairs Manager, AAUW), Cristina Martin-Firvida (Government Affairs Director for Financial Security & Consumer Affairs, AARP). Next a panel discussion on women's health made up of Dania Palanker (Senior Health Policy Advisor, National Women's Law Center), Stephanie Mohl (Government Relations Manager, American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association) and Beth Scott (Regulatory Affairs Manager, AAUW). The third panel of the morning consisted of Joan Wages (President and CEO of the National Women's History Museum) and Dr. Margaret Cheatham (substituting for Carol Rasco, President and CEO of Reading Is Fundamental, Carol was called to a congressional hearing on future funding). These ladies informed the group of efforts to gain funding. NOTE"

Reading Is Fundamental has lost all federal funding for its program to put books in the hands of disadvantaged children.) In the afternoon education issues were addressed by Dr. David Griffith (Director of Public Policy, Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development), Lynn Jennings (Legislative Affairs Associate, Education Trust), and David Cleary (lead education advisor to Senator Lamar Alexander). On Wednesday morning Sam Bennett (president and CEO of the Women's Campaign Fund, a bipartisan group supporting women who run for public office) addressed the group on how women in public office affect public policy. Information from these speakers will be included in future Forum Connection publications.

The question was asked as to why no one from NEA spoke. The answer is that NEA did not respond to our requests for a speaker.

PROMISING ALZHEIMERS MEDICATIONS

Several drugs which have been approved by the FDA for treatment of illnesses other than Alzheimers have shown that they may affect the course of Alzheimers in a positive manner. These drugs include bexarotene, angiotensin receptor blockers (such as atacand, cozaar and diovan), zileuton, and levetiracetam. Bexarotene has been approved for use in the treatment of skin cancer, the angiotensin receptor blockers (ACE inhibitors) are prescribed for high blood pressure, zileuton has been approved to treat asthma and levetiracetam has been approved for the treatment of seizures. Doctors sometimes prescribe medications which have been shown to help treat an illness but are not approved for treatment of a disease. This is known as off-label prescribing, i.e. prescribing a drug for a disease which is not listed on the label. (The source of this information is the publication Mind, Mood & Memory published by Massachusetts General Hospital.)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

Note that all of the women senators both Democrat and Republican except for Kay Bailey Hutchinson of Texas signed onto this bill as cosponsors. Note also that only three Republican men (Scott Brown of Massachusetts, Mike Crapo of Idaho and Mark Kirk of Illinois) signed on as cosponsors. **If you live in Massachusetts, Idaho or Illinois, please send a thank you note to these senators so they will know you are watching what they do.**

The senators listed below have not signed on as cosponsors of the Violence Against Women Act of 2011. This is a reauthorization of an act passed several years ago.

Sen Alexander, Lamar – [R – TN]

Sen Barrasso, John - [R – WY]

Sen [Blunt, Roy](#) - [R - MO]

Sen [Boozman, John](#) - [R - AR]

Sen [Burr, Richard](#) - [R - NC]

Sen [Chambliss, Saxby](#) - [R - GA]

Sen [Coats, Daniel](#) - [R - IN]

Sen [Coburn, Tom](#) - [R - OK]

Sen Cochran Thad – [R – MS]

Sen [Corker, Bob](#) - [R - TN]

Sen [Cornyn, John](#) - [R - TX]

Sen [DeMint, Jim](#) - [R - SC]

Sen [Enzi, Michael B.](#) - [R - WY]

Sen [Graham, Lindsey](#) - [R - SC]
Sen [Grassley, Chuck](#) - [R - IA]
Sen [Hatch, Orrin G.](#) - [R - UT]
Sen [Hoeven, John](#) - [R - ND]
Sen [Hutchison, Kay Bailey](#) - [R - TX]
Sen [Inhofe, James M.](#) - [R - OK]
Sen [Isakson, Johnny](#) - [R - GA]
Sen [Johanns, Mike](#) - [R - NE]
Sen [Johnson, Ron](#) - [R - WI]
Sen [Kyl, Jon](#) - [R - AZ]
Sen [Leahy, Patrick J.](#) - [D - VT]
Sen [Lee, Mike](#) - [R - UT]
Sen [Lugar, Richard G.](#) - [R - IN]
Sen [McCain, John](#) - [R - AZ]
Sen [McConnell, Mitch](#) - [R - KY]
Sen. Moran, John - [R - KS]
Sen. Paul, Ron - [R - KY]
Sen. Portman, Rob - [R - OH]
Sen. Risch, James E. - [R - ID]
Sen. Roberts, Pat - [R - KS]
Sen. Rubio, Marco - [R - FL]
Sen. Sessions, Jeff - [R - AL]
Sen. Shelby, Richard C. - [R - AL]
Sen. Thune, John - [R - SD]
Sen. Toomey, Patrick J. - [R - PA]
Sen. Vitter, David - [R - LA]
Sen Wicker, Roger F. - [R - MS]

The senators listed below have signed on as cosponsors of the Violence Against Women Act of 2011. The dates they signed on are given.

[Sen Akaka, Daniel K.](#) [D - HI] - 2/9/2012
[Sen Ayotte, Kelly](#) [R - NH] - 3/22/2012
[Sen Baucus, Max](#) [D - MT] - 2/9/2012
[Sen Begich, Mark](#) [D - AK] - 1/26/2012
[Sen Bennet, Michael F.](#) [D - CO] - 2/9/2012
[Sen Bingaman, Jeff](#) [D - NM] - 2/1/2012
[Sen Blumenthal, Richard](#) [D - CT] - 12/7/2011
[Sen Boxer, Barbara](#) [D - CA] - 12/7/2011
[Sen Brown, Scott P.](#) [R - MA] - 2/1/2012
[Sen Brown, Sherrod](#) [D - OH] - 2/16/2012
[Sen Cantwell, Maria](#) [D - WA] - 2/1/2012
[Sen Cardin, Benjamin L.](#) [D - MD] - 1/23/2012
[Sen Carper, Thomas R.](#) [D - DE] - 2/27/2012
[Sen Casey, Robert P., Jr.](#) [D - PA] - 12/14/2011
[Sen Collins, Susan M.](#) [R - ME] - 1/30/2012
[Sen Conrad, Kent](#) [D - ND] - 2/9/2012

[Sen Coons, Christopher A.](#) [D - DE] - 1/24/2012
[Sen Crapo, Mike](#) [R - ID] - 11/30/2011
[Sen Durbin, Richard](#) [D - IL] - 12/7/2011
[Sen Feinstein, Dianne](#) [D - CA] - 1/24/2012
[Sen Franken, Al](#) [D - MN] - 12/8/2011
[Sen Gillibrand, Kirsten E.](#) [D - NY] - 12/15/2011
[Sen Hagan, Kay](#) [D - NC] - 2/6/2012
[Sen Harkin, Tom](#) [D - IA] - 12/13/2011
[Sen Heller, Dean](#) [R - NV] - 3/20/2012
[Sen Inouye, Daniel K.](#) [HI] - 2/16/2012
[Sen Johnson, Tim](#) [SD] - 2/6/2012
[Sen Kerry, John F.](#) [MA] - 12/12/2011
[Sen Kirk, Mark Steven](#) [R - IL] - 12/7/2011
[Sen Klobuchar, Amy](#) [D - MN] - 12/7/2011
[Sen Kohl, Herb](#) [WI] - 12/7/2011
[Sen Landrieu, Mary L.](#) [D - LA] - 2/1/2012
[Sen Lautenberg, Frank R.](#) [D - NJ] - 1/23/2012
[Sen Levin, Carl](#) [D - MI] - 1/23/2012
[Sen Lieberman, Joseph I.](#) [I - CT] - 2/7/2012
[Sen Manchin, Joe, III](#) [D - WV] - 2/27/2012
[Sen McCaskill, Claire](#) [D - MO] - 2/13/2012
[Sen Menendez, Robert](#) [D - NJ] - 2/2/2012
[Sen Merkley, Jeff](#) [D - OR] - 2/17/2012
[Sen Mikulski, Barbara A.](#) [D - MD] - 1/30/2012
[Sen Murkowski, Lisa](#) [R - AK] - 1/26/2012
[Sen Murray, Patty](#) [D - WA] - 12/13/2011
[Sen Nelson, Bill](#) [D - FL] - 2/27/2012
[Sen Nelson, E. Benjamin](#) [D - NE] - 2/14/2012
[Sen Pryor, Mark L.](#) [D - AR] - 3/5/2012
[Sen Reed, Jack](#) [D - RI] - 12/16/2011
[Sen Reid, Harry](#) [D - NV] - 3/5/2012
[Sen Rockefeller, John D., IV](#) [D - WV] - 12/12/2011
[Sen Sanders, Bernard](#) [I - VT] - 1/23/2012
[Sen Schumer, Charles E.](#) [D - NY] - 12/8/2011
[Sen Shaheen, Jeanne](#) [D - NH] - 12/13/2011
[Sen Snowe, Olympia J.](#) [R - ME] - 3/13/2012
[Sen Stabenow, Debbie](#) [D - MI] - 12/13/2011
[Sen Tester, Jon](#) [D - MT] - 2/9/2012
[Sen Udall, Mark](#) [D - CO] - 2/28/2012
[Sen Udall, Tom](#) [D - NM] - 2/13/2012
[Sen Warner, Mark R.](#) [D - VA] - 2/14/2012
[Sen Webb, Jim](#) [D - VA] - 2/14/2012
[Sen Whitehouse, Sheldon](#) [D - RI] - 12/8/2011
[Sen Wyden, Ron](#) [D - OR] - 1/26/2012

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.

For email communications with Congress go to

<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)

STATE GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through

<http://www.emailyourgovernor.com/> Information available at this site allows contact with governors, members of the state legislature, state supreme court, congressional delegation and state agencies such as the Education Department, Attorney General, Motor Vehicles Department and Voter Registration. **PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THIS INFORMATION MAY BE OUT OF DATE**

INFORMATION ON HOW YOUR CONGRESSMAN VOTED ON KEY

BILLS <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/112/bills/>

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

Archival copies of the U.S. Forum Connection can be found at <http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w305514/HomePage.htm>

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