



August 18, 2016

Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) August 2016 e-newsletter:

WiLL Reception at NCSL



Thank you to all who attended our reception on August 10 during NCSL at the Palmer House Hilton! We appreciate you making time in your busy schedules to hear about the work that the Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL) is doing, mark the 25th anniversary of WiLL, celebrate 25 years of encouraging and enhancing women's leadership in public office, and meet WAND's new Executive Director, [Megan Amundson](#). **We especially want to thank our keynote speaker, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Illinois Senate Majority Whip Mattie Hunter, and the women of the Illinois Senate who graciously welcomed us to the Windy City!**

We also extend thanks to our generous reception sponsors BOMA/Chicago, Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP, Steve Morrill, and Nancy Vazquez, and to our 2016 WiLL National Partners: Anytime Fitness, DraftKings, FanDuel, Google, Inc., Land O'Lakes, PhRMA, POET, and Yum! Brands, Inc.

Photos from the reception can be viewed here: bit.ly/2b1D2Fo

Congratulations!

Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages (NY) recently presented a \$12,000 grant to Long Island Cares, a regional food bank for Long Island which partners with local food pantries. The funds will further the organization's mission of providing emergency food relief and eliminating

the underlying root causes of hunger on Long Island, and also support the distribution of food to veterans, senior citizens, and families in need.

Congratulations to **Senator Deb Peters**, Senior Assistant Majority Leader in the South Dakota Senate, who was recently named President-elect of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Senator Peters will be only the 7th woman to serve as President of NCSL!

WAND Encourages Possible United Nations Resolution on Nuclear Testing

Women's Action for New Directions supports a possible United Nations (UN) resolution reaffirming the ban on nuclear testing, reported on today in the *Washington Post*. A global ban on nuclear testing advances U.S. national security and the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons.

Republican Senators have been quick to protest this news. "The Senate has had twenty years to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) signed by President Clinton in 1996, yet they have failed to do so. The Senate should do its constitutionally mandated duty to ratify the treaty. In the meantime, this is not a political gimmick by the President, it's an essential step to solidify American security and our commitment to a treaty signed 20 years ago," stated WAND Executive Director Megan Amundson.

For more information, [read WAND's full statement](#).

WAND Condemns Trump's Cavalier Nuclear Ignorance

On August 3, the MSNBC news program *Morning Joe* reported that Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump asked an unnamed foreign policy advisor why we cannot use nuclear weapons. Megan Amundson, WAND Executive Director, issued the following statement in response:

"The United States has possessed nuclear weapons for 71 years. During that time the world has been spared from nuclear annihilation only by sheer luck. From the Cuban Missile Crisis to recent nuclear missile scandals the U.S. nuclear arsenal has always been fraught with peril.

The nuclear weapons in our arsenal today are 10-20 times more powerful than the ones dropped on Japan. A nuclear war would cause unimaginable human suffering and destroy the planet. It cannot be overstated how damaging a nuclear war would be. And the use of nuclear weapons has never been taken lightly by those who have influence on their use: until today.

The President, and the president alone, holds the key to the U.S. nuclear arsenal. This is why Republican Presidential nominee Donald J. Trump's continuous questioning of why we would not want to use nuclear weapons is so terrifying. These comments show why Donald Trump is unfit to handle nuclear weapons, and in turn lead the United States."

For more, [read the full statement](#).

Connect with WiLL

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