



**February 26, 2015**

Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) February 2015 e-newsletter:

### **WiLL in the News**



WiLL Vice President **Senator Sandy Pappas** (MN) and **Shinkai Karokhail**, a member of the National Assembly of Afghanistan, co-authored an op-ed in the [\*Pioneer Press\*](#) highlighting the need for global inclusion of women in the peace-making process.

We want to work with you on writing an op-ed or letter to the editor! Media placement ramps up your profile and educates your voters, with multiple chances to amplify your message online. For assistance, please contact Senator Sandy Pappas ([sandy@wand.org](mailto:sandy@wand.org)).

**Congratulations!**



Congratulations to **Representative Nickie Antonio** (OH) who was recognized as [Legislator of the Year](#) by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) for her involvement in the development of mental health and addiction services polices while serving as Ranking Member of the Health and Aging Committee in the Ohio House.

### **Budget Letter to Congress**

The President's \$4.1 trillion Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request was released on February 2. As state legislators, we know all too well the impact that federal budgeting has on the states. In response to the President's budget, WiLL will be sending a letter to Congress urging consideration and prioritization of domestic needs and true human security over excessive and wasteful Pentagon spending.

We urge you to add your name to this important message! The [budget letter](#) is available now for you and your colleagues to [sign](#) and will be sent to Congress in late March. For more information about the budget letter, please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at 202-544-5055 ext. 1 or [avokhiwa@wand.org](mailto:avokhiwa@wand.org).

### **WiLL/WAND in the States**



[WAND's Arkansas chapter](#) held their annual membership meeting on February 1 in Little Rock. **Senator Joyce Elliott** attended this meeting which highlighted Arkansas WAND's accomplishments from the last year and honored four outgoing board members, as well as incoming president Diane Haven, member of the national WAND, Inc. board. WiLL President **Senator Nan Orrock** (GA) was the keynote speaker and spoke about women, peace, and security, budget priorities, nuclear weapons, and the Marshall Islands lawsuits. Let us know if you'd like to host a WiLL visit to your state capitol this year!

**Message Matters!**



On

February 20-22, we were pleased to welcome women leaders from 8 states to Minneapolis, MN, for an intensive communications training. Featured sessions included strategic communications, op-ed drafting and pitching, social media, and on-camera interview skills. Thanks to all who joined us, our trainers from Truman National Security Project, and our luncheon speaker Jana Shortal from KARE 11!



We would also like to recognize our reception sponsors AFSCME Minnesota, Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, Minnesota Insurance and Financial Services Council, SEIU Minnesota State Council, and St. Paul Teachers Pension PAC, and our reception keynote speaker, Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith. Let us know

if you're interested in future training opportunities with WiLL!

## **Capitol Hill Update**

### **Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF)**

Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) and Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA-17) [introduced a bill](#) which would ensure that the United States pursues a comprehensive diplomatic, political, economic, and regionally-led strategy to combat ISIL, repeal the outdated AUMFs that the President has been relying upon, and require the Administration to report on its efforts. Please urge your Member of Congress to support alternatives to war by cosponsoring the Comprehensive Solution to ISIL Act. [Email your Member of Congress now!](#)

### **Nuclear Weapons**

The release of the President's FY 2016 Budget calls for an excessive rise in the spending on nuclear weapons. The [Department of Energy's](#) spending on nuclear weapons is expected to rise by 8 percent, and billions of dollars have been requested at the [Department of Defense](#) to modernize these weapons' systems.

### **Women, Peace, and Security**

On January 21, 2015, U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Mark Kirk (R-IL), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the [Women, Peace, and Security \(WPS\) Act of 2015](#) to ensure promotion of women's meaningful inclusion and participation in mediation and negotiation processes in order to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

The President's budget request includes \$50.3 billion for the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which promotes government programs in the Middle East that include promoting the equitable treatment of women and girls.

## **Webinar**

WAND's recent webinar on February 24, "[The Great \(Budget\) Debate](#)", featured [Laicie](#)

[Heeley](#), Policy Director of the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation. Laicie reviewed the overall budget request and process while focusing on Pentagon, war, and nuclear spending. You can view a recording of this webinar [here](#).

### **Connect with WiLL**

For the latest on WiLL events and news, be sure to follow [@WomenLegisLobby](#) on [Twitter](#) and friend WiLL on [Facebook](#). We wish you well in your current sessions!

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Sincerely,



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