



June 25, 2015

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

Regarding the Recent Terror Attack in Charleston

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of our colleague State Senator Rev. Clementa Pinckney and his eight church members whose lives were ended so senselessly and hatefully last week. We share the shock and chagrin of right-thinking people across our nation and the world as we are confronted yet again with the ugly collision of racism, weapons, and violence in Charleston, South Carolina. We mourn this grievous loss with Charlestonians, and with all whose sense of decency has been so offended. We have much healing and growing to do as a nation. Violence and hatred anywhere threaten peace and civility everywhere.

WiLL in the News



Highlighting the need for local economies to diversify, **Representative Melissa Sargent (WI)** wrote [an op-ed recently published](#) in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. We want to assist you on submitting op-eds and letters-to-the-editor! Media placement ramps up your profile and educates your voters, with multiple chances to Facebook, tweet, and post on your website. For assistance, please contact WiLL

Vice President Senator Sandy Pappas (sandy@wand.org).

Congratulations!

Representative Nickie Antonio (OH) and **Representative Teresa Fedor (OH)** were both recognized for their work with the Ohio House Democratic Women's Caucus (OHDWC) for staging their [Fifth Annual Women's Lobby Day](#). This event helps to empower women to engage with their members of the legislature by providing them with trainings on issues important to women.

Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter (SC) was honored by the [South Carolina State Employees Association at their 2015 Annual Meeting](#) for her work in the legislature for benefits for state and local employees.

2015 WiLL/WAND National Women's Leadership Conference: "Women at the Tables of Power"



The [2015 WiLL/WAND National Women's Leadership Conference](#) will take place October 4-6 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC! Our conference will feature briefings with Congresswomen and policy experts, training with strategic communications experts, intimate networking dinners in homes on Capitol Hill, and a Congressional Lobby Day and luncheon. Confirmed speakers include **Dr. Barbara Gault**, Executive Director and Vice President of the **Institute for Women's Policy Research**, **Fatima Goss Graves**, Vice President for Education and Employment at the **National Women's Law**

Center, noted pollster **Celinda Lake**, federal budget experts **National Priorities Project**, and candidate training experts **VoteRunLead!** We are so honored to be recognizing **Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-9)** with our 2015 Torchbearer Award!

[Registration is now open](#), and travel and lodging scholarships are available. Please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at avokhiwa@wand.org or 202-544-5055 ext. 1 for more information.

The State Innovation Exchange (SiX) will be holding a conference for state legislators from October 1-3 in the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. If you are interested in attending the SiX conference as well, more information can be found [here](#).

WiLL Reception at NCSL

Join WiLL for a cocktail hour reception during this summer's National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Legislative Summit in Seattle, WA. We hope to see you **Wednesday, August 5, 2015, 5:00-6:30 pm**, at the **City University of Seattle Atrium**, adjacent to the Space Needle.

Delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served! We extend thanks to our generous reception sponsors -- City University of Seattle and the National Women's Political Caucus of Washington State. For more information and to RSVP, please email will@wand.org.

Capitol Hill Update

Budget Priorities

Congress is currently focused on legislation authorizing and appropriating funds for the Pentagon budget, nuclear weapons, and war. The Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) war spending slush fund has been featured in NDAA debates in both the House and Senate. Spending on this slush fund is not subject to budget caps, and it is blatantly being used to bolster the Pentagon budget, even though this funding will ultimately be used for items unrelated to "overseas contingency operations." The debate on this war spending slush fund will be a hot topic for the rest of the summer. Stay tuned! Weigh in!

Nuclear Weapons

As the Senate considers the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), WAND led and signed a coalition letter on various amendments, including urging support for an amendment to provide more transparency to the nuclear weapons budget and opposition to an amendment that would prevent good management practices of our nuclear weapons stockpile. A letter outlining these priorities can be found [here](#).

Iran Negotiations



Recently, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky helped organize the signatures of 151 U.S. House Members on a letter sent to President Obama to show support for diplomacy with Iran. The letter urges the President to “stay on course” and continue to “work toward a strong and verifiable” nuclear agreement between Iran and international powers. If we continue diplomatic negotiations with Iran, a verifiable agreement that prevents Iran from building a nuclear weapon will be possible. We will update you on the latest information regarding this crucial deal as the June 30 deadline approaches!

Women, Peace, and Security

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) also contained provisions related to Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). As in recent years, the Act contains efforts to support the recruitment and retention of women in the Afghan National Security Forces.

Members of the WPS community have also been working with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to include provisions from the Women, Peace, and Security Act related to the training of personnel in the Department of State Reauthorization bill. You can check out this

month's NGO Working Group's Monthly Action Points to the Security Council [here](#).

Connect with WiLL

For the latest on WiLL events and news, be sure to follow [@WomenLegisLobby](#) on [Twitter](#) and friend WiLL on [Facebook](#).

Sincerely,



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