

US FORUM CONNECTION #79, JULY 2010

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MONEY TO RETAIN EDUCATION JOBS NEW U.S. FORUM COMMITTEE ELECTED IN SPOKANE CONVENTION TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

MONEY TO RETAIN EDUCATION JOBS

On August 10, 2010 the House of Representatives passed H.Res.1586, Amendment #4575. Shortly after the U.S. House passed the FMAP/Education Jobs Funding bill, President Obama signed it into law. The U.S. Department of Education has pledged to streamline the application process in order to get the money down to the local school district level quickly so that some teachers who were not rehired for the current school year could be rehired as soon as possible.

NEW U.S. FORUM COMMITTEE ELECTED IN SPOKANE

The new U.S. Forum Committee elected in Spokane consists of
NE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- Elizabeth (Liz) Brewer (PA)
NW REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- Corlyn (Cory) Peters (MN)
SE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- Judy Jackson (TN)
SW REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE -- LaWalta (Wally) Turner (OK, AZ)
Chair -- Angela O. Bedenbaugh (MS)

CONVENTION TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Barbara Boxer is leading the current effort to get the Senate to approve this. In other countries, CEDAW has brought about the following changes

- Pakistan introduced co-education in primary schools in 1996-97 after CEDAW ratification and saw sharp increases in school enrollment of girls.
- Mexico responded to an epidemic of violence against women by using CEDAW terms in a General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence. By 2009, all 32 Mexican states had adopted the measure.
- Kenya has used CEDAW to address differences in inheritance rights, eliminating discrimination against widows and daughters of the deceased.
- Kuwait's Parliament voted to extend voting rights to women in 2005 following a recommendation by the CEDAW Committee to eliminate discriminatory provisions in its electoral law.

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>

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