

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #114, JUNE 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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THREATENED INCREASE IN COLLEGE LOAN INTEREST RATES

Unless Congress takes action before students return to college this fall, the interest rate on student loans (Stafford loans) will double to 6.8%. Some time ago Congress reduced the interest on student loans to 3.4% with that interest rate set to revert to 6.8% on June 30, 2013. The plan was to again address the issue before the June 30, 2013 deadline. Unfortunately Congress was not able to agree on what to do and left for the July 4 break without resolving the issue. It is possible for Congress to pass legislation which would retroactively change the interest rate to take effect on July 1, 2013. In order for this to happen Congress needs to pass legislation before the fall session of college starts.

It is estimated that if this increase in interest rates on college loans takes effect 36% of those students having these loans will be forced to delay starting a family and/or buying a home. No estimate has been given on how many potential students would be unable to attend college or how many would be forced to delay going to college. In addition to the financial problem presented by the increase in interest rates, most colleges will be increasing tuition and other costs this coming fall thus further increasing the financial burden on students.

ACTION: I urge you to call your Senator and Representative and urge him/her to maintain the student loan interest rates at the 3.4% level. The toll free call can be made through the Congressional Switchboard at [866-327-8670](tel:866-327-8670) where you can ask the operator to connect you to the office of your Congress person.

Ask others to call also. Remember **FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO YOUR ISSUE.**

RECENT COURT RULING CLARIFIES STUDENT RESIDENCY STATUS

A U.S. citizen born and raised in South Carolina was classified as an out of state student by the University of South Carolina when he was unable to verify the immigrant status of his parents. This young man, a high school honor student, who was president of the student body at his high school and co-captain of the school's varsity soccer team faced being unable to finance going to college due to this classification. The Southern Poverty Law Center wrote a letter to the university on behalf of the student citing a recent ruling by a federal judge which overturned a similar policy in Florida which forced U.S. citizens living in the state with parents of unproven immigration status to pay out of state tuition. The letter caused the University of South Carolina to change the out-of-state classification to in-state resident.

U.S. FORUM SESSIONS AT REGIONALS OFFER OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS

Although each Regional Conference will feature a different speaker at the U.S. Forum session, each one is outstanding. The Southeast Region will feature Sam Bennett President and CEO of both She Should Run and The Women’s Campaign Fund. The Northeast Region will hear from Susan Scanlan who is President of the Women’s Research & Education Institute and Chair of the National Council of Women’s Organizations. At the Southwest Regional Conference members will be treated to a presentation by Lisa Maatz who is the Director of Public Policy and Government Relations at the American Association of University Women. Attendees at the Northwest Regional will be treated to a presentation by Steve Gilmore Assistant Director of Victim Crimes Services in the Attorney General’s Office in Wyoming

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

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

FORUM WEB SITE <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/>

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through the 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