



May 28, 2015

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

WiLL in the News



On April 30, [Representative Joni Jenkins \(KY\) was published in two newspapers](#) with her op-ed likening the Kentucky Bourbon Heist to the guzzling of our tax dollars by the Pentagon, especially the war spending slush fund.

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 Senator Sandy Pappas (sandy@wand.org).

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! 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 **noted pollster Celinda Lake** and candidate training experts **VoteRunLead**. We are honored to be recognizing **Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-D-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.

Save the Date!

Join WiLL for a cocktail hour reception during this summer's National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) Legislative Summit taking place August 3-6 in Seattle, WA. Please hold **Wednesday, August 5, for our WiLL reception** and stay tuned for more details as the date approaches!

Capitol Hill Update

Budget Priorities

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives considered H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year (FY) 2016. The most notable aspect of this year's consideration of the NDAA by the House of Representatives was a Democratic revolt over the use of the "Overseas Contingency Operations" (OCO) designation of Pentagon funds as a way to evade the "sequestration" caps put in place by the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA). Under normal circumstances, funding for the Department of Defense is constrained by BCA

spending limits. For more information on the House NDAA, please read [this summary](#) from WAND Nuclear Weapons Policy Director Erica Fein.

Nuclear Weapons

Last month, the House passed the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, legislation that funds much of the nation’s nuclear weapons enterprise. Overall, funding for U.S. nuclear weapons programs continues to increase; this year the President requested a budget of \$8.84 billion. The Energy and Water bill reduced funding below the request level by about \$133 million but still provided \$526 million above last year’s funding level. Read more about the Energy and Water bill funding [here](#).

As the appropriation process moves forward, both the House and the Senate will have more chances to reduce funding for nuclear weapons and support nuclear security programs to keep loose nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists. We will continue to provide updates as they become available.

Iran Negotiations



Recently, 151 U.S. House Members sent a letter 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. To find out if your Member of Congress signed this letter and to show your support of peaceful relations, [click here to take action!](#)

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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