

## **U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #125, MAY 2014**

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 80,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to [Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com](mailto: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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### **ALL WOMEN SENATORS COSPONSOR NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM BILL**

Largely due to the efforts of DKG members of the U.S. Forum the last four women senators have signed on to cosponsor the bill authorizing a commission to study the feasibility of building and maintaining a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC. The next steps in bringing this about are being discussed.

### **REFINANCING STUDENT LOANS**

Recently introduced legislation (S.2292) by Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts would allow those with outstanding student loans which were obtained at higher interest rates in the past to refinance the loan at the lower interest rates now available. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

At the National Legislative Seminar (NLS) we heard from several groups who are working to combat human trafficking. Although the term human trafficking is usually thought of as referring to the sex trade, it is also responsible for forcing people into tasks. For a more complete explanation of this see Issue #111, March 2013 at the Forum web site, <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/US%20FORUM/files/archive-2013.html>.

Some groups are working to educate students about human trafficking. With the availability of computer services more and more young people are being exposed to possible victimization by human traffickers. Education programs are coming to schools in the form of brochures, videos, and speakers to make children aware of the dangers to which they may be exposed through internet sites and other mass communication

media. For more information about what resources are available for schools, go to <http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/national-human-trafficking-hotline/the-nhtrc/overview>. Specific organizations may work to identify and free victims other groups work to ameliorate the psychological damage to victims and enable them reintegrate meaningfully into society. Some organizations which seek to combat human trafficking are ECPAT USA, Fair Girls, Protect Our Defenders, and Project Polaris. (For a further list of organizations based throughout the world go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_organizations\\_opposing\\_human\\_trafficking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_organizations_opposing_human_trafficking).)

There are 1708 bills in the current Congressional session dealing with human trafficking. These bills range from prosecuting those responsible for human trafficking, to reporting suspected traffickers to authorities, to seeking justice for victims through prosecution of traffickers. It is estimated that there are currently over 100,000 victims in the US.

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### **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>

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### **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.**