

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #107, NOVEMBER 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 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.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM UPDATE

PBS FUNDING

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

CHANGE IN MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM UPDATE

Two concurrent bills have been introduced to get a site for the National Women's History Museum. The bills would ask Congress to establish a commission to study the feasibility of NWHM acquiring the last site on the National Mall or a place adjacent to it for the museum. This is a new approach which one can expect to be pursued in the 2013-14 session of Congress.

The 2013-14 session of Congress is going to increasingly concentrate on federal funding cuts. Below two specific programs are mentioned which stand to be greatly affected by the desire of certain elements of Congress to cut federal funding.

PBS FUNDING

For several sessions of Congress funding to PBS has been progressively cut. This is evident in the increased amount of time that state PBS organizations have been devoting to fund raising. In my state we used to have two fund raisers a year. Currently there are four or five separate fund raising drives and some programs have been cut due to lack of funds. If you are using PBS programming in your education instruction, you need to communicate this to your members of Congress. We as individuals and educators need to make sure that our Congressional delegations are educated on how various funds which benefit education are being used.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

This organization provides free books to poor children who would otherwise not have books in the home. About a year ago all federal funding to this organization was cut. During the National Legislative Seminar in March 2012 employees of the organization described their efforts to have some of their funding restored. The organization's efforts to provide books to poor children is now being funded entirely with private funds.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

This did not get reauthorized by the 2011-12 session of Congress. Expect major efforts to get this done in the 2013-14 session of Congress under the leadership of Senator Jean Shaheen of New Hampshire.

CHANGE IN MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

Unlike most other federal health programs, until recently Department of Defense rules did not have a funding exemption for abortion coverage in the case of rape or incest. A recently passed bill sponsored by Senator Shaheen will put Department of Defense rules in line with other federal policies and help ensure that women in uniform receive coverage for the same health care services as most women who receive health care through the federal government.

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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