

## US FORUM CONNECTION #99, MARCH 2012

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](mailto: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.

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR (NLS) SAFE SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011**

#### **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR (NLS)**

The National Legislative Seminar is being held March 18-21, 2012 at the Comfort Inn Pentagon City in Arlington, VA. The registration form for the National Legislative Seminar can be found at **The U. S. FORUM WEB SITE** <http://deltakappagamma.org/US-Forum/index.html>

The U.S. Forum Committee has made coming to NLS more affordable this year by negotiating lower hotel rates (\$129/night as opposed to \$260/night), holding the seminar in a hotel which provides breakfast as part of the hotel room charge, and including some meals in the registration fee (in addition to free breakfast for hotel registrants, lunch on Monday will be provided as part of the registration fee).

#### **SAFE SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011**

This act is designed to deal with bullying in schools. The provisions are Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2011 (S.506,HR.1648) Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require states, on an ongoing basis, to: (1) collect and report certain information on bullying and harassment by youth in their elementary and secondary schools and communities; (2) conduct, and report the results of, a needs assessment for bullying and harassment prevention programs; and (3) provide technical assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in their efforts to thwart bullying and harassment. This act would require LEAs to: (1) include clear prohibitions against bullying and harassment within their discipline policies; (2) establish and monitor performance indicators for incidents of bullying and harassment; and (3) establish grievance procedures students, parents, and educators can use to redress such conduct. Directs LEAs to notify parents, students, and educators annually on: (1) the bullying and harassment prohibited by their discipline policies, (2) the numbers and nature of bullying and harassment incidents for each of their schools, and (3) grievance procedures for redressing such conduct. Requires: (1) the Secretary of Education to conduct, and report on, an independent biennial evaluation of programs to combat bullying and harassment in elementary and secondary schools; and (2) the Commissioner for Education Statistics to collect data, that are subject to independent review, to determine the incidence and prevalence of bullying and harassment in elementary and secondary schools in this country. (This information is from the Library of Congress web site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d112:HR01648:@@@D&summ2=m&/home/LegislativeData.php>)

#### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011**

It is all our interests that the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011 (S.1925) is passed. Among other things this act would expand the protection to include more protection for female college students on campus.

Cosponsors WHO have signed on RECENTLY

Senator Bennett [CO]

Senators Akaka and Innoye [HI]

Senator McCaskill [MO]

Senators Tester and Baucus [MT]

Senator Benjamin [NE]

[Senator Udall](#) [NM]

Senator Conrad [ND]

Senator Sherrod [OH]

Senator Merkley [OR]

[Senators Warner and Webb](#) [VA]

## 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>

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