



Spring 2025
<https://dkgusforum.org/>

U.S. Forum Connection

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

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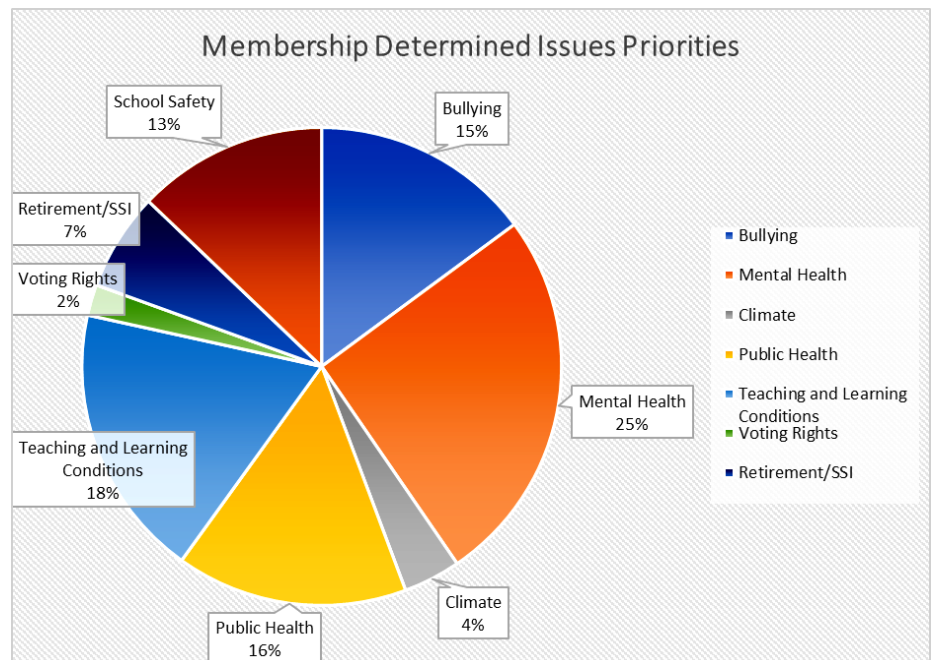
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We asked, you said, and we listened!

A big thank you to all members who provided their feedback through our Member Interest Survey that closed in February. Your voices will direct the work of the U. S. Forum during this biennium, and as you can see from the chart below, you have determined that our top three focus areas will be:

1. **Educator/Student Mental Health** including the impact of social media, and drug abuse and addiction.
2. **Teaching and Learning Conditions**, including social media literacy, parental rights/involvement in education, curriculum and instruction, privatization of public schools, educator recruitment and retention.
3. **Public Health** including poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity; racism as a public health crisis; human trafficking, violence against women; and women's/senior health and caregiving.



Results for your state have been forwarded to your State Organization President and the results by region have been sent to the Regional Directors. Analyzing results for the survey should prompt some interesting discussions for each state.

The U.S. Forum has already begun its work in these high priority areas, and we look forward to providing you with updates at our International Conference in New Orleans this summer.

Live on ZOOM

May 21, 2025
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm CDT
 Registration required to receive the Zoom link

DKG U.S. Forum

Presents

ENGAGING your LEGISLATORS!

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO MAKE LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS EASY

AN ONLINE DISCUSSION FACILITATED BY
 ★ PAT BENNETT-FORMAN
 FORUM STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/Ee-EFx4nQom7N2ScEJTk4Q>

Start a Legislative Action Day in Your State

A few state DKG organizations provide their members the opportunity to discuss state level bills and to meet with their state representatives to advocate for bills they support (or against bills they oppose). Because so much education-related legislation is at the state level, these Action Days are a powerful tool for member engagement.

You can learn the steps to complete in order to have a successful Legislative Action Day in your state by attending the Forum sponsored workshop on August 1, 2025 in New Orleans at the DKG International Conference. "Planning a Legislative Action Day for Your State" will feature a panel of representatives who lead their state event. Kathy Kinley (CA), Judith Olson (IA), Diane Schrier (VA), Carrie Frye (FL) and moderator April Coleman (AZ) will present strategies for sponsoring effective Legislative Action Days, including details about activities, timelines, and best practices. DKG member states can empower members to advocate and demonstrate to prospective members that DKG is a voice for them with legislators. This workshop is appropriate for both novice and experienced advocates. Come share in the discussion.



You are invited . . .

Friday, August 1, 2025 1:45—2:45 p.m.
2025 DKG National Convention
New Orleans

Planning a Legislative Action Day for Your State

A PANEL OF DKG STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRS FROM CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, IOWA, VIRGINIA AND ARIZONA WILL PRESENT STRATEGIES FOR SPONSORING EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS TO EMPOWER MEMBERS TO ADVOCATE AND DEMONSTRATE TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS THAT DKG IS A VOICE FOR THEM WITH LEGISLATORS. GET THE DETAILS, PLANS, TIMELINES AND TIPS FOR STARTING YOUR OWN STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY! APPROPRIATE FOR NOVICE AND EXPERIENCED ADVOCATES.

Forum Website Resource Section provides tools for advocacy activities

The new U.S. Forum website offers a Resource page that lists popular websites, provides templates and examples of tools to make advocacy easier, and ideas for chapters to use to teach advocacy skills to member.

<https://www.dkgusforum.org/resources>

National Legislative Seminar (NLS) 2026 announced



Mark your calendars and save the date! The 2026 National Legislative Seminar has been scheduled for

March 8-11, 2026.

Main workshop sessions will take place at the hotel in Alexandria, Virginia where rooms await participants at the Embassy Suites Old Town by Hilton. There will also be events in nearby Washington, D.C., and, of course, the opportunity to meet with your Congressional representatives "on the hill."

The National Legislative Seminar (NLS) is an experience of a lifetime. Participants listen to speakers on top legislative issues (as identified by Forum members). They learn or refine their advocacy skills, meet with colleagues from across the country to share common concerns and discuss possible solutions or positions, and practice their skills by visiting legislators with a team from their state or other DKG colleagues.

NLS also affords participants the opportunity to visit D.C. museums and historical sights, to walk the halls of Congress and to get first-hand experience in how bills become laws.

There is time set aside to tour Old Town Alexandria using the free Old Town shuttle or to ride the metro to D.C. Some participants like to arrive early or stay late to fully experience the nation's capital.

Plan on attending! Updates on speakers, hotel reservations, how to best prepare for the Seminar and the in-person meetings with legislators can be found in the coming months on the U.S. Forum website:

<https://www.dkgusforum.org/NLS>

Guidelines Amendments

Notice: as is required by the Operating Guidelines for the U.S. Forum (2021 ed.), all amendments proposed to the Guidelines must be made accessible to Forum members on its website not later than 60 days prior to the annual U.S. Forum meeting held at International convention or conferences.

That meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 2025 at the DKG International Conference in New Orleans from 1:00—3:00 p.m.

A copy of all proposed amendments may be found on the DKG U.S. Forum website after May 20, 2025. The proposed amendments may be downloaded for member review. On that same website is a copy of the current Operational Guidelines.

<https://dkgusforum.org/guidelines>.

Questions may be sent to the Steering Committee at the Forum email address: dkgu.s.forum@gmail.com

Forum meeting invite

Every DKG member in the United States and Puerto Rico is a member of the DKG U.S. Forum and you all are invited to the annual meeting scheduled for 1:00—3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 2, 2025 at the DKG Conference in New Orleans.



U.S. Forum News

The Need for Consensus

The heart of U.S. Forum work is to effectively advocate for issues determined by members to be a priority, to represent the interests of our members—future, current and former educators—with legislators and other decision makers. Because DKG and, hence the U.S. Forum, is a not-for-profit 501(c) 6 organization, it is mandated that we remain non-partisan in that advocacy work. Further, it is required that any positions we take in advocating are the result of thorough study and consensus building by our members.

The current Forum Guidelines do not provide clear direction on how the organization should reach consensus on positions. The Steering Committee is proposing two amendments to the Guidelines to clarify the consensus-building process.

The first amendment requires that the Steering Committee propose a process for consensus building that is to be approved by the members attending the annual Forum meeting at either convention or conferences. It further specifies a requirement that the process include the input of state and chapters.

The second amendment identifies a process for states, chapters, or individual members to propose resolutions or positions to be considered for adoption by the Forum membership. Such resolutions in the past were submitted by interested states but without any procedures for submission or adoption. Examples include the Mental Health for Educational Staff resolution passed at the New Orleans Convention in 2022, the Anti-Bullying Resolution of 2018, and the Support for Music Education in 2012. Prior resolutions supported the Lilly Ledbetter Act, the Establishment of the National Women’s Museum, and so on.

By adopting a formal process for introducing positions and/or resolutions, it will be possible for any member to make a proposal. The process is transparent and open to the membership.

The exact language of these two amendments may be found on the Forum website, along with other recommended changes to the Guidelines, after May 20, 2025. See <https://dkgusforum.org>.

All amendments to the Guidelines will be considered and voted upon at the annual meeting of the Forum to be held on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at the DKG Conference in New Orleans. According to current Guidelines, a majority vote of members present is required to pass any amendment.

Questions about proposed amendments may be directed to Forum Regional Representatives or to the Steering Committee chair through email at dkgu.s.forum@gmail.com. A Q&A zoom will also be scheduled in mid-July to afford members the opportunity to seek clarification on the proposed amendments.

Amendments go into effect immediately following adoption. If the amendment is adopted, it will be used to consider any resolutions brought forward in August, 2025.

Legislation to Watch (and act upon)

The 119th Congress is in full swing and based on the responses received from the Member Issue Survey, we believe these are the current Federal Bills to Watch. If you would like to read the language of a bill or if you want to track its progress, please go to www.congress.gov. You can also use that address to share your views with your Congressional representatives.

| House Committee | On Workforce | | | April 30, 2025 |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------|------------|---|
| Bill Number | Bill Title | Sponsor | Introduced | Status |
| HR305 | One School, One Nurse Act of 2025 | Fredrica Wilson, D-FL-27 | 1/9/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce and Committee on Energy and Commerce |
| HR369 | States' Education Reclamation Act of 2025 | David Rouzer, R-NC-7 | 1/13/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce |
| HR581 | Child Care Workforce and Facilities Act of 2025 | Josh Harder-D-CA-9 | 1/21/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce |
| HR711 | FAIR Act of 2025 | Thomas Tiffany, R-WI-7 | 1/23/2025 | Referred to Committees on the Judiciary, on Oversight and Government Reform, on Education and Workforce |
| HR728 | Expanding Head Start Eligibility Act | John Garamendi, D-CA-8 | 1/24/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce |
| HR811 | Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2025 | Janice Schakowsky, D-IL-9 | 1/28/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce |
| HR838 | A PLUS Act | John Moolenaar, R-MI-2 | 1/31/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce |
| HR847 | BLOCK Act | Tim Burchett, R-TN-2 | 1/31/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce |
| | | | | |

Cont. on p. 5

Legislation to Watch (and act upon)*cont. from p. 4*

| House Committee | on Education & Workforce | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|------------|--|
| Bill Number | Bill Title | Sponsor | Introduced | Status |
| HR869 | Keep our PACT Act | Susie Lee, D-NV-3 | 1/31/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce and Committee on the Budget |
| HR899 | To terminate the Department of Education. | Thomas Massie, R-KY-4 | 1/31/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce |
| HR 3262 | Demonstration grants to increase the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools. | Jennifer Kiggans, | 5/7/2025 | Referred to Committee on Education and Workforce |
| HR 3308 | Address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes. | Haley M. Stevens | 05/08/2025 | Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce |
| Senate Committee | on Education, Labor & Pensions | | | |
| Bill Number | Bill Title | Bill Sponsor | Introduced | |
| S169 | Child Care Workforce and Facilities Act of 2025 | Amy Klobuchar, D-MN | 1/21/2025 | Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions |
| S235 | Apprenticeship Pathways Act of 2025 | Martin Heinrich, D-NM | 1/23/2025 | Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions |

Advocacy Updates and Legislative Alerts

While generally legislation moves at glacial rates, there are times when things heat up, creating short timelines for submitting input to your Congressional representatives. If you would like to receive advocacy updates and legislative alerts via e-mail, please let your Forum Steering Committee know. We will add you to our contact list. You can complete the form on the website (<https://www.dkgusforum.org>) or

Email your request to: dkgu.s.forum@gmail.com

Subject line: Advocacy Updates Contact List

Give your name, state and best email address for reaching you.

Getting in-close and personal with your Legislator

Many adults are intimidated by the idea of advocating with their legislators. Legislators are perceived to be “persons of power” and authority. Some find the idea of approaching them to be presumptuous or, at the very least, a task that someone with more authority should undertake. But, in fact, legislators are OUR EMPLOYEES and, as such, are required to attend to their constituents and to take constituent input under consideration in their voting on bills in Congress. As a constituent, you have a SUPER POWER once you learn to use it.

Southeast Regional Representative Peggy Monroe has been engaged in in-person contacts with her legislators for many years, but it wasn't always an easy thing for her to do. Peggy tells us to think about those meetings as an opportunity to have a conversation, to let your legislator get to know you and your interests and concerns. She says:

Share your story. Your representatives want to know how bills affect you. I recently visited Capitol Hill advocating for Veterans' mental health. Twenty-four veterans are committing suicide daily. My husband is a Vietnam Veteran. He spent three years in the war. He is suffering from PTSD and is now 100% disabled. I shared with my legislator the affects on my family as we were exposed to my husband's mental health issues. I even told my representative that he was writing a book on his experiences, and the staffer requested I send him a copy. The more personal you can make your visit the better. These representatives are in office for the people and to serve. They are ordinary people.

Peggy shared the lessons she has learned over the years to help make her comfortable in meeting with her legislative representatives. They make an excellent tool for anyone ready to take the step to meet in-person to advocate for her position on issues of concern.

- *Schedule a meeting with your members of Congress by finding their contact information on their official website or House.gov or Senate.gov.*
- *Call either their district office and ask to speak with their scheduler, or fill out a meeting request form on their website. Be sure to clearly state the purpose of your visit and the specific person you wish to meet with (either the Staff member or the member themselves).*
- *Be on time. The legislator and their staff usually have busy schedules.*
- *Prepare your message ahead of time. Keep it concise and brief as you deliver your message. Stick to the point.*
- *Make your message personal, how the passage of a bill would affect you and your state.*
- *Leave information on your position related to the bill with the Congressman or staff member and state what you want the legislator to do.*
- *Follow up with a thank you note.*

The Connection is a publication of the U.S. Forum, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. It is published quarterly and distributed to all DKG members in the United States. The U.S. Forum purposes are to inform members and to support desirable legislation in the interests of education and women educators. To submit articles or if you have questions, contact Peggy Monroe, 2024-2026 editor, at dkgu.s.forum@gmail.com.