

US FORUM CONNECTION #89, MAY 2011

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 each individual.

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 100,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu. 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. This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children.

TEACHER TAX CREDIT PROPOSED HEART FOR WOMEN ACT POSTAGE RATE INCREASE WOMEN AND DEFICIT REDUCTION TALKS

TEACHER TAX CREDIT PROPOSED

A bill introduced on February 17, 2011 is called Incentives to Educate American Children Act of 2011 or the I Teach Act of 2011 (S.378).- This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to permit a refundable tax credit of \$1,000 for: (1) teachers in public elementary or secondary schools or public kindergartens in rural areas or areas with high poverty; and (2) teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. A teacher meeting both requirements would get a tax credit of \$2000.

HEART FOR WOMEN ACT

The HEART for Women Act was reintroduced in 112th Congress (2011-12) by Senator Stabenow as Bill S.438. It is anticipated that a companion bill will be introduced shortly in the House by Representatives by Lois Capps (D-CA) and Mary Bono Mack (R-CA).

The objects of the bill are

1. Raise awareness among women and their health care providers.

The legislation authorizes grants to educate healthcare professionals about the prevalence and unique aspects of care for women in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases. It also authorizes the Medicare program to conduct an educational awareness campaign for older women about their risk for heart disease and stroke.

2. Provide gender and race-specific information for clinicians and researchers.

The legislation would require that healthcare data that is already being reported to the federal government be stratified by gender, as well as by race and ethnicity. Among the information that would be reported by gender includes clinical trial data, pharmaceutical and medical device approval data, medical errors data, hospital quality data, and quality improvement data.

3. Improve screening for low-income women at risk for heart disease and stroke.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently administers a program called WISEWOMAN (Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation) that provides heart disease and stroke prevention screening, such as tests for high blood pressure and high cholesterol, to low-income uninsured and underinsured women in 20 states. The legislation would authorize the expansion of WISEWOMAN to all 50 states.

POSTAGE RATE INCREASE

As of April 2011 the postage for letters over 1 ounce is increased from 17¢ for each additional ounce to 20¢ for each ounce. Thus for a letter which weighs between one and two ounces, the postage will be 64¢ instead of 61¢, and a letter weighing between two and three ounces needs 84¢ postage instead of 78¢.

WOMEN AND DEFICIT REDUCTION TALKS

The Older Women's Economic Security Task Force, in a letter today to President Obama, called for the concerns of women to be considered in budget talks to reduce the deficit. The task force asked that members of the administration with expertise on women's issues be added to the White House's advisory team discussing strategies to reduce deficit spending. For more complete information on this go to <http://now.org/press/05-11/05-24.html>

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)

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. PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THIS INFORMATION MAY BE OUT OF DATE

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](tel:601-266-5718), [\(800\) 814-4673](tel:800-814-4673)
Fax: [\(601\) 266-5718](tel:601-266-5718)
Answering machine [\(601\) 266-5716](tel:601-266-5716)