

## US FORUM CONNECTION #72, DECEMBER 2009

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### END OF YEAR SUMMARY

**PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT**

**HEART FOR WOMEN ACT**

**GPO/WEP REPEAL**

**FDIC INSURANCE PROTECTION**

**MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH EQUITY**

**MONEY FOR MODERNIZATION, RENOVATION, REPAIR OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT**

**HEARING AID ASSISTANCE TAX CREDIT ACT**

**REDUCING THE STUDENT TO SCHOOL NURSE RATIO**

**TEACHER TAX RELIEF ACT**

**END OF YEAR SUMMARY** –Due to the amount of time and effort being spent by both houses of Congress and of the Senate in particular, many bills have been referred to committee and have been deferred pending resolution of health care reform legislation passage. Each of these pieces of legislation has been covered in one or more issues of the Forum Connection during this calendar year. Back issues can be found on-line at <http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w305514/HomePage.htm>

**PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT** -- H.R.12;S.182 passed the house **1/9/2009:**

Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 15 in January. (Issue 61, January 2009)

**HEART FOR WOMEN ACT** – H.R.1032, S.422 Referred to committee in both the House and the Senate, Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) has filed provisions of the HEART for Women Act as an Amendment #2884 to the Senate health care reform bill.. (Issue 62, February 2009)

**GPO/WEP REPEAL** --HR235, S484 Referred to committee in both houses at the beginning of the year. (Issue 61, January 2009)

**FDIC INSURANCE PROTECTION** -- On May 20, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act, which extends the temporary increase in the standard maximum deposit insurance amount (SMDIA) to \$250,000 per depositor through December 31, 2013. This extension of the temporary \$250,000 coverage limit became effective immediately upon the President's signature. The legislation provides that the SMDIA will return to \$100,000 on January 1, 2014. (Issue 68, August 2009)

**MEDICARE MENTAL HEALTH EQUITY** – Passed as part of the TARP legislation (HR1424 of 110<sup>th</sup> Session of Congress). No date for this taking effect is available at this time according to both AARP and Medicare.

**MONEY FOR MODERNIZATION, RENOVATION, REPAIR OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS** – (H.R.2187) Passed in the House and referred to committee in the Senate. (Issue 66, June 2009)

**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT** – This would reduce the cost of prescription drugs by 50% for those persons whose drug bills exceed \$2700 (the doughnut hole). Currently this is part of a handshake

agreement between President Obama and the major pharmaceutical drug companies. (Issue 67, July 2009)

**HEARING AID ASSISTANCE TAX CREDIT ACT** – (H.R.1646, S.1019) Referred to committee in both the House and the Senate. (Issue 67, July 2009)

**REDUCING THE STUDENT TO SCHOOL NURSE RATIO** – (H.R.2730, S.2750) Referred to committee in both the House and the Senate. (Issue 67, July 2009)

**TEACHER TAX RELIEF ACT** – (H.Res. 3758) Introduced in October and referred to committee. At present there is no comparable bill in the Senate. (Issue 71, November 2009)

For on-line information on specific bills go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

#### **CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

**U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION** can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard 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

**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.

#### **INFORMATION ON HOW YOUR CONGRESSMAN VOTED ON KEY BILLS**

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/111/bills/>

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

Archival copies of the U.S. Forum Connection can be found at <http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~w305514/HomePage.htm>

Dr. Angela O. Bedenbaugh  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
118 College Drive #8466  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001  
Office: (601) 266-5718, (800) 814-4673  
Fax: (601) 266-5718  
Answering machine (601) 266-4712