

## **U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #136, APRIL 2015**

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.

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 80,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at [Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com](mailto:Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com). 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.

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

#### **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT UPDATE K-5 TEACHER OPPORTUNITY**

#### **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT UPDATE (ESEA/NCLB) Senate Bill**

(Different versions of this legislation are being crafted in the House and the Senate. The Senate version entitled “Every Child Achieves Act of 2015” has not yet been given a bill number.

Among other things this bill maintains the testing of No Child Left Behind, allows states to create their own accountability system, does not allow Title I funds for low income students to follow the student to other public or private schools of their choice, reinstates the 21<sup>st</sup> century community learning centers (after school program), requires states to identify low performing schools, and increases the number of school counselors and social workers.

#### **House Bill**

The Student Success Act (H.R.5) retains current testing in grades 3-8 and high school, eliminates adequate yearly progress (AYP) as well as the basic, proficient and advanced categories. The bill requires reporting by high schools on the high school graduation rate. It limits charter school grants and subgrants to no more than five years. This bill makes a number of changes in distribution of federal funds and mandates limits on how much money can be used for a number of school activities and programs. If passed it would make states and districts ineligible for federal funding if personnel hired refuse to submit to a background check. The background check involves homicide; child abuse or neglect; crimes against children; domestic violence; crimes involving rape or sexual assault; kidnapping; arson; and physical assault, battery, or drug-related offenses committed five years before the individual's criminal background check. This seems to indicate that when hiring personnel, schools should conduct a criminal background check on each individual. The summary of the House bill is fourteen pages long. Those wanting additional information can go to <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hr5%22%5D%7D>

Assuming both bills are passed by their respective houses, the bills almost certainly will eventually be resolved through a joint committee. Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee chaired the committee which crafted the Senate bill. He worked closely with Senator Patty Murray of Washington. Although initial versions of the bill provided for reducing the number of

tests given, this was not present in the final bill. Senator Alexander has been pushing to have the bill brought to a vote in the Senate as soon as possible to avoid it being considered and voted on much later in the session as appropriations bills take precedence over it.

**K-5 TEACHER OPPORTUNITY**

K-5 elementary school teachers can learn more about using technology in the classroom by attending a free workshop sponsored by the nonprofit organization Code.org where they will receive 6-7 hours of instruction, free classroom supplies and free lunch. For more information about the program and to locate a workshop near you go to <http://code.org/educate/k5>

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**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://www.usforumdkg.org/>

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**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.

Email access and addresses

<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

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

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