

## **U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #172, APRIL 2018**

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 80,000 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](mailto: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.

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- **WHAT'S IN THE NEW BUDGET**
- **DISMISSAL OF SPECIAL ED COMPLAINTS**
- **REVISED US FORUM OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AVAILABLE**
- **SHOOTING VIOLENCE PREVENTION**
- **MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT**
- **FIGHTING ONLINE SEX TRAFFICKING BECOMES LAW**
- **CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR**
- **FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK**
- **FORUM WEB SITE**

### **WHAT'S IN THE NEW BUDGET**

The new budget contains a \$2.6 billion increase for the Department of Education. This increase includes a \$300 million increase for Title I. Also included are increases in funding for students with disabilities, and career and technical education. Additionally \$2.1 billion is allocated for education development, Title 4 block grants, and after school programs. A program which was eliminated is School Recruitment and Support which trains and helps recruit school administrators. Although there was no money for school choice, the funding for charter schools did increase. The STOP School Violence Act (H.R.4909, S.2495) was incorporated into the budget bill, but the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative which was a Department of Justice backed program to research evidence-based issues involved in school safety was discontinued. The law does allow Title IV money to be spent on student safety and mental health issues.

### **DISMISSAL OF SPECIAL ED COMPLAINTS**

As a result of the adoption of new guidelines for disability related complaints at the U.S. Department of Education, all previous complaints have been thrown out. Even though an educator has previously filed a complaint, a new complaint must be filed. As noted in the April 11, 2018 of Education Week:

“Marcia Lipsitt, a special education advocate in Franklin, Mich, estimates during the past two years she has filed more than 2,400 complaints to the Education Department over educational entities that have websites that are inaccessible to those who are blind, or visually impaired or who cannot use a mouse to navigate a website. Her targets have included school systems, universities, library systems, and state departments of education.

Last month, Lipsitt began receiving notices that the cases were being dismissed, including complaints that had been filed months ago and were in the process of being investigated. The dismissals were not made on the merits of the cases; she was told that the civil rights office was following a new process established March 5 in a revision of its ‘case processing manual.’”

This new process should be brought to the attention of anyone who has filed or might need to file a special education complaint. They need to file another complaint if the original complaint was filed prior to March 5, 2018.

**REVISED US FORUM OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AVAILABLE**

The newly revised, proposed 2018 United States Forum Operational Guidelines can now be viewed on the US Forum website

<http://www.usforumdkg.org/operational-guidelines.html>. Be sure to look these over carefully as they will be voted on at International this summer.

**SHOOTING VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

The recently introduced Extreme Risk Protection Order and Violence Prevention Act of 2018 (S.2607, S.2521) was scripted following the shootings in Parkland Florida. Both bills have been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Since both Democrats and Republicans are involved in writing these bills, it is hoped that action to move a combination out of committee and onto the Senate floor for a vote in the near future.

**MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT**

In this session of Congress the Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act (S.1804, H.R.676) has been filed in both houses of Congress and was referred to committee in both houses.

**FIGHTING ONLINE SEX TRAFFICKING BECOMES LAW**

Several bills related to Sex Trafficking were combined and signed into Federal Law number 115-164 on April 11, 2018. This deals with on-line sex trafficking and makes the on line providers more accountable for what is posted on their web sites. It also provides for a fine or 10 years in prison or both. Additionally, it provides an enhanced penalty of a fine and up to 25 years in prison in a case where five or more instances of sex trafficking occur.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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](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.**