

## US FORUM CONNECTION #105, SEPTEMBER 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 each 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 over 90,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to [Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu](mailto: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.

### **MEDICARE AND IDENTITY THEFT**

#### **DECIDING HOW TO VOTE QUALITY CARE FOR MOMS AND BABIES ACT**

### **MEDICARE AND IDENTITY THEFT**

If you have a Medicare Card, have you considered that the card has your Social Security Number on it? There have been increasing cases of identity theft linked to Medicare Cards. The thieves have used the Social Security Numbers from Medicare Cards to file for fraudulent income tax refunds. Congress is currently trying to address this issue. In the meantime, be aware that your card has this information on it and protect it in the same way you would protect credit cards, your Social Security Card, and your checkbook. Each of these documents has information which could be used for someone to steal your identity.

A previous Forum Connection mentioned protecting your checking account by using ink which is absorbed by the paper of the check. Remember to check the pen you use to make out a check by touching the pen tip to Kleenex or similarly absorbent paper. If the ink is visibly absorbed by the tissue, the pen is a good one to use in making out checks. Most ball point ink is not absorbed by the paper and is thus it is fairly easy to remove the original ink on the face of the check and allows the thief to change the payee as well as the amount of the check.

### **DECIDING HOW TO VOTE**

You can use the Project Vote Smart web site to see how your opinions agree with candidates running for U. S. President. Go to <http://votesmart.org/> then click on “Find Your Political Soulmate with VoteEasy” on the left-hand side of the screen.

**The initial screen asks you to donate and register. You do not have to register to participate.** The site then shows pictures of the six candidates running for President of the United States. You can then check on how each of these candidates agrees with your position on twelve major issues which are 1) abortion, 2) Afghanistan, 3) the budget, 4) the economy, 5) education, 6) energy, 7) the environment, 8) guns, 9) health care, 10) immigration, 11) marriage, and 12) Social Security. After you have checked your opinions on each of these topics, the site will give you a “best match” based on the percentage of your responses which agree with a candidate. If you click

on a candidate's picture, it will show the percentage of your opinions which agree with that candidate and give you more information about the candidate.

## **QUALITY CARE FOR MOMS AND BABIES ACT**

[H.R.3620](#): Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act

The provisions of the bill introduced by Representative Eliot Engel of New York are given in the Library of Congress [Thomas.gov](#) as "Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act - Amends title XI of the Social Security Act (SSA) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a maternity care quality measurement program with respect to childbearing women and newborns for voluntary use by: (1) a state in administering a state plan under SSA title XIX (Medicaid) or a state child health plan under SSA title XXI (State Children's Health Insurance) (CHIP), (2) health insurance issuers and managed care entities contracting with states to administer such plans, and (3) item and service providers (including accountable care organizations).

Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities to support: (1) the development of new state and regional maternity care quality collaboratives, (2) expanded activities of existing maternity care quality collaboratives, and (3) maternity care initiatives within established state and regional quality collaboratives that are not focused exclusively on maternity care.

Requires the Secretary to establish a maternity care home demonstration program."

The related bill in the Senate S.1969 which was introduced by Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan has nearly identical wording.

## **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 <http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w305514/HomePage.htm>

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