



US FORUM CONNECTION

Volume 1/Issue 2

In this Issue

NLS 2020 Speakers
Voice Your Opinion
Postcards That Matter

US FORUM

Kathy Davis, Chair (OK)
Kldavis52@gmail.com

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

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

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

Barbara Bostwick Quinn, NE (NY)
Interim Editor
barbarabquinn@rochester.rr.com

Website: usforumdkg.org

JOIN US FOR NLS 2020

Chair Kathy Davis and the US Forum Representatives invite you to the 2020 National Legislative Seminar at the Holiday Inn National Airport, Crystal City, Arlington, VA.

National Legislative Seminar

March 15-18, 2020

Sunday 3.15.20 Be Informed

NLS kicks off Sunday, March 15 with our key speaker **Jen Thompson**, Executive Director of Lighthouse for Life. Jen will discuss the progress Lighthouse is making in accomplishing their mission of raising awareness about the realities of human trafficking while restoring victims to wholeness. World Population review 2020 estimates that there are 199,000 reported cases of Human Trafficking in the United States reported annually. Jen will share information and actions that we can take to advocate for legislation regarding Human Trafficking, it's victims and assistance for them.



Jen Thompson, Executive Director of Lighthouse for Life

Monday 3.16.20 Strengthen Your Advocacy Skills

Monday's schedule continues with nationally known speakers, hot topics, advocacy skills. Participants will receive a treasure-trove of hands on information to assist you in making an impact with legislators and change. Nationally known speakers Brandon Graham and Dakota Jablon will be among the gifted presenters. **Brandon Graham** advocates for meaningful mental health policy at NAMI—the National Alliance on Mental Illness. In his work at NAMI, Brandon collaborates closely with the Alliance's state and local leaders to engage grassroots mental health advocates in communities across the country. His current efforts have focused on expanding early psychosis treatment and preparing the NAMI field to engage in the 2020 election. **Dakota Jablon**, Director of Federal Affairs of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence will share her passion and advocacy while promoting evidence-based policies that destigmatize the association between gun violence and mental illness. Topics and additional speakers include advocacy tips and current legislative action.

Tuesday 3.17.20 Take Action on the Hill

Travel to the Hill, listen to the latest information from the House Committee on Education & the Workforce. Attend congressional sessions and meet with your legislator. Use your voice to advocate for legislative changes. Listen to key committee issues. Visit your Representative or Senator and have your concerns and voice heard. Use your advocacy skills in person.

Wednesday 3.18.20 Planning Your Next Step Listen to a panel of DKG members and what they are doing with legislation. Hear from a national speaker on how to use your skills to advocate and more.

Register for NLS Online at <http://bit.ly/2Uhz2f>. Early registration deadline Feb. 10, 2020. More information can be found at usforumdkg.org



L.: Brandon Graham of NAMI; R: Dakota Jablon of Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

Why advocate?

“Unless someone like you cares a whole lot.

Nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

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.

Opinion: Education a key 2020 issue

Among all 16 issues in a December Gallup poll regarding issues in the 2020 presidential race, education had the second-highest share of people rating it as "extremely important" and "very important" at 83%. Education was one of five issues rated as "extremely important" by adults, along with health care, terrorism and national security, gun policy, and the economy. [Andrew Ujifusa. "Poll Points to Education as Key 2020 Issue, Especially for Democrats. But Hang On." Education Week. January 15, 2020 <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/01/education-key-issue-2020-poll-especially-democrats.html?cmp=eml-enl-eunews2&M=59021424&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca>](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/01/education-key-issue-2020-poll-especially-democrats.html?cmp=eml-enl-eunews2&M=59021424&U=252955&UID=dcf379af08119fa8d853cdc6f688bfca)

Fact: Legislation to Follow: S.1578, The Do Not Track Act, introduced and read twice on 5.21.19. S. 1578 has been referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. This bill would require companies to limit data collection on Americans who check a setting in their web browsers or install a special app on their phones. It would also impose hefty fines on companies that, after people opt-out, continue the controversial but pervasive practice of collecting broad data about consumers' browsing activity or building highly customized profiles about them. Such profiles are commonly used to serve targeted advertisements. ["S>1578-116th Congress: The Do Not Track Act" www.Congress.gov](http://www.Congress.gov)

Fact: S. 3245: A bill to advance STEM education, provide for improved worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes, introduced on 1/28/2020 read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension. This bill would look to funding for STEM education to assistance in training of workers in the field. Follow its process on [www. Congress.gov](http://www.Congress.gov) and [www.govtrackus](https://www.govtrackus.com/congress/bills/s3245) ["S.3245-116th Congress: A bill to advance STEM education, provide for improved worker training, retention and advancement, and..."www.GovTrackus.2020.January 29, 2020<https://www.govtrackus.com/congress/bills/s3245>](https://www.govtrackus.com/congress/bills/s3245)

Opinion: Postcards that matter!



WOMENS' RIGHTS AND THE ERA The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first introduced in 1923. The text reads as follows: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." The Virginia legislature on 1.15.2020, became the 38th state to ratify the ERA for inclusion in the U.S. Constitution. The Dept. of Justice has ruled that the deadline for the ERA has expired. On 1.7.2020, the League of Women Voters wrote a letter to leadership in the House and Senate urging them to remove the ratification deadline on the ERA by passing **S.J. Res. 6** and **H.J. Res. 79**. "The year 2020 marks significant anniversaries for the League of Women Voters and the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Furthering equality by removing the deadline on the ERA would be a fitting tribute to those that fought so hard to ensure that women had the right to vote 100 years ago." <https://www.lwv.org/lwvus-urges-house-and-senate-remove-ratification-deadline-equal-rights-amendment> Let's join the League of Women Voters and tell our elected officials that 97 years is too long to wait for equality under the law. **If you are interested** in contacting legislators to remove the ratification deadline on the ERA by passing **S.J.Res.6**, contacts would be: Senator Mitch McConnell, 317 Russell SOB, Washington, DC 20510 and Senator Chuck Schumer, 322 Hart SOB, Washington, DC 20510 . For H.J. Res. 79, contact Speaker Nancy Pelosi, 1236 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515 and Hon. Kevin McCarthy, 2468 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515. <https://www.lwv.org/league-expresses-support-removal-era-ratification-deadline>

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/> for members of the U.S. Senate. White House 1-202-456-1111.

Interested in Legislation, passionate about information and issues? Consider joining the U.S. Forum as the U.S. Connection Newsletter Editor. For more information contact Chair Kathy Davis at Kldavis52@gmail.com. Applications can be found at usforumdkg.org