



# US FORUM CONNECTION

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## US FORUM

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*Changing the Tide. . .  
Honoring our heritage...  
Charting our course.  
Sailing toward our future*

Sharing current federal legislation is a major goal of the US Forum, and the newsletter has a new format for 2020. Starting in January, look for each issue the beginning of the month. Unfortunately, the current email list serve is unable to attach the new format, and we do not want you to miss an issue. Therefore, the newsletter can be accessed in one of several ways: US Forum website at [usforumdkg.org](http://usforumdkg.org); US Forum Facebook page; and on the DKG International Blog site. To receive an email, go to your DKG profile and subscribed to Blogs. Spread the word, and let's continue to advocate for women, children, and education.

--Kathy Davis, Chair

## JOIN US FOR NLS 2020

Give yourself the New Year's Resolution of being involved in National Legislation. The US Forum National Legislative Seminar will be March 15-18, 2020 at the Holiday Inn National Airport in Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Join us in discussion of key issues and how you can be an advocate and make a difference. Listen to Nationally respected speakers. Visit your Legislators. Tour Washington. Make this your year to be involved.

Registration Forms can be Found at <http://bit.ly/2UHaz2F>

## The National Legislative Seminar March 15-18,2020

### MESSAGE FROM SALLY NYLUS REGISTRAR

It's very exciting to already have a large number of registrants for the Seminar. Get your registrations in by postal mail or online **by February 10** so you needn't pay a late fee! Confirmation letters are sent to all who registered. Please e-mail [SLNYHUS@gmail.com](mailto:SLNYHUS@gmail.com) or text me 1.651.239.4357 with corrections or questions regarding confirmation.

#### REMINDERS:

**Make** your hotel reservations at the Crystal City Holiday Inn, 1.703.842.1220 or [hinalnationalairport.com](http://hinalnationalairport.com). Remember to use the code National Legislative Seminar – US Forum. Last date for Special rate is February 11, 2020.

**Remember** to make an appointment with your congressional representatives—House and Senate\*—for Tuesday, March 17, 2020. \*Collaborate with others from your state to make one group appointment with your senators.

**Consider** joining us for Capital Steps or a tour/tours. Be sure you let me know by e-mail ([SLNYHUS@gmail.com](mailto:SLNYHUS@gmail.com)) before **January 31, 2020**.

If you haven't already sent your check, don't forget to do that before **February 10**. (157 Dale St W, So St Paul, MN 55075-3237) We look forward to seeing all of you in March!

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*“Be involved; be informed. Make meaningful contributions to society through service and involvement.”*

*M. Russell Ballard*

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### SEE WASHINGTON D.C.



Several optional tours are offered for those attending the National Legislative Seminar. On Saturday March 14, 2020 group tickets will be obtained for the bipartisan satire group, Capitol Steps. With the election in full-swing by this time, we are certain that this group will feature much humorous material. On Sunday March 15 join us for an all-day tour of sites around the Washington area. One site we will visit is the new African American museum. Group tickets have been secured and we will stop for lunch at this museum. An excellent exhibit there features African-American musical artists. We will also visit the Holocaust Museum and other sites. On Tuesday March 17 an evening Monuments by Moonlight tour will

be held. See the beautiful city of Washington at night. We are excited for all of you to experience our capitol city of Washington, D.C. See you there!

### Contact your Legislative representatives

Make an appointment to meet with your legislative representatives in the House and Senate to discuss federal legislative that impacts you. Make an influence.

### VOICE YOUR OPINION

*Information supplied here is intended to inform you of pending legislation and issues related to Women, Children, and Education. Our intent is to provide you with information to assist you in making an independent decision on the issues and having the option to contact your Legislator regarding your stance.*

### Opinion: Broken federal promises regarding student loan forgiveness

Congress created a student loan forgiveness program in 2007 to draw people to vital but relatively low-paid careers with a promise: after a decade, if borrowers faithfully paid their debts and pursued their work, they would have the remainder of their student loans written off. The program promised students that if they stayed with their vital but low-wage professions, their debts would be wiped clean—but they weren't.

Erica L. Green & Stacy Cowley. "Broken promises and debt pile up as loan forgiveness goes astray. *NY Times*. November 28, 2019

[https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/28/us/politics/student-loan-forgiveness.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_191129?campaign\\_id=2&instance\\_id=14107&segment\\_id=19180&user\\_id=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca&regi\\_id=188779071129](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/28/us/politics/student-loan-forgiveness.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_191129?campaign_id=2&instance_id=14107&segment_id=19180&user_id=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca&regi_id=188779071129)

### Fact: Current Federal Legislation on Student Loan forgiveness

H.R.3102 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**Helping Individuals Get a Higher Education while Reducing Education Debt Act**  
**Sponsor:** Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4] (Introduced 06/05/2019) **Cosponsors:** (0)**Committees:** House - Education and Labor; Judiciary; Ways and Means **Latest Action:** House - 06/28/2019 Referred to the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law

["H.R.3102-116<sup>th</sup> Congress; Helping Individuals Get a Higher Education while Reducing Education Debt" www.Congress.gov](http://www.Congress.gov)

### Facts: Education Legislation Pending Action

There are currently **3,161 Legislation items** pertaining to Education in Congress. **490 Bills** pertaining to Elementary and Secondary Education have been introduced. **Two bills** have been approved by the House and sent to the Senate: **H.R. 2528: STEM Opportunities Act of 2019**, To direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes. **H.R. 4372: MSI STEM Achievement Act**, to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and for other purposes. H.R. 258 the Senate on September 26, 2019 and H.R.4372 was sent on December 10, 2019.

**Only one bill** has been signed into law: **H.R. 276: Recognizing Achievement in Classified School Employees Act**. The Bill directs the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program Recognizing Excellence exhibited by Classified School Employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through high school. This bill was signed by President Trump on April 12, 2019. Currently **H.R. 5363** has been approved by both the House and Senate and has been sent to the President on December 10, 2019. **H.R. 5363: Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act:** The

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bill reauthorizes mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions, and for other purposes.

[https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/subjects/education/5991#text=Elementary+and+Secondary+Education&current\\_status\[\]=4,5](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/subjects/education/5991#text=Elementary+and+Secondary+Education&current_status[]=4,5)

## Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) Legislation

**H.R.5271 - Worker Relief and Credit Reform Act of 2019** 116th Congress (2019-2020) Sponsor: Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI-4) Introduced on 11/26/19, House referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 11/26/19  
Congress is currently working on adding bipartisan tax legislation. Proponents are looking for tax legislation that **helps workers and families first** by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC). **Use this toll-free number (888) 678-9475 to call your senator today and leave a message voicing your opinion on this legislation.** [“H.R.5271-116<sup>th</sup> Congress: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and improve the earned income...” www.GovTrack.us.2019<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hrs271>](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hrs271)

Current House and Senate schedules are listed. Information on Floor activities, committee meetings, pending voting, your legislator’s attendance, and ways to directly contact your legislator are at your Fingertips.

## Bills of interest can be researched by Topic, House and Senate presenter, those introduced, public laws, U.S code and appropriations.

The current Top Ten for December 2020 were:

1. [H.Res.755](#) [116th] Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.
2. [H.Res.757](#) [116th] Calling for the resignation and disbarment of United States Attorney General William P. Barr, and for other purposes.
3. [H.R.2500](#) [116th] National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020
4. [S.1790](#) [116th] National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020
5. [H.R.3](#) [116th] Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act
6. [H.R.5038](#) [116th] Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019
7. [S.386](#) [116th] Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019
8. [H.Res.660](#) [116th] Directing certain committees to continue their ongoing investigations as part of the existing House of Representatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes.
9. [S.151](#) [116th] Pallone-Thune TRACED Act
10. [S.1895](#) [116th] Lower Health Care Costs Act

Enter their number on Congress.gov and receive an update on their status.

Source: [Most Viewed Bills Top Ten \(2019, December 15\) Retrieved from http://www. Congress.gov](http://www.Congress.gov)

**To learn more about your legislators**, what committees they serve on, floor proceedings and what issues they are supporting ,use the these links: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives and <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate. White House 1-202-456-1111.

Thank you to Dr. Angela O. Bedenbaugh for having the foresight to create the U.S. Forum Connection in 2000. Angela envisioned a document that would update DKG members on Federal Legislation. She worked with the University of Southern Mississippi to create a database and used personal expenses to pioneer and expand our publication. As we move into a new format we are forever thankful for Angela’s work.