

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #182, FEBRUARY 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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PROTECTING THE VOTE

The very first act introduced in this session of Congress is For the People Act of 2019 (H.R.1). With 236 cosponsors it should pass the House in some form. The act sets forth actions which would protect the right to vote. The act has three categories 1) voting, 2) campaign finance and 3) ethics. It has been referred to several committees.

GREEN NEW DEAL

Legislation introduced in early February proposes a "Green New Deal." (H.Res.109 and S.Res.59) Within two weeks of its introduction the bills had 89 cosponsors in the House and 11 cosponsors in the Senate. The legislation apparently meets the approval of Senate Majority Leader McConnell who introduced S.J.Res 8 within a week of the introductions thus tying the two bills together. This joint resolution declares that the government has a duty to create a Green New Deal with the goals of

- achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions;
- establishing millions of high-wage jobs and ensuring economic security for all;
- investing in infrastructure and industry;
- securing clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all; and
- promoting justice and equality.

The joint resolution calls for accomplishment of these goals through a 10-year national mobilization effort. The resolution also enumerates the goals and projects of the mobilization effort, including

- building smart power grids (i.e., power grids that enable customers to reduce their power use during peak demand periods);

- upgrading all existing buildings and constructing new buildings to achieve maximum energy and water efficiency;
- removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation and agricultural sectors;
- cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites;
- ensuring businesspersons are free from unfair competition; and
- providing higher education, high-quality health care, and affordable, safe, and adequate housing to all.

Notice the addition of "providing higher education." Although this bill doesn't mandate any action, it could be the basis for future legislation and/or suggestions such as replacing old school buildings or adding insulation, plumbing upgrades on older buildings. This legislation gives a look into how some members of Congress are working together. It also provides civics educators a way to explore the legislative process and look at the difference between a bill and a resolution. Even with the number of climate change deniers the resolution stands a good chance of passing; however, neither resolution sets forth a method for attaining the goals of the idea. Actually attaining the goals of the Green New Deal are not spelled out and will be difficult to achieve specific actions to attain these goals. Note that it does not make suggestions for action and does not provide any finding for making changes. That would have to come later and would be difficult to get done.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

There are currently three bills which relate to reauthorizing the Violence Against Act (VAWA). The Violence Against Women Health Act of 2019 (H.R.973) which deals with domestic violence and dating violence. The other two pieces of legislation are related to the Violence Against Women Act which expired in December 2018. H.R.1239 reauthorizes the Department of Justice programs which combat violence against women, and H.R.1310 would amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to include the rural development voucher program. All three of these bills have been referred to committee, and none has been reported out of committee.

RECOMMENDED WATCHING

On the Basis of Sex, a movie about the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg (RBG) is being aired Sunday night at 8 p.m. cst on MSNBC. I think you would find it interesting. Not only does it document her life prior to being appointed to the Supreme Court, it shows her trials and tribulations in her early career and how she was helped and encouraged by her husband.

I saw the movie in a theater a couple of weeks ago. It brought back memories of my applying for a credit card. I stated that I was married but did not give my husband's name. The card was issued to X Bedenbaugh.

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 1-866-327-8670 [this is 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.
