

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #184, APRIL 2019

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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ERA UPDATE

There are 38 states needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and currently 37 states have ratified it. Three states are considering whether or not to ratify the amendment. The most likely 38th state is Virginia where the amendment passed the Senate this year; while the House vote ended up in a 50:50 tie. The thought is that if ERA doesn't pass the Virginia legislature this session, Virginia will likely pass it next year. Currently there is ERA activity in Arizona and North Carolina. A new twist has been added since this was last reported. The time limit on the amendment is contained in the preamble. The states voting to ratify the amendment did not vote on the preamble which contains the time limit. Previously it was thought that either Congress would have to pass an amendment to the original bill extending the time limit or Congress would have to pass an entirely new bill. It has recently been noted that there is a third way by which the amendment would take effect. This would be to leave the amendment alone and say that; since the states didn't vote on the preamble, there is no deadline, and the amendment takes effect with no further action needed.

MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT OF 2019

The Medicare For All Act 2019 was recently introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Pramila Jayapal on March 13, 2019. Senator Bernard Sanders introduced the bill in the Senate on April 10, 2019. The bills are numbered H.R.1384

and S.1129, respectively. The House version currently has 108 cosponsors, while the Senate version has 14 cosponsors.

DRUG IMPORTATION LEGISLATION

The Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada Act of 2019 has been introduced in Congress (S.478, H.R.1170). This legislation would allow personal requests to approved Canadian pharmacies to be filled. Because of the way the bills are stated, intravenously introduced drugs are excluded from importation. There are another couple of exceptions to drug importation.. Note only Canadian drugs are covered. This is a first step to allowing people to purchase Prescription drugs outside the U.S.

SPECIFIC EDUCATION LEGISLATION

The Computer Science for All Act of 2019 (H.R.1678) would authorize the Secretary of Education to carry out a program to increase computer science education from prekindergarten through grade 12. The Protect Our Universities Act of 2019 ([S.969](#)) would create a task force within the Department of Education to protect against foreign governments accessing U.S. government funded research on college campuses.

Note: No summary of bills is given at [Congress.gov](#). In order to determine the content of a bill it is necessary to access the “text” which is laden with legal terminology.

FREE POSTERS

Free women in science posters are available at <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=23086>

NATIONAL GREEN ALERT ACT OF 2019

You are probably aware of the “Amber Alert” which notifies the public when a child is missing. Newly introduced legislation is the National Green Alert Act of 2019 (S.699). This would put in place a similar alert to be issued when a veteran is missing.. The act authorizes the establishment of a committee to set up a system similar to the Amber Alert. This would have as its goal the reduction of suicides by veterans. The Green Alert would be triggered to help locate a missing veteran thought to be at risk. It is hoped that this action would reduce the number of veterans who commit suicide.

The National Green Alert Act of 2019 was filed by Senator Margaret Wood Hassan of New Hampshire. As of April 30, 2019 the bill has only one cosponsor – Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa. Consider discussing this bill at a chapter meeting, and then contacting your senators about signing on as cosponsors of the bill. Because there is only one cosponsor now, it can be assumed that any additional cosponsors who sign on did so as the result of DKG phone calls.

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR

As Emily Ellsworth suggests in a [New York Times article](#), phone calls from constituents are often more effective than emails because emails are depersonalized and easily ignored with other overwhelming requests for contact.

Do you know who your legislator is? Your national legislators are easily identified if you don't already know who they are. Go to Congress.gov . In the middle of the right-hand side of the screen is a black box which says "Contact Your Member." Then select either Representative or Senator. You will receive directions which will enable you to find your senators and representatives.

Consider devoting part of a chapter meeting to legislation. Then have the chapter members contact their delegation stating the action you want taken. We are told that when five or more constituents contact a legislator about a topic, the legislator will pay attention and usually take the suggested action. A good trial run would be to contact a senator about signing on as a cosponsor of S.699. You can see whether your contact had any effect by checking the list of cosponsors at Congress.gov. If there is more than one cosponsor, click on "cosponsors" which will then show you which senators have signed on as cosponsors and give their names and the dates they signed on as cosponsors. (See "Contacting Your Legislator" below for the telephone number.)

CANDIDATES AND EDUCATION

Four of the presidential candidates have proposed some actions related to education. Cory Booker wants to help educators retire their college debt; while Kamala Harris proposes giving every teacher a pay raise via a new federal initiative. Amy Klobuchar would like to use an infrastructure initiative to update school physical facilities, and Elizabeth Warren is proposing the creation of a universal child care program. These candidates are actively seeking the endorsement of the large national teacher's groups.

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.