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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.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA)(S.5) was reauthorized and became law last year. The original act was designed to address the problem of violence against women by providing funding for law enforcement training as well as funding services for victims such as hotlines and battered women's shelters. The reauthorization addressed only specific issues such as nondisclosure of personal information about victims, it provided funding for services to victims and mandated prosecution of offenders. The law has caused police to make an increased number of arrests. The unintended consequences of this policy were not foreseen. These include issues such as the arrest of the primary wage earner in a family which left some families in dire financial straights, and in some instances it has resulted in the removal of children from the home when the victim was not able to monetarily and physically provide for the family. Three reasons which victims of domestic violence give for staying in the violent domestic situation are 1) inability of the victim to financially provide for herself and her children, 2) fear of stalking and of being killed and 3) the desire to maintain a home for children. Although the victim may take out a restraining order, often the victim is stalked further assaulted, and sometimes killed.

Additionally, domestic violence is the primary focus of the law but it does not address violence in other areas such as college campus safety of female students. Some colleges are now addressing this issue through seminars and other safety measures such as campus security escorts after dark. The most common activity leading to campus rape is alcohol consumption. To combat this potentially dangerous situation some colleges are recommending that women student groups designate a person to monitor others somewhat similar to the designated driver which has been advocated by Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

It is interesting to note that until the video of the recent assault of Janay Rice by her then fiancé Ray Rice of the Baltimore Ravens football team was viewed, her assault was not taken very seriously. Until the actual vicious punch which rendered Janay unconscious and the subsequent disregard with which Rice handled Janay's unconscious body were seen, football authorities were inclined to shrug off the assault and exact only a minor penalty against Rice. After the video was widely viewed Rice was dismissed from the team. Perhaps videos now more frequently available via smart phones will help ameliorate the problem of people minimizing the actual physical and mental effect of domestic violence attacks. Although females are the most common victims of domestic violence, males and the elderly can also be victims.

For a more in depth explanation of the consequences of the law go to <http://nation.time.com/2013/02/27/whats-wrong-with-the-violence-against-women-act/>

THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014 (S. 1086)

This act which originated in the Senate has passed the House with some differences between the bill passed by the House and the bill originally passed by the Senate. It is currently in the process of being revised by the Senate and should be passed by both the House and the Senate later this year.

AN OPPORTUNITY

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Program is now accepting applications for the 2015-6 fellowship year. The deadline is November 20, 2014. For more information go to <http://science.energy.gov/wdts/einstein/>

For more information about any legislation mentioned here go to <https://www.congress.gov> and enter the bill number. For example S.1086 for more information on the child care block grants.

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.