

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #112, APRIL 2013

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 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.

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EQUAL PAY

In 1963 legislation was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Kennedy which was supposed to guarantee equal pay for equal work without gender or racial discrimination. At that time women made \$0.59 for every \$1 paid to men for the same work. A recent study published by the National Partnership for Women and Families found that nationwide women currently are paid \$0.77 for every one dollar paid to men doing the same job. The pay gap varies from state to state by both gender and race. To see information about your state go to <http://www.aauw.org/files/2013/02/State-by-State-Pay-Gap-Table-2011.pdf>

Although the Lillie Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 allowed women to collect the difference in all pay checks when pay was different between salaries for men and women doing the same job, that act did not provide a means for women to determine whether or not they were being paid equally. (Ledbetter learned that she was the object of pay discrimination via an anonymous letter sent to her when she was retiring.) The Ledbetter law was passed after a Supreme Court ruling which acknowledged that although Lillie Ledbetter was not paid fairly for several years, she was only entitled to the difference in pay for two months. (This ruling by the Supreme Court overturned years of policy by the Equal Opportunities Employment Commission which made employers pay for each instance of discriminatory pay. Think of what a change this made both in terms of recovery of lost wages as well as in terms of lost social security compensation on retirement.)

The Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R.377, S.84) would allow a person to determine whether she was the object of discriminatory pay practices. This act was introduced in Congress in 2008 as a companion bill to the Lillie Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Although it was introduced as a separate bill in the House of Representatives, the House combined the two bills which they sent to the Senate. The Senate uncoupled the bills and passed the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which was signed into law by President Obama in January 2009. The Senate was unable to bring the Paycheck Fairness Act to the floor for a vote. The Paycheck Fairness Act was again introduced in the 2010 session of Congress and died in committee. It has been introduced again in this Congressional Session in both houses of Congress. H.R. 377 sponsored by Representative Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut has recently been the subject of a discharge petition to bring it to the floor for a vote. As of April 25, 2013, 195 representatives had signed the petition, but a discharge petition needs 218 signatures to require action. Congress was unable to get the needed number of signatures in the time allocated, so the discharge petition failed. To see whether your Representative signed the discharge petition, go to <http://clerk.house.gov/113/lrc/pd/petitions/DisPet0001.xml>. S.84 sponsored by Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland has been referred to the Senate Committee and has 46 cosponsors. To see whether your senator has signed on as a cosponsor go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d113:1:/temp/~bdZ50N:@@P/home/LegislativeData.php>

TITLE IX OF THE CIVIL RIGHT ACT OF 1964 (TITLE IX)

Although Title IX was passed in 1964 and amended in 1972, significant differences in opportunities for girls to participate in sports in high school still exist. Reports from nine states (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and the District of Columbia) indicate that 50% or more of the high schools in the state do not provide equal opportunity for girls to participate in school-sponsored sports. Georgia is on the bottom of this heap with 71.6% of high schools reporting that they do not provide equal opportunity to participate in sports for students of both sexes. To see how your state compares, a table with this information can be found at http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/nwlcathletics_titleixfactsheet.pdf

For several years legislation has been introduced in Congress (but never voted on) which would require schools to monitor and report opportunities for girls to participate in sports. Because high school athletics programs are the gateway to college athletic scholarships for girls, this disparity has an impact on the opportunity for girls to go to college. The National Federation of State High School Associations estimates that 1.3 million fewer girls than boys have the opportunity to participate in high school athletics. In addition to the college opportunities afforded by participation in sports, sports participation is credited with influencing higher high school graduation rates for student athletes of both sexes.

CUTS IN HEAD START FUNDING

All over the nation Head Start programs are being cut by about 5%, and each program is deciding how to accommodate these cuts. This is being done either by closing some Head Start centers, reducing the number of children in the existing centers or a combination of the two. No matter how the funding cuts are handled, the end result is that hundreds of preschool children will not be served by Head Start. You can help combat this problem by contacting your members in Congress and letting them know that Head Start needs to have full funding restored. I urge you to share this information with parents in your community who might be affected by these cuts.

For the easiest way to have your opinion make a difference follow the steps below.

1. Find out the name of your Representative by going to <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> and type in the zip code of your home address in the space provided
2. Call [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) (this is a toll free number) and ask for the office of your Representative.
3. Ask to speak to the person in that office who deals with Head Start funding
4. Tell that person that you are concerned about funding cuts to Head Start and urge your elected representative to restore full funding to the Head Start program.

\$ AND SENSE

Recently Brian Williams mentioned on NBC Nightly News that there are a lot of unclaimed monies from life insurance policies. In order to check this out, I had to go to a series of web sites. The web site listed below will allow you to go to one place to see if you are the beneficiary of an unclaimed life insurance policy, I discovered that my deceased mother had a life insurance policy for \$1,000 which had not been claimed. I am not surprised as she was a great believer in life insurance, but she never told me that she had a policy. To see if you are owed any money as the beneficiary of an unknown or forgotten life insurance policy, go to www.missingmoney.com

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page. It is online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

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**

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