

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #128, AUGUST 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. 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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NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM BILL UP-DATE

The bill to establish a commission to study the concept of a building to house the National Women's History Museum (NWHM)(H.R.863) passed the House and was sent to the Senate. There a vote has been put on hold by Senator Lee (Utah) and Senator Coburn (Oklahoma) both of whom give as their reason for opposing the bill that Federal money should not be used to pay for the commission in spite of the fact that the bill specifically prohibits any federal funds from being spent on the study or the actual museum. The Congressional summary of the bill "requires the Commission to: (1) report recommendations for a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, D.C.; (2) develop a fundraising plan to support the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Museum through public contributions; (3) obtain an independent review of such fundraising plan, including an analysis of the resources necessary to fund the construction of the Museum and its operations and maintenance in perpetuity without reliance on federal funds; and (4) submit a legislative plan of action to establish and construct the Museum." The last line of the bill's summary "Prohibits federal funds from being obligated to carry out this Act." In view of these budgetary safeguards incorporated in the bill, it is puzzling as to how Senators Lee and Coburn worry about federal monies being spent on the study or on the museum itself. To read the bill's summary go to <https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/863?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR863%22%5D%7D>

We are urging members in Oklahoma and Utah to call senators Lee and Coburn and ask them to take their "hold" off the bill. They can do so by calling the Congressional Switchboard at [1-866-327-8670](tel:1-866-327-8670) [this is a toll free number]. Ask to be transferred to the senator's office where they can leave a message.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN STUDENT TESTING

A recently introduced bill called the Student Testing Improvement and Accountability Act (H.R.4172) would change the number of tests which students in grades 3-12 must take.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was originally passed in 1965 and is reauthorized periodically. The current law is a reauthorization of ESEA called the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. No Child Left Behind mandates that students be tested every year from grade 3 to grade 8 in mathematics and reading/language arts (a total of 12 tests) and once in each of those two areas in high school making a total of 14 tests during a student's K-12 career. This proposed legislation cosponsored by Representative Gibson (R-NY) and Representative Sinema (D-AZ) would change that to a total of six tests – one mathematics test and one reading/language arts test given once in grades 3-5, once in grades 6-9 and once in grades 10-12. In essence this would be a return to the testing policy prior to No Child Left Behind. An important note here. This is a bipartisan bill, and Rep. Krysten Sinema is an honorary DKG member in Arizona.

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.