

## **U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #159, MARCH 2017**

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**

**SUPREME COURT REVISITED**

**FAIR PAY/TITLE IX**

**IMMUNIZATIONS**

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE FORUM SESSIONS**

**FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK**

**FORUM WEB SITE**

### **SUPREME COURT REVISITED**

The U.S. Supreme Court remanded the case of the Gloucester County Virginia School Board versus a transgender male concerning which bathroom the student should use to the Fourth District Circuit of Appeals and referred to a recent reversal of the Justice Department policy dealing with use of restroom facilities when they ruled that bathroom assignment is a state's right issue rather than a sexual rights issue covered by Title IX.

The case of sixth grader Elena Fry who suffers from cerebral palsy and a school district which denied her service dog into the school was remanded to the Sixth District Circuit of Appeals.

### **FAIR PAY/TITLE IX**

Women's soccer which was ranked #1 from March 2008 to December 2014 has for some time been involved in a dispute with U.S. Soccer (the organization which rules professional soccer competition in the U.S.). The team's 5-2 final win over Japan was watched by more than twenty-five million people in the United States, the largest-ever television audience for any English-speaking broadcast of any soccer game, men's or women's. In a federal complaint the players accused U.S. Soccer of wage discrimination because the women earned significantly less money than men playing soccer. It is estimated that the women's national team earns about 25% less than the men despite outperforming the men's national team, and producing nearly \$20 million more in revenue for U.S Soccer than the men's team. The women have filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) about pay discrimination as well as filing a law suit in court against U.S. Soccer for equal pay.

If the U.S. women's soccer team is subject to wage discrimination, the U.S. women's hockey team has been the subject of even more unfair wage inequity and is involved in a wage dispute with USA Hockey its governing organization. Despite being ranked number 1 in the world, players are forced to work one or two other jobs in order to earn a living. They are asking for an annual salary of \$68,000 as well as child care and maternity leave. That would be over and above the cost of equipment, coaching salaries and travel expenses. They also want some sort of program for younger players who have the potential to play at the higher lever. (Players on the men's teams earn a minimum of \$650,000.) After threatening to sit out the upcoming International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship March 31, 2017 which they are favored to win, USA Hockey agreed to a wage settlement, and the women have consented to play.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Although it is not yet available, a potentially more effective shingles vaccine is in development. In the meantime, medical professionals recommend that people over the age of 60 get the currently available shingles vaccine, both pneumonia vaccines and an annual flu shot. Several institutions are currently working hard and long to develop a vaccine against the Zika virus. There is evidence that Zika may cause substantial hearing loss in older adults, and there have been several documented cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome which developed after Zika virus infection of older adults.

### **REGIONAL CONFERENCE FORUM SESSIONS**

Northwest Region, Spearfish, North Dakota, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM on June 29, 2017  
Southwest Region, Honolulu, Hawaii, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM on July 5, 2017  
Northeast Region, Windsor, Ontario, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM on July 12, 2017  
Southeast Region, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM on July 21, 2017

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### **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](tel: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](tel:1-202-456-1111)

**FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS  
ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.**