

See below for legislative information from Angela Bedenbaugh of the DKG U.S. Forum..

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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 70,000 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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SMITHSONIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

For twenty years DKG's U.S. Forum has supported efforts to have a women's history museum in Washington, DC. It looks closer to becoming a reality with two bills introduced in Congress on March 28 and 29 of this year which would make a Women's Museum part of the Smithsonian Institution's complex of museums. Both the Senate bill (S.959) and the House bill (H.R.1980) have been referred to committee. I find it interesting that the House version was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Currently the museum exists only online at <https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/online-exhibits>. The site contains "exhibits." These exhibits feature women in sports, women in STEM fields, women in history, and women campaigning for the right to vote to mention a few.

In the STEM exhibit we learn that Maria Mitchell was America's first professional female astronomer. On October 1, 1847, at the age of 29, Maria Mitchell discovered a comet, becoming the first American to do so.

EDUCATORS TAX DEDUCTION INCREASE

The Educators Expense Deduction Modernization Act (H.R.878) would raise the expense which educators can annually deduct from income tax from \$250 to \$500, and the amount of the deduction would increase each year after 2019 based on cost of living. This latter point is significant; because, if passed, a new bill and revised law would not have to be considered by each future session of Congress.

MEDICARE

Medicare Negotiation and Competitive Licensing Act of 2019 (H.R.1046)(S.377) would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate Medicare Part D prescription drug prices. The Stop Price Gouging Act (H.R.1093)(S.378) would levy an excise tax of 50-100% on each prescription drug manufacturer which has drugs which are subject to price spikes. This act provides details for its enforcement.

SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

The Social Security Expansion Act (H.R.1170)(S.478) would increase Social Security payments by 1% in 2025. There would be annual increases from 2026 through 2038. A new trust fund called the Social Security Trust Fund would be established and would contain the combined assets in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund. The tax on wages (FICA) would be levied on those earning between \$128,700 and \$250,000. This additional money would extend the life of Social Security and Medicare.

NEW HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

A bill (HR1868) introduced last week would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve affordability and reduce premium costs of health insurance for consumers.

TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS

The Preserving Teacher Loan Forgiveness for Military Spouses Act of 2019 (S.532, H.R.1226) would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow an individual to remain eligible to participate in the teacher loan forgiveness program under title IV of the Act when the teacher's moves because the individual is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is relocated during the school year because the individual's military spouse is transferred. This would be covered by the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978.

EDUCATION CUTS IN PROPOSED BUDGET (alphabetically)

21 st Century Community Learning Centers	\$1.2 billion
Alaska Native Education	\$36 million
American History & Civics Education	\$4.8 million
Arts in Education	\$29 million
Comprehensive Centers	\$52 million
Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants	\$190 million
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants	\$840 million
Full-Service Community Schools	\$17.5 million
Fund For The Improvement of Postsecondary Education	\$17.5 million
Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs	\$360 million
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	\$23 million
Impact & Payments for Federal Property	\$74.3 million
Innovative Approaches to Literacy	\$27 million
International Education & Foreign Languages Studies Domestic Program	\$85.1 million
International Education & Foreign Languages Studies Overseas Program	\$7.1 million

Javits Gifted & Talented Education	\$12 million
Native Hawaiian Education	\$36.4 million
Promise Neighborhoods	\$78.3 million
Ready to Learn Programming	\$27.7 million
Regional Educational Laboratories	\$55.4 million
Special Olympics Education Programs	\$17.6 million*
Statewide Family Engagement Centers	\$10 million
Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems	\$32.3 million
Strengthening Institutions	\$99.9 million
Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants	\$1.2 billion
Supported Employment State Grants	\$22.5 million
Supporting Effective Educator Development	\$75 million
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	\$2.1 billion
Teacher Quality Partnership	\$43.1 million
Total	\$6.7 billion

*Largely due to pressure from the Senate Appropriations subcommittee during its questioning of Secretary DeVos the Special Olympics cut was eliminated.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Most Legislators want to meet with citizens from their districts to hear their concerns and recommendations. You only have to be passionate about an issue to get your message across not an expert lobbyist. Because you hold the power of the vote, your opinions carry more weight than any number of paid lobbyists. Don't be afraid to lobby. It is simply expressing your opinion and trying to convince someone that your view is the correct one.

It may be difficult to set up a meeting during the hectic legislative session, but there are recesses when legislators are home. You should be able to get a schedule of when the legislator is in his/her district and set up a meeting in the local office.

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/>

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

If you wish to contact your senator to express your opinion, you can call the Congressional Switchboard at 1-202-224-3121. [this is not a toll free number]. Another way of contacting your senator is via email or a telephone number which is not toll free both of which are available

at https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

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.