



August 28, 2014

Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) August 2014 e-newsletter:

2014 WiLL Reception at NCSL



Many thanks to everyone who joined our networking reception held during the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit in Minneapolis, MN last week! We were pleased to host our members and allies and look forward to working with you throughout the year. **We send special thanks to our sponsors who made the reception possible – IBEW Local 110, IBEW Local 292, the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees, and Rice, Michels & Walther!** Photos from the reception are available on the [WiLL Facebook page](#).

WiLL in the News

WiLL Vice President **Senator Sandy Pappas** (MN) [wrote a letter](#) published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, addressing the heart-wrenching assassination of Somalian MP Saado Ali Warsame. Women's Equality Day on August 26 spurred the publication of several op-eds reflecting on the participation of women in meaningful democracy. **Speaker Terie Norelli** (NH) praised New Hampshire's historic all-female Congressional delegation, while acknowledging that there is still room for [increased women's political participation in the US and abroad](#). WiLL President **Senator Nan Orrock** (GA) [urged Congress to pass the Women, Peace, and Security Act](#) to "ensure women's full and meaningful participation in all areas, including diplomatic, development, and defense efforts here and abroad." **Senator Rebekah Warren** (MI) reminded us of the [critical role that women play](#) in the political, social, and economic spheres of society.

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 Facebook, tweet, and post on your website. For assistance, please contact Senator Sandy Pappas (sandy@wand.org).

Capitol Hill Update

Pentagon Budget

At the beginning of July things were heating up in Washington and elsewhere with the threat of war in Iraq and a \$60 billion injection to the already bloated Pentagon budget via the [Overseas Contingency Operations \(OCO\) fund](#) – often called the war spending slush fund. Well, the weather's still pretty hot here in Washington, but through July we did see some signs of Congressional scrutiny threatening to rain on the war making and spending parade.

Our [critically important letter](#) to Congress calling for changes in our federal budget was signed by 290 women legislators and delivered to Congress this spring. You can deliver the letter yourself to your Member of Congress and underscore the need for essential investments in our communities. Meeting with your Member of Congress is a great opportunity to promote your leadership and this issue! For help scheduling meetings, please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at 202-544-5055 ext. 2603 or avokhiwa@wand.org.

Nuclear Weapons

On July 27, comedian John Oliver's "Last Week Tonight" humorously highlighted our nation's unnecessary expenditures on nuclear weapons. [Be sure to check it out!](#)

July 20 marked the self-imposed six-month deadline for a deal between Iran and world powers over Iran's nuclear program. On this date the two sides formally agreed to extend negotiations for four months. WAND supports this extension because "all parties to these talks understand the implications of getting them wrong – without diplomacy, a path to war becomes much more likely." Read WAND's full statement [here](#).

Women, Peace, and Security

From August 4-6, President Obama hosted the first ever US-African Leaders Summit. Significantly, one of the Summit's six signature events focused on "Investing in Women, Peace, and Prosperity." The discussion underscored the importance of supporting African women's leadership and meaningful participation across all sectors of society. Leaders considered promising practices and discussed ways to reinforce US-African partnerships in expanding economic opportunity for women, promoting civic and political leadership for women and girls, and increasing women's meaningful roles in conflict prevention, peace-building, and security decision-making.

This specific focus of the summit indicates that leaders are considering the importance of women's participation at a higher level. Hopefully this will lead to more concrete efforts and provide a model for global leadership. Read our blog post on the Summit [here](#).

Past Webinars

Women's Equality Day

On August 26, in honor of Women's Equality Day, WAND hosted a webinar focused on the role of law in empowering women. Our featured speakers were WAND's Women Peace and Security Policy Director Julie Arostegui, Nageeba Hassan Tegulwa of the Ugandan Muslim Supreme Council, and Representative Carly Melin (MN), who provided details on the details on the newly enacted Women's Economic Security Act in Minnesota. A recording is available [here](#).

The Nuclear Zero Lawsuits: Why the tiny Marshall Islands took on the Nuclear Nine

On the anniversary of the U.S. nuclear bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, WiLL, WAND, and the NuclearZero.org consortium hosted a webinar on the latest grassroots disarmament movement. Rick Wayman, Director of Programs & Operations for Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, and Neisen Laukon of the Marshallese Education Initiative made great presentations that are available [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 upcoming elections!

Sincerely,



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