

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #142, OCTOBER 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. 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.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Operation Cross Country a cooperative effort between the FBI and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children recently arrested 281 alleged pimps and rescued 168 child victims of sexual exploitation. The nationwide concerted effort involved 54 FBI field divisions in 106 cities. Over the past seven years this initiative has rescued about 3,400 children leading to 1,450 convictions, 14 life prison terms and seizure of over \$3.1 million worth of assets.

NCLB/ESEA HOUSE/SENATE DIFFERENCES

The big education bills in the House (Student Success Act) and the Senate (Every Child Achieves Act) have differences which will be resolved by a conference committee. Similarities

1. Reading and math testing in grades 3-8 and at least once in high school plus science testing in certain grades.
2. Test results must be made public
3. Elimination of duplicate and/or low quality assessments
4. Elimination of AYP with states developing their own accountability system
5. High school graduation rates and English language proficiency as part of accountability (This is in the Senate bill only. The House bill does not address this issue.)
6. The "highly qualified" teacher requirements would be eliminated
7. States could use federal teacher quality funds to set up teacher evaluations
8. Both House and Senate bills would allow students to transfer to better performing schools. (The House bill allows Title I portability as part of this transfer.)

Differences

1. House bill allows parents to opt their children out of testing with no penalty
2. The Senate bill would require states to figure state test results into their accountability systems
3. The House bill would require states to consider overall school performance and the performance of certain subgroups of students

4. The House bill requires states to intervene in Title I schools which are underperforming. (It doesn't say how. The Senate bill eliminates School Improvement Grant program and allows districts to cope with failing schools.
5. The Senate bill would eliminate some federal programs, but would include preschool programs in the NCLB/ESEA.
6. The House bill would repeal "maintenance of effort;" while the Senate bill would keep it.

TITLE I CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED

With the budget bill being approved, Title I will not face the disruption in Federal money as was the case when the federal government was shut down previously. A Senate bill under consideration would direct more money into Title I, but several states in the Northeast and Midwest would get less Title I money. A bill under consideration in the House would direct more money to small and middle-sized districts where poverty is relatively high.

POSSIBLE SOURCE OF TEACHER PAY INCREASE

There is currently discussion about changing prison sentencing guidelines so that fewer people would be jailed. This would save money because the number of prison employees would be reduced as well as the cost of housing, feeding, etc. prisoners. A proposal by the U.S. Department of Education is that states should consider using the money saved due decreased numbers of prisoners to increase teacher salaries.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

The National Legislative Seminar (NLS) of the U. S. Forum will be held March 13-16, 2016 in Washington, DC. The topics/issues which were identified from the 2015 Planning Surveys that were gathered at the U.S. Forum Session at the regional conferences this summer are:

- bullying/cyberbullying
- high stakes student testing
- human trafficking
- mental health/gun violence
- pay equity/fair pay for women

The seminar will have knowledgeable speakers to address each of these issues. Attendees at the last seminar heard from Congressional staffers as well as legislative liaisons from health and women's groups who regularly work to improve women's lives.

All DKG members who reside in the United States are automatically members of the U.S. Forum and are eligible to attend the seminar. The current brochure about the U. S. Forum can be viewed at http://www.usforumdkg.org/uploads/4/4/6/6/44667559/2016_us_forum_brochure.pdf

The registration form for the National Legislative Seminar can be found at <http://www.usforumdkg.org/legislative-seminar.html>. When completing the registration form, you should know that the cost of lunch on Monday is included in the registration fee; however, the cost of Sunday night dinner and Wednesday breakfast is not included in that fee.

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/>

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.

