

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #119, NOVEMBER 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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VOTING ON THE BILL TO REOPEN GOVERNMENT

To see how your U.S. senators voted on the bill to reopen the government and to raise the debt ceiling go

to http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=113&session=1&vote=00219#position

To see how your U.S. representative voted on the same issue go

to <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2013/roll550.xml>. I think you will find that there were a few surprises in how a given individual voted.

WOMEN AND CONGRESS

There are currently two organizations working to elect women to the United States Congress. They are the Women's Campaign Fund which is bipartisan and EMILY's List which works to elect women Democrats.. We were fortunate to have Siobhan (Sam) Bennett who is CEO of the Women's Campaign Fund as a speaker at our last National Legislative Seminar and [also at](#) this summer's DKG SE Regional Conference. Her contention is that the more women we have in government the better served everyone is.

The two groups working to elect women to public office are obviously effective. In the last session of Congress there were 14 women senators three of whom did not stand for reelection. In the current session of Congress there are 20 women senators (2 Republicans and 18 Democrats).

The web site for the Women's Campaign Fund is <http://www.wcfonline.org/>

The web site for EMILY's List is <http://emilyslist.org/>

Time magazine had a recent article on the government shut down and the role women senators played in getting the government reopened. (Time, October 28, 2013) The Time article credited the women senators with being instrumental in getting the Violence Against Women Act passed and addressing the issue of rape in the military as part of that legislation. Of all the groups in Congress the Senate Women's Caucus is one of the most effective and the best organized. The twenty women senators meet fairly regularly as needed. They know each other and know families – husbands, children, and grandchildren. In a capitol where most Congressional members frequently arrive in town late Monday night or early Tuesday morning and leave late Thursday or early Friday, this group makes a point of getting to know one another. They meet once a year with the women Supreme Court justices.

WHY SENATE WOMEN ARE POWERFUL

Contrast the women in the Senate with those in the House of Representatives. The only committee in the House of Representatives chaired by a woman (Rep. Candice Miller) is the House Administration Committee which oversees in-house staff responsible for cleaning and maintenance of the Capitol. Of the sixteen standing committees in the Senate women chair or are the ranking member on six committees.

Senator Debbie Stabenow (MN) is chair of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD) is chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senator Patty Murray (WA) is chair of the Senate Budget Committee.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) is ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. (The ranking member is the highest representative of the minority party.)

Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) is chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

Senator Mary Landrieu (LA) is chair of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee

Additionally women hold key leadership positions on a number of subcommittees. A few of these are listed below.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA) chairs the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and also serves as chair of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senator Susan Collins (ME) ranking member on the Senate Special Committee on Aging

Senator Kay Hagan (NC) chair of the Subcommittee on Children and Families of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY) chairs the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, Poultry, Marketing and Agriculture Security of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of which Senator Stabenow is chair.

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE STUDY

The National Women's Law Center recently issued a report on state by state child care assistance policies. To see how your state fares, the report can be found

at <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pivot-point-state-child-care-assistance-policies-2013>. In a comparison of 2012 and 2013 some states are doing better and approximately an equal number are doing worse in rendering aid to families needing assistance with child care.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

The National Legislative Seminar (NLS) organized by DKG's U.S. Forum Committee occurs biennially. The next NLS will be held March 16th-19th, 2014 at the Holiday Inn, National Airport, 2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA. The NLS registration form is available at <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/File%20Sharing/files/2014%20NLS%20Reg%20Form.pdf>.

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://bit.ly/DKGUSF>

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)

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