



## US Forum Northeast Region Update January, 2019



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### Welcome to 2019 and the start of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

The new Congress brings a record number of women and minority representatives. It is the most racially diverse Congress. Women who are 51% of the United States Population make up 25% of the Senate and 23% of the House. 102 women will serve in the House and 25 in the Senate. The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress will serve from January 3, 2019 to January 3, 2021.

The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress (January 3, 2017-January 3, 2019) enacted 427 laws and passed 758 Resolutions. In 2018, 97 Bills passed into law.

### Why US Forum Updates?

US Forum’s role is to inform members on legislation that effects women, children and education so that they can make informed decisions. Actions based on information provided are at the discretion of the individual. DKG is nonpartisan and neutral on issues.

**How Can I get involved? Our website is [usforum.org](http://usforum.org).** Join the US Forum Facebook page [Facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum](https://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum). Follow us on Twitter [[dkg\\_us](https://twitter.com/dkg_us)] and Instagram [[dkg\\_usforum](https://www.instagram.com/dkg_usforum/)]. Sign up for the *US Forum Connection*, a free monthly newsletter by emailing Dr. Angela O. Bedenbaugh at [Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com](mailto:Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com).

### Legislation 2019

As the new Congress starts there are a few items that you might want to support:

#### Violence Against Women Act

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013) amended the VAWA Act of 1994. The program provided grants to states for programs that provided programs to prevent violence against women and provide services for victims of violence. The 2013 program addressed victims evicted from their homes because of events related to domestic violence and stalking; rape crisis centers; programs that assisted immigrant women and women of different races or ethnicities; victims with disabilities; legal aid for domestic violence survivors and was expanded to include the LGBT and Native American populations. 115th Congress allowed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to expire. Since Congress first passed VAWA 24 years ago, the program has funded prevention programs like the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which has received more than 4 million calls since its launch, and hundreds of nonprofit organizations and social service programs that provide housing, counseling and legal aid to survivors of violence.

**H.R. 1: RESTORE OUR DEMOCRACY (02)** H.R. 1, the first bill of 2019, focuses on election reform. In the last Congress, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) worked on bills aimed at preventing foreign intervention in elections.



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**If you are interested in promoting this legislation-** you can contact your Congressional Representative and voice your support. Encourage them to take action. You can find your legislative representative's address and information at [congress.gov](http://congress.gov)

## Legislative Actions 101

Bills introduced into Legislation begin with an introduction to the floor. They are then sent to a committee before being sent to the House or Senate to act upon. Steps include: Introduction and Referral of the Bill; Committee Consideration; Calendars and Scheduling; House Floor; Senate Floor; Resolving Differences; and Presidential Action. There is a short video at [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) that does an excellent job of outlining each step.

## Website Information



Some websites you might be interested in exploring:

**Gov.track.us** An excellent resource for finding information about your Congressional Representatives and Congress. You can sign up to get alerts on legislative actions, information on bills and status; committee work. It's a great way to get updated on what is going on.

**Opensecrets.org** The Center for Responsive Politics is a nonprofit, nonpartisan Washington DC based research group that tracks the effects of money and lobbying on elections and public policy. It is a public online database that enables interested members to view data and statistics that are useful in speaking about legislative issues.

**www.cawp.rutgers.edu** CAWP: Center for American Women and Politics. Provides research and education issues on women, legislation and politics.

**pewresearch.org** The Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that follows issues, attitudes and trends. They are often cited in various media reports.



## Save the Date!

**Join us August 1, 2019 for the US Forum at the DKG International Global Awareness Conference in Mashantucket, CT;** Join us for the National Legislative Seminar March 15-18, 2020 in Washington DC. *Further information can be found at [USForumdkg.org](http://USForumdkg.org)*

**Please feel free to share this information. If you would like have email updates on pending Federal Legislation or Information on your state legislation, feel free to contact me at [barbarabquinn@rochester.rr.com](mailto:barbarabquinn@rochester.rr.com) Barbara**

*"Surely, in the light of history, it is more intelligent to hope rather than to fear, to try rather than not try. For one thing we know beyond all doubt: Nothing has ever been achieved by the person who says, "It can't be done." Eleanor Roosevelt*