



NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR CANCELLED AS COVID-19 HITS

US FORUM CONNECTION

Volume 1/Issue 4

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Philadelphia Forum

US FORUM

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Siobhan "Sam" Bennett

Sam Bennett Keynote Speaker for US Forum in Philly

You are invited to join us **on Saturday, July 11, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the US Forum session** that features **keynote speaker Sam (Siobhan) Bennett**, and elections for the 2020-2022 U.S. Forum Steering Committee.

Our speaker will be Siobhan "Sam" Bennett is the former President/CEO of the Women's Campaign Forum (WCF). In 2008, Sam ran one of the most exciting challenger campaigns for Congress in Pennsylvania's 15th district. Her experience as a female candidate as well as her leadership at WCF has given Sam a wealth of knowledge about the unique experiences of women in politics. Sam has appeared on MSNBC, FOX, and PBS networks as well as quoted in POLITICO and Elect Women Magazine. She is the founder and former Statewide Director/CEO of Properties of Merit of PA, Inc., a non-profit organization that works to spur citizen involvement and "bottom-up" private and public investment in the critical work of revitalizing communities.

New U.S. Report for the World Economic finds Responsibilities Limit Women's Career Choices and Impact their Well-Being

New analysis finds despite women entering the workforce in record numbers, they are more likely to be saddled with housework and caretaking demands compared with men. The Oxfam America-IWPR study finds women in the United States spend 37 percent more time on household and care work than their male counterparts, limiting career choices and economic mobility, and affecting their overall health and well-being. Black and Latina women spend nearly twice as much time on unpaid household and care work as their male counterparts. The gap is widest among younger women. Young women ages 15-24 spend 54 percent more time than men in their peer group on household and care work.

Weak or non-existent family policies, the gender pay gap, and lingering societal attitudes about the roles of women and men in the workplace and at home all contribute to the imbalance. The new research will be presented at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland by Oxfam America in an effort to bring attention to the persistent barriers working women face in entering and staying in the workforce, the need for public and workplace policies that support women and families, and to spur public investments in childcare and the care of older adults.

Interested in Legislation?
U.S. Forum is looking for a dedicated U.S. Connection Editor. For details contact Kathy Davis at Kldavis52@gmail.com

"There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women." Kofi Annan

Kimberly Pfifer Ph.D., Research Director-Oxfam America

[http:// New U.S. Report for the World Economic finds Housekeeping and Caregiving Responsibilities Limit Women's Career Choices and Impact their Well-Being/The Institute for Women's Policy Research \(IWPR\)1.5.20](http://New%20U.S.%20Report%20for%20the%20World%20Economic%20finds%20Housekeeping%20and%20Caregiving%20Responsibilities%20Limit%20Women's%20Career%20Choices%20and%20Impact%20their%20Well-Being/The%20Institute%20for%20Women's%20Policy%20Research%20(IWPR)1.5.20)

The Facts on PFAS / What are They? / Why are they Harmful **Karen Walton, SE US Forum Rep.**

Toxic chemicals known as PFAS have been in the news a lot lately due to their harmful health impacts and widespread contamination of drinking water sources across the country. PFAS can now be found in everyday products like waterproof jackets and nonstick pans. They've also been detected in the drinking water supplies of major cities like New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

Though regulators have been aware of the PFAS crisis for some time, the federal EPA's plan to address PFAS contamination falls far short of what is needed to protect communities.

Key points

1. "PFAS" is short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Chemicals in this class of more than 5,000 substances are found in products like nonstick pans (e.g. "Teflon"), food packaging, waterproof jackets, and carpets to repel water, grease, and stains. They're also used in firefighting foam often used on military bases and at commercial airports. Even personal care products like waterproof mascaras and eyeliners, sunscreen, shampoo, and shaving cream can contain PFAS.
2. PFAS don't easily break down, and they can persist in your body and in the environment for decades. As a result of their pervasiveness, more than 95 percent of the U.S. population has PFAS in their bodies, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
3. According to one senior CDC official, the presence and concentration of PFAS in U.S. drinking water presents "one of the most seminal public health challenges for the next decades."
4. Human health effects from exposure to low environmental levels of PFAS are uncertain. Studies of laboratory animals given large amounts of PFAS have found that some PFAS may affect growth and development, reproduction, thyroid function, the immune system, and injure the liver. Epidemiologic studies have examined a number of health effects, many that are described in Fact Sheets available at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/>. More research is needed to assess the human health effects of exposure to PFAS.

Key Legislation: H.R. 535: PFAS Action Act of 2019- Sponsored by Debbie Dingell, Representative for Michigan's 12th congressional district.

PFAS Action Act of 2019 This bill revises several environmental laws and requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFASs. These substances are man-made and may have adverse human health effects. A variety of products contain the compounds, such as nonstick cookware or weatherproof clothing.

The EPA would be required to (1) revise the Safer Choice Standard of the Safer Choice Program to identify the requirements that specified products (e.g., cooking utensils) must meet in order to be labeled with a Safer Choice label, including a requirement that any such product does not contain a PFAS; or (2) establish a voluntary label available for use by any manufacturer of any specified product that the EPA has reviewed and

found does not contain any PFASs. The Safer Choice Program helps consumers and businesses find products with safer chemical ingredients through Safer Choice labels.

The EPA must investigate methods to prevent contamination by specified PFASs of surface waters, including those used for drinking water.

Status: This bill passed in the House on 1/10/2020 and was sent to the Senate on 1/13/2020. It was read twice and sent to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. *For more information contact Karen Walton at kwserforum@gmail.com*

VOICE YOUR OPINION

Information supplied here is intended to inform you of pending legislation and issues related to women, children, and education. Our intent is to provide you with information to assist you in making an independent decision on the issues and having the option to contact your Legislator regarding your stance.

President seeks emergency coronavirus funding for schools

In the president's proposal, schools would get access to over \$100 million in emergency funding to address the coronavirus. It's one of several plans to address the affects of the virus on education. Andrew Ujifusa. "Trump Seeks Emergency Coronavirus School Funding." *Education Week*. March 18, 2020 <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/03/coronavirus-trump-emergency-school-funding.html?cmp=soceml-twfdbltz-ewnow>

Federal bill would expand US apprenticeships

US lawmakers are considering a reauthorization of the National Apprenticeship Act that would invest about \$400 million in fiscal year 2021 in apprenticeships. The bill would expand pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs and expand diversity in such programs. More people feel that college isn't the only route to success. Delece Smith-Barrow. "Congress gets a proposal to spend \$400 million on creating more apprenticeships." *Hechinger Report*. March 13, 2020 <https://hechingerreport.org/congress-gets-a-proposal-to-spend-400-million-on-creating-more-apprenticeships/>

Schools bolster online security to counter cyberattacks

There have been at least 775 publicly disclosed cyber incidents in K-12 schools since 2016. The number more than doubled between 2018 and 2019, a report shows. This article describe how educators are responding.

Alyson Klein. "Cyberattacks Force Schools to Bolster Online Security." *Education Week*. March 18, 2020 <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/03/18/cyberattacks-force-schools-to-bolster-online-security.html?cmp=enl-enl-eu-news2&M=59139018&U=252955&UUID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>

Current Senate Education Legislation

S.3054 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**State-based Education Loan Awareness Act, Sponsor:** Sen. Murkowski, Lisa (R-AK) **Cosponsors:** (5)**Committees:** Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Latest Action: Senate - 12/16/2019 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. **Summary:** *A summary in progress.*

S.885 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**GAAME Act of 2019 (Guarantee Access to Arts and Music Education Act of 2019)****Sponsor:** Sen. Tester, Jon (D MT) **Cosponsors:** (2)**Committees:** Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Latest Action: Senate - 03/26/2019 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. **Summary:** *This bill specifies that funds that support the instructional needs of elementary and secondary students from low-income families shall be used for arts and music programs.*

S.1204 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**Higher Education Mental Health Act of 2019** **Sponsor:** Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. (D-PA) **Cosponsors:** (5)**Committees:** Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Latest Action: Senate - 04/11/2019 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. **Summary:** *A summary is in progress.*

H.R.2486 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**FUTURE Act (Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education Act)****Sponsor:** Rep. Adams, Alma S. (-NC-12) (Introduced 05/02/2019) **Cosponsors:** (28)**Committees:** House - Education and Labor **Latest Action: Senate - passed 12/09/2019 sent to the House**

This bill requires the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to disclose certain tax return information to the Department of Education (ED) for the purpose of administering financial aid and loan programs. Upon receiving a request from ED, the IRS must disclose specified tax return information to ED for the purposes of

- establishing enrollment, renewing enrollment, administering, and conducting analyses and forecasts for estimating costs related to income-contingent or income-based repayment programs;
- discharging loans based on a total and permanent disability;
- determining the eligibility for, and the amount of, federal student financial aid; and
- conducting analyses and forecasts for estimating costs related to federal student financial aid programs.

ED may only use the disclosed information for the purposes above and for mitigating risks related to the programs. Mitigation of risks includes conducting oversight and reducing improper payments. It does not include conducting criminal investigations or prosecutions. With the consent of the taxpayer, ED may disclose the return information to certain institutions of higher education, state higher education agencies, and scholarship organizations solely for the use in financial aid programs. The bill specifies notification and reporting requirements related to the disclosures and the implementation of the bill. The bill also permanently extends funding for minority-serving institutions of higher education and increases funding for Pell Grants.

Opinion: Postcards that matter



Write your senators regarding promoting any of the bills listed. For every 5 continuants they hear from action is taken.

To learn more about your legislators, what committees they serve on, floor proceedings and what issues they are supporting, use these links: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives and <http://www.senate.gov/> members of the U.S. Senate. White House 1-202-456-1111.

Reminder: Philadelphia Forum Event Embracing Diversity- Input needed

This July at the International Convention, the chairs from the Canadian, European, Latin American, and the United States Forum will participate in a Forum Event, "Embracing Diversity" on Wednesday, July 8 at 11:30 a.m. There will be a guest speaker will deliver remarks as it relates to our Society. President Cathy Daugherty has asked each forum chair to work together to prepare a presentation. As U.S. Forum Chair, I would like your input on the following questions.

1. **What does diversity mean to you?**
2. **What current issues regarding diversity are of concern to your members?**
3. **What initiatives are being undertaken by state organizations and chapters?**

Please respond to these questions in an email to Kathy Davis, US Forum chair at kldavis52@gmail.com. We are also interested in what the state is doing. We appreciate receiving your information back no later than **June 1**. This will give us time to compile the information for the US Forums portion of this event.

Kathy Davis, Chair, United States Forum – DKG/405.659.5089/www.usforumdkg.org