



US FORUM CONNECTION

Volume 1/Issue 3

In this Issue

NLS 2020
Voice Your Opinion
Postcards That Matter
Philadelphia Forum

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)
slnyhusdkg@gmail.com

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

Website: usforumdkg.org

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

Register for NLS

Online at

<http://bit.ly/2UHaz2f>.

Early registration is still open until March 15, 2020. More

information can be found at usforumdkg.org



Lisa Maatz

communications, and field mobilization at all levels. She has led several successful, multifaceted coalition efforts for addressing such issues as getting out the women's vote, equal pay, violence against women, educational equity and Title IX, workplace opportunity and advancement, retirement security, work-life balance, and women's leadership.

Gayle Seymour promotes ERA and Advocacy for the Arts

Gayle Seymour has a dedicated interest in Legislation that affects Women and the arts. A strong supporter of ERA and champion of the arts, she is currently and Associate Dean and Professor at the University of Central Arkansas. Gayle received her Ph.D. from University of California in Santa Barbara. She will share her perspective on women turning their passion into advocacy in ERA and legislative funding for the arts. A professor at the University of Central Arkansas since 1986, Dr. Seymour teaches courses in 19th- and 20th-century American and European art history. A specialist in British and American art, her research interests include Pre-Raphaelite painting, Depression-era post office murals, and women artists. Dr. Seymour received the 1993 UCA Teaching Excellence Award and the 2016 UCA Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Award. In 1998, the Carnegie Foundation named her U.S. Professor of the Year. For the past 13 years, Dr. Seymour has served as the associate dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication where, among other duties, she coordinates the Artists in Residence program, which typically brings more than one hundred free arts events—concerts, exhibits, master classes, screenings, readings, etc.—to UCA students and the Conway community each year. Her accomplishments in this role include writing and receiving major grants for special projects from the National Endowment for the Arts, MAP Fund, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Arkansas Arts Council, Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Delta Kappa Gamma, and Dorothy Morris Foundation to fund projects such as the commission of the *Little Rock Nine* opera and the upcoming Suffrage Centennial Celebration.



Gayle Seymour

JOIN US FOR NLS 2020

Chair Kathy Davis and the member of the US Forum Invite you to the 2020 National Legislative Seminar in the Holiday Inn National Airport, Crystal City, Arlington, VA.

**National Legislative Seminar
March 15-18, 2020**

Lisa Maatz returns to NLS

Lisa Maatz brings her passion for advocacy for women to our members as she assists us in navigating through the 116th congress and legislation. She will share her expert commentary on social, political and policy matters. Maatz has a reputation for her strategic approach to gender issues, public policy,

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: Youth mental health and restorative justice among top education issues

an escalation in the youth mental health crisis, experiments in restorative justice and debates about no-homework policies were among the main topics in education last year. This article outlines how these issues, and others, might play out in 2020 and their effect on students and educators. [Kanoë Namahoe. "On the pulse of 2020." Smart Brief/Education. January 27, 2020 <https://smartbrief.com/original/2020/01/pulse-2020>](#)

Fact: Three youth mental health bills currently awaiting a summary on process

H.R.1395 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**Youth Mental Health Services Act of 2019**. Sponsor: Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1] **Cosponsors:** (7) A summary is in process. **Current Action:** House - 02/27/2019 Introduced and Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

H.R.4420 — 116th Congress (2019-2020) **Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act**. Sponsor: Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14] (Introduced 09/19/2019) **Cosponsors:** (15) A summary is in process. **Current Action:** House - 09/19/2019 Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support.

H.R.5469 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act of 2019** Sponsor: Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12] (Introduced 12/17/2019) **Cosponsors:** (17) A summary is in process. **Current Action:** House - 12/17/2019 Introduced and Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

["H.R.4420 — 116th Congress \(2019-2020\) Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act. H.R.5469 — 116th Congress \(2019-2020\) Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act of 2019" <congress.gov>](#)

Opinion: More public-school students are homeless

More than 1.5 million public-school students in the US were homeless during the 2017-18 school year, up 11% from the year before, according to federal data. Texas and Florida had the largest increases. And while the number of homeless students increased, the number of those staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing declined. [Lauren Camera. "More Students Are Homeless Than Ever Before." U.S. News & World Report. January 30, 2020](#)

Fact: Homeless Youth Legislation

H.R.2001 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2019**, Sponsor: Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15] **Cosponsors:** (19) This bill modifies definitions relating to homeless individuals and homeless children or youth as used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to verify eligibility for HUD homeless assistance programs and to align them with the definitions of "homeless" used to verify eligibility for other federal assistance programs. The definitions are amended to increase access to federal homeless programs by homeless children, youth, and families. The community-wide homeless management information system shall be made publicly available on HUD's website. **Current Action:** House - 04/01/2019 Introduced and Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee.

H.R.5191 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2019**, Sponsor: Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3] **Cosponsors:** (32) A summary is in progress. **Current Action:** House - 11/20/19 Introduced, 01/14/2020 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 28 - 19.

S.2916 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)**Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2019**, Sponsor: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT] **Cosponsors:** (2) A summary is in progress. **Current Action:** Senate - 11/20/19 Introduced and Read twice

and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. "[H.R.2001 — 116th Congress \(2019-2020\)Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2019](#)[H.R.5191 — 116th Congress \(2019-2020\)Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2019](#)[S.2916 — 116th Congress \(2019-2020\)Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2019.](#)"<[Congress.gov](#)>

The Protect SNAP Act

The Protect SNAP Act overturns the Agriculture Department's 2018 rule, once again allowing states more flexibility and freedom to halt work requirements for SNAP food stamp recipients. The bill was originally introduced in the House later the same day as the Agriculture Department's rule, in December 2018. The current version was introduced on December 6 last year as bill number H.R. 5349, by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT3). "[H.R. 5349 — 116th Congress: Protect SNAP Act.](#)" [www.GovTrack.us. 2019. February 17, 2020](#)
<<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr5349>>

Opinion: Postcards that matter



Current Legislation National support for Congressman Richie Neal's WEP reform bill, H.R.4540 continues to grow. Across the country, 33 public employee unions, associations and retirement advocacy groups now support the passage of H.R.4540 - including the influential national firefighter and teacher unions.

Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). H.R.4540 — 116th Congress (2019-2020)Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, Sponsor: Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-1] (Introduced 09/27/2019) Cosponsors: (124) A summary is in progress Current Action: House - 09/27/2019 Introduced and Referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security Consider sending a postcard supporting this bill. to Chair John Larson (CT), Ranking member Tom Reed (NY) U.S. House of Representatives , 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 at "[H.R. 4540-116th Congress: Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act.](#)" [www.GovTrack.us.2019.February 16, 2020](#)<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr4540>

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.

Philadelphia Forum Event Embracing Diversity- Input needed

DKG members,

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.

We also extend an invitation to the US Forum Event on Saturday, July 11th from 2:00 0 4:00 p.m. in Philadelphia. Thank you for your time and all you do for DKG-

Kathy Davis, Chair, United States Forum - DKG
4056595089/www.usforumdkg.org