

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #131, NOVEMBER 2014

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. 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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STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2013

Although the Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013 (S.567, H.R.3118) has been introduced in both houses, it has been referred to a committee and will probably not be acted on in this session of Congress. This act is designed to help Social Security increases keep up with increases or decreases in the cost of living through several sources of information.

ENGLISH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE ACT

In September 2014 H.R. 5473 was introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill would establish English as the US “official” language in all governmental matters. The only exceptions are for (1) religious purposes, (2) language training for international communication, or (3) school programs designed to encourage students to learn foreign languages. I assume this could affect “English as a second language” programs.

OTHER RECENT LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

A surprising number of bills were filed in September 2014. To get more information about specific legislation go to www.congress.gov for bill summaries and full text of the bills.

PROTECTING STUDENTS FROM WORTHLESS DEGREES

An interesting bill introduced in September 2014 is H.R.5572 entitled Protecting Students From Worthless Degrees Act. This bill makes institutions of higher learning ineligible to receive federal funds if the institution does not provide training for specific occupations for which jobs exist, and also directs institutions to help students with job placement in these occupations. This bill is almost certainly the result of young people taking out student loans to attend schools which are making extravagant claims about job opportunities. Then when the student tries to get employment in the field for which he/she was supposedly trained, finding that no jobs are available in the field.

TEACHING RESOURCE

There is an online video available which describes the legislative process
<https://www.congress.gov/legislative-process>. This should be a useful resource for those teaching American government.

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://bit.ly/DKGUSF>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through
Congressional Switchboard 1-866-327-8670 [this is a toll free number]. You can contact
your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

<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.**

