

## Members Support Members - the Society



National Legislative Seminar  
March 13-16, 2016  
Washington, D. C.



Laughter and learning were key elements as seminar attendees gathered in Washington, D. C. to discuss issues facing children, women and education. The U.S. Forum advocates on issues in non-partisan ways. Speakers came in person or via digital presentations to address the current issues:

### Pay Equity

### Bullying and Cyberbullying

### ESSA-Every Student Succeeds Act-new education law

### Human Trafficking

### Mental Health

**On Tuesday morning, attendees gathered in a Senate hearing room for briefings by staffers working on education and workforce topics. Then they went individually or in groups to visit the elected officials/staffers from their legislative districts and states.**

**Wednesday morning representatives from the four US regions shared their experiences on THE HILL. All had found a warm welcome, an attentive listener and a person with whom to continue the exchange of questions and insights on pertinent topics after all return home.**

**One lesson that was shared with attendees and which we share with you now--"Tell your story." The personal stories will be remembered and cause the legislator to listen, to react and to act. Write your story and share it on paper, digitally, on the phone or in person on issues for which you have concerns and ideas of resolution and betterment.**



courtesy of Phyllis E. VanBuren

NW representatives at NLS:

Geri Benshoof (AK), Carolyn Linscott (WA), Sally Nyhus (MN), Keitha Bryson (WA), Darlene Cook (OR), Phyllis E. VanBuren (MN)

## What are the Issues?

- Many females still earn \$0.79 while males earn \$1.00. Among minority groups, the disparity is even greater. While teachers have a pay scale, females often do not receive the extra duty or the full-time contract, earning less than male teachers.
- Teachers and parents need to learn to identify the warning signs of bullying and cyberbullying--avoidance of social media/hiding devices, withdrawal--in order to intervene. 43% of students have been bullied online. While the focus is on the attacks on young people, bullying occurs in the workplace too. 30% of teachers were bullied at school in the past 12 months.
- ESSA became law in December 2015. Testing criteria returns to the states, and states must convene panels of stakeholders to determine the logistics and purpose of high-stakes testing. Personal data are not to be collected on children. States will determine and implement policies and procedures for teacher evaluation.
- As those who attended the U.S. Forum in Regina heard about the agony of the victims of trafficking, seminar attendees heard the story of a woman who had suffered as a victim for years before trying to regain her life. Currently, a typical price for a victim is \$19.00. (nineteen, no zeros missing)
- Well-being, including mental health, and addictive practices could be addressed by the states as they work to write a framework of ESSA for their state in the provision for addressing special needs of students.

Have you registered for Nashville ?

*Phyllis*