



US FORUM CONNECTION

Volume 2/ Issue 5/ Winter, 2022

In this Issue:

- NLS 2022 Info
- Current Federal Legislation

US FORUM

Barbara Bostwick Quinn, Chair (NY)
barbarabquinn@rochester.rr.com

Representatives
Daphne Cagle, SW (CA)
usforumswrep@gmail.com

Karen Walton, SE (SC)
Kwserforum@gmail.com

Sally Nyhus, NW (MN)
slnyhusdkg@gmail.com

Carol LaPolice, NE (MA)
Carol.lapalice@comcast.net

Join Us for the US Forum National Legislative Seminar March 6-8, 2022

Interested in enhancing your advocacy skills and discussing federal legislative issues that affect women, children and education with Key Women Educators? Attend the 2022 DKG US Forum in Washington, DC.

Participants hear first-hand from informative speakers, focus on the latest legislative issues and have a chance to meet with their Legislators.



The program is designed to enable DKG members to attend informational presentations on March 6-8, 2022 at the Holiday Inn Airport Hotel in Arlington, VA. Shuttle service is available from Reagan International Airport.

Preconference optional tours allow members to tour the D.C. area and include Monuments by Moonlight, a tour of Washington's National Monuments on Saturday, March 5, and an all-day Washington, DC tour of museums and historic sites on Sunday, March 6. Participants will return for the evening conference start up.



Sunday evening March 6 begins the NLS Conference with a dinner and key legislative speaker. **Monday March 7** is a full day event with lunch included that features key speakers, hot legislative topics and a recap of what is happening on the Hill. Participants have the evening to meet with colleagues and time to plan their visitation on the Hill. **Tuesday March 8**, participants have the opportunity, if available, to visit or zoom their representatives along with an alternate program available in the hotel on NETWORK: *Advocates for Justice/Build Anew* focusing on racial and social injustice issues and legislation. Participants will return to the Holiday Inn for a banquet and a speaker who will motivate us to return home and spread our advocacy. Members who wish to stay longer will be granted the conference

rate for additional dates.

The registration links can be found on our website: dkg.usforum.com This includes a link directly to the Holiday Inn for our preferred room rate of \$169. **The DKG rate will only be available until February 20, 2022.**

Participating members are encouraged to set up appointments with their legislators ahead of time.

For registration questions, please contact NLS Registrar **Sally Nyhus at snyhus@gmail.com**. The cost for the full NLS Seminar is \$210. There is a Commuter special of \$140 that is offered to DKG sisters who reside in Virginia, D.C. or Maryland and are commuting for Monday March 7 only. The Monuments by Midnight tour is \$45 and the Discover DC Tour is \$60. Payment can be made online.

Consider Being a Member of the US Forum Steering Committee 2022-24

Join the US Forum as a Steering Committee member. Each member of the US Forum has an equal opportunity to be nominated and elected to a position on the Steering Committee. You will serve a two-year term as Regional Representative or Chair of the Steering Committee.

As the Regional Representative your role will be to help identify and address major issues of concern to the DKG US Forum, and provide current information regarding pending federal legislation affecting women, children and education. In addition, you will work with state US Forum representatives, interested members, and state organization presidents. You will also plan and organize the 2024 National Legislative Seminar.

As a potential candidate, it is important that you are aware of your rights and obligations as the US Forum Regional Representative. We encourage interested members to visit the US Forum website: Operational Guidelines as a source for detailed and up to date information concerning “Duties of Elected Leadership Team Members” and the election process.

The process is simple! Go to the US Forum website at www.dkgusform.com and complete the US Forum Candidate Registration Form and submit it by email to the US Forum Chair Barbara Bostwick-Quinn by May 15, 2022.

If you have questions, contact any member of the US Forum Election Committee. The election for the next US Forum Steering Committee will be held at the 2022 International Convention in New Orleans.

Spread your enthusiasm! Take the next step and apply for a leadership position as the US Forum Steering Committee Chair or as a Regional Representative! Your opportunity to make a difference is here!

Thank you,
The 2020-22 US Forum Election Committee
Terry Flood Kopple, Chair/NE tkopple001@comcast.net
Dr. Stacy Potter, SE dspotter4707@gmail.com
Sherri Wagemann, NW sherriwagemanndkg1@gmail.com
Susan Halliday, SW shalliday3@gmail.com



Education Issues

Schools invest COVID-19 funds in Mental Health

Some US schools are using federal coronavirus relief money (\$190 billion total) to support students' mental health. Districts are providing staff training and wellness screenings, as well as social and emotional learning curricula.

Carolyn Thompson & Heather Hollingsworth of *The Associated Press* and Kalyn Belsha of *Chalkbeat*. “With US aid money, schools put bigger focus on mental health. *Associated Press & Chalkbeat*. November 11, 2021

[With US aid money, schools put bigger focus on mental health \(apnews.com\)](https://www.apnews.com)

How to support middle-schoolers' mental health

MS students are experiencing more mental health challenges, likely worsened by the pandemic and its effects. Experts during a recent conference discussed the issue and a path forward, saying students' voices must be included in the discussion, and students, who also were represented, said they want a safe, welcoming environment to learn.

Liz Willen. “Surrounded by pandemic angst, what do middle schoolers want? A welcoming, safe place to learn.” *Hechinger Report*.

November 16, 2021 [How to quell middle school struggles? A welcoming, safe place to learn \(hechingerreport.org\)](https://hechingerreport.org)

Experts: Conversation improves students' capacity to learn

Stress creates negative brain responses that make it harder for students to learn, but building relationships with them can ease that, write two consultants. They suggest ways to truly tune in to students, discuss how to ask questions that generate thoughtful responses, and share perspectives on ways to frame situations positively.

Cheri Torres & Jackie Stavros. "Tapping conversation to help students learn." *Smart Brief/Education*. November 11, 2021

[Tapping conversation to help students learn | SmartBrief](#)

Schools serving vulnerable students, hit hardest by pandemic, face difficult recovery

A report from McKinsey & Company demonstrates that schools are beginning an uneven COVID recovery process. The main constant of pandemic schooling has been that there is no constant. And those affected most were those with the least constants. Schools serving vulnerable students will have more difficult recoveries.

Sarah Schwartz. "The Pandemic Hit Vulnerable Students Hardest. Now, Schools Have to Reckon with the Effects." *Education Week*.

December 14, 2021

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-pandemic-hit-vulnerable-students-hardest-now-schools-have-to-reckon-with-the-effects/2021/12?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=eml&utm_campaign=eu&M=64245021&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca

Pandemic leads to public meetings being more public

The pandemic forced governments to have all virtual gatherings. There are disadvantages, government leaders say, but a hybrid meeting model might be here to stay.

Katherine Barrett & Richard Greene. "A Pandemic Silver Lining: Public Meetings Have Become More Public." *Route Fifty*. December 14, 2021

<https://www.route-fifty.com/management/2021/12/public-meetings-have-become-more-public-thanks-covid-19/359759/>

Survey: Pandemic takes toll on ELL students

More than 56% of educators who support English-language learners worldwide say the coronavirus pandemic had a significant effect on students' learning, according to a survey by Off2Class, a company that provides resources to English-as-a-second-language educators and serves more than 90,000 students in 120 countries. Of those surveyed, 38.7% said their ELL students should have repeated a grade.

Jo Napolitano. "Survey — 56% of Educators Working with English Learners Say Pandemic Significantly Disrupted Learning; Nearly 4 in 10 Say Students Should Have Repeated Grade." *The 74*. December 6, 2021

<https://www.the74million.org/article/educators-english-language-learners-survey-pandemic-disruption-student-support-retention/>

Youths' symptoms of depression, anxiety doubled during pandemic

The U.S. Surgeon General has issued a public health advisory on the mental health of youths, a warning and call to action to address an emerging crisis exacerbated by the pandemic. Symptoms of depression and anxiety have doubled during the pandemic, with 25% of youths experiencing depression and 20% experiencing anxiety. There are also increases in negative behaviors such as impulsivity and irritability — associated with conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or ADHD. Even before the pandemic, children from all backgrounds faced serious mental health challenges, but nearly two years of disruption took a toll and worsened their mental health — especially for immigrants, students with disabilities and students of color from low-income families. Meanwhile, pandemic-related safety measures reduced in-person interactions among children, friends, social supports and professionals such as teachers, school counselors, pediatricians and child welfare workers. Historically, the problem has been the lack of money to hire counselors. For now, the money is there, but the professionals are not.

Howard Blume and Melissa Gomez, *Los Angeles Times*. "US report: Young people are suffering from crisis of mental health." *Democrat & Chronicle*.

December 9, 2021 <https://rochesterdemocrat-ny.newsmemory.com?selDate=20211209&goTo=A01&artid=1>

Federal communities of practice will support learning

The U.S.E.D. plans to help school systems accelerate learning by establishing communities of practice, one of which will support preparedness for kindergartners.

Kara Arundel. "Ed Dept announces communities of practice to accelerate learning, support kindergartners." *K-12 Dive*. December 3, 2021

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/communities-of-practices-charged-with-accelerating-learning/610921/>



DKG Website <https://www.dkgusforum.com/>

Current Legislation to Follow

H.R. 721 Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2021

This bill provides specific statutory authority for the Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Educational Agency Grant Program that is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program supports school-based mental health services, including screening, treatment, and outreach programs. Sponsor: Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. D/CA-32

Action: Passed House 5/12/21. Latest Action: Senate 5/13/21 Received in Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Keep Updated on Federal Bills and Committee Action

Congress.gov is a great resource. You can manage areas of interest by signing up for Monday alerts. This short video connection shows you how to sign up: <https://www.congress.gov/help/tips/managing-alerts>

Congressional Information

Information regarding your Senators and congressional House Representatives can be found at **Congress.gov**. You have access to their committee assignments, and pertinent information along with upcoming committee reports and bills introduced. It is a valuable source for all.

Opinion: Your voice matters! Write your senators and congress members regarding promoting any of the bills listed. For every 5 constituents they hear from action is taken.



DKG US FORUM
NLS March 6-8, 2022

