

# Forum Connection

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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#192

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## The United States Forum advocates for women, children, and education.

The *Forum Connection* 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 62,000 members.

The newsletter is also available on the US Forum website <http://www.usforumdkg.org/us-forum-connection.html>

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### LEAVING A LEGACY

Dr. Angela Bedenbaugh has been involved with the U.S. Forum since 1998. During that time, she served as the SE Forum Representative, Forum Chair, the Ad Hoc Committee to revise the Forum Operational Guidelines, and most importantly as the editor of the *Forum Connection*. In addition, she has served as Mississippi State Organization's Forum chair since 1976. To say that Angela loves her work on the Forum would be an understatement.



After twenty-one years, Angela is retiring as editor of the *Forum Connection* and this will be her final issue. Her tireless efforts and knowledge will be missed. However, knowing Angela, she will remain connected and active. The U.S. Forum wishes you good luck on your next venture!

### EDITOR'S LAST NOTE

The idea and name for the U.S. Forum Connection came from Joy Lauderbaugh of Washington State. As the newly elected U.S. Forum chair at the 2000 International Convention in Toronto, she proposed the publication and appointed me as editor. The first issue was disseminated in November 2000. That was 192 issues ago. It has been a satisfying to me to see the publication grow to over 2,500 subscribers. The current situation in Washington, D.C. has caused problems in finding material for the publication as little legislation is even being considered by the Senate. The House has passed over 240 bills few if any have been addressed in the Senate. In fact, a surprising number of legal matters have found their way into the courts. The issue which will affect the largest number of people is the federal health care legislation currently being considered by the Supreme Court. The Roe versus Wade abortion issue is likely to be considered in this term of the Supreme Court also.

This will be my last issue as editor; however, I wish the new editor success and offer any help I can give. There are some things I have tackled such as the topic line in the email which had to be changed from *U.S. Forum Connection* to *Forum Connection* after it was discovered that the U.S. in the title caused the publication to automatically be regarded as spam and put in trash on some members computers.

### CHANGING THE TIDE

Sharing current federal legislation is a major goal of the US Forum, and the newsletter has a new format in 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

**Advocating for what you believe in is crucial – If you don't ask for it,  
people assume you do not need it.**

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.

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR**

We hope you plan to attend the **National Legislative Seminar** at the Holiday Inn Crystal City on March 15-18, 2020. The registration form can be found on the United States Forum website ([www.usforumdkg.org](http://www.usforumdkg.org)). The main issues we will be addressing are issues such as human trafficking, gun violence as it pertains to school shootings, opioid crisis and vaping among our students, and mental health issues with students. There will be additional topics from the survey taken at the international conferences this past summer.

### **DRUG PRICES**

As of December 2019, both AARP and Public Citizen are putting their efforts to move The "Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act" (**H.R.3**) to pass-age in the House. The bill addresses the cost of prescription drug prices and currently has 106 cosponsors in the House. The description of the bill in Congress.gov "To establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes." There is currently no corresponding bill in the Senate.

Many of the new drugs coming on the market are the result of federally funded grants to universities. These drugs should be priced reasonably as we paid for their development.

### **SANCTUARY**

We have heard of sanctuary cities; however, few people are informed by "sanctuary." Several immigrants have taken sanctuary in a traditional place -- a church. Places of worship "churches, synagogues, and mosques" to name a few are "safe places" under a 2011 memo listing these as "sensitive locations" protected from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). That agency tried to get some of those in sanctuary out by levying fines from \$200,000 to \$500,000 which were finally nullified. There are about 1,100 religious institutions currently committed

to offering sanctuary. It is of interest that the First Unitarian Universalist church in Austin, Texas is one of these institutions.

### **REPARATIONS**

A topic which has recently been gaining interest is making reparations to descendants of slaves which were brought to this country. To that end the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act (**H.R.40,S.1083**). There have been several resolutions brought up in both the House and Senate. The House bill has 122 cosponsors and the Senate bill has 16 cosponsors. There are several items which have to be studied.

- 1) How does one determine who is a descendent of a slave?
- 2) What form would the reparation take are only two?

### **2020 OFFICIAL FLAG FLYING DAYS**

- |           |    |   |   |
|-----------|----|---|---|
| January   | 1  | - | New Year's Day  |
| January   | 20 | - | Martin L. King, Jr. Birthday<br>(half-staff)                      |
| February  | 12 | - | Abraham Lincoln Birthday  |
| February  | 18 | - | Presidents' Day<br>George Washington's Birthday                   |
| April     | 12 | - | Easter Sunday   |
| May       | 4  | - | Firefighters Memorial Day<br>(half-staff)                         |
| May       | 8  | - | V-E Day   |
| May       | 10 | - | Mother's Day  |
| May       | 15 | - | Peace Officer's Day (half-staff)                                  |
| May       | 16 | - | Armed Forces Day  |
| May       | 25 | - | Memorial Day  |
|           |    | • | From noon to sunrise, fly half-staff to honor our fallen veterans |
|           |    | • | Fly full staff from noon to sunset to honor those still with us.  |
| June      | 14 | - | Flag Day  |
| June      | 16 | - | Father's Day  |
| July      | 4  | - | Independence Day  |
| August    | 10 | - | V-J Day   |
| September | 7  | - | Labor Day   |
| September | 11 | - | Patriot's Day (half-staff)  |
| September | 17 | - | Constitution Day  |
| October   | 12 | - | Columbus Day  |
| November  | 3  | - | Election Day  |
| November  | 11 | - | Veterans Day  |
| November  | 26 | - | Thanksgiving Day  |
| December  | 7  | - | Pearl Harbor Day  |
| December  | 25 | - | Christmas Day   |

### **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](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

### **Email access and addresses:**

To learn more about who your legislators, what committees they serve on, floor proceedings and what issues they are supporting use the below links.

- <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.**

### **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> and
- a Group page online at [https://www.facebook.com/groups/2269724846587657/?source\\_id=349823881770007](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2269724846587657/?source_id=349823881770007)

Let us know the issues that concern you and let your voice be heard!

**FORUM WEBSITE:** <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

Visit the website often for updates on the upcoming National Legislative Seminar and the US Forum sessions at the 2020 International Convention in Philadelphia.

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