

US FORUM CONNECTION #103, JULY 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 as an individual.

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 about 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.

U. S. FORUM SESSION AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WOMEN'S PAY BILLS CONTRASTED

U. S. FORUM SESSION AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO FIND OUT HOW TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION WHICH AFFECTS YOU

COME TO THE U.S. FORUM SESSION ON

3:15 p.m. Friday, July 27 following the General Session

The U.S. Forum Committee has planned an outstanding program for all who attend the session at the International Convention in New York City. The exceptional speaker will give you an insight into how women affect the political process and what you can do to influence legislation which affects you. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss political issues affecting women, education and children.

Women Educators: Changing the American Political Landscape

SAM BENNETT, is President and CEO of the **Women's Campaign Fund** as well as President and CEO of **She Should Run**. Sam encourages women to run for office and to support other women for office. "*When women win, all women win.*"

There will be audience group discussions of current **National Legislative Issues Election** of U.S. Forum Chair and Regional Representatives

Door prizes include a flag which flew over the Capitol in Washington, DC on July 4, 2012.

WOMEN'S PAY BILLS CONTRASTED

Currently there are three pieces of legislation which affect fair pay for women.

1. Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (passed and signed into law in 2008) treats each paycheck which was less than it should have been as a separate instance of pay discrimination. This means that whenever a woman can show that her pay was not commensurate with that of a man in the same job, she is entitled to back pay in the amount of the difference in pay of the two individuals. Thus if the pay discrimination went on for a period of years the woman is entitled to the extra pay (and Social Security difference) for every pay check which represented underpayment.
2. Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R.1519, S.797) puts in place the means for women to find out whether a male in the same position is being paid the same amount for the same work. This is important in that you cannot claim pay discrimination if you do not know what a worker in the same job is making. (Lilly Ledbetter would not have known she was being paid less if a fellow worker had not sent her an anonymous note telling her what men in the same position were being paid.)
3. Equal Employment Opportunity Restoration Act of 2012 (H.R.5978, S.3317) The bill's purpose is "To restore the effective use of group actions for claims arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, section 1977 of the Revised Statutes, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and for other purposes." Basically in the recent Supreme Court decision involving Betty Dukes and the women workers at Walmart, the court ruled that the women could not file a suit on behalf of the group. Obviously, if each individual has to file separately, this is prohibitively expensive; whereas a group action would cost much less for each person involved.

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. <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/111/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 the U.S. Forum web site which is <http://deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/>

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