



December 18, 2014

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

WiLL in the News



On Veterans Day, **Representative Dee Dawkins-Haigler** (GA), the wife of an Army veteran, shared her very personal understanding of veterans' needs and the need to [redirect excessive Pentagon dollars towards helping veterans in our communities](#) in the *DeKalb Champion*. Army veteran **Representative Karen Camper** (TN) collaborated with WAND Executive Director **Susan Shaer** to highlight the need to [make lasting commitments to veterans](#) more than one day each year.

Ahead of meeting with a coalition of women leaders working to advance peace, Maine **Representative Diane Russell** urged lawmakers to [treat women and girls everywhere as equals in the eyes of the law](#). **Senator Lena Taylor** (WI), another member of the coalition, also urged that we continue to [fight for women's rights at home and abroad](#) in the *Milwaukee Courier*.

As world powers and Iran agreed in November to continue talks to reach a final agreement on Iran's nuclear program, Kentucky **Representative Mary Lou Marzian** urged Congress to continue [supporting negotiations with Iran](#) in the *Lexington Herald-*

Leader.

Capitol Hill Update

Elections

In the face of mixed election results for women and progressive candidates in general, we especially welcome new Congresswoman **Brenda Lawrence** from Michigan. One of five new women of color elected to Congress, she will be a great addition to the U.S. House of Representatives. In the 114th Congress, 50 of the 100 women members of Congress came from the ranks of WiLL and WAND.

Iran Nuclear Negotiations

Iran and the P5+1 agreed to continue negotiations after failing to reach an agreement by the self-imposed deadline on November 24. These negotiations have succeeded in preventing a military confrontation which would threaten security worldwide. A future deal could create the opportunity for diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the U.S. and Iran, including holding Iran accountable for human rights practices. We support Congress in their ongoing diplomatic negotiations with Iran. Read WAND intern Rawan Alkhatib's blog regarding [sanctions on Iran here](#).

Federal Budget

Before Congress recessed in mid-September, a stop-gap Continuing Resolution was approved to fund the government until December 12, 2014, along with a provision arming Syrian rebels. Congress waited until the last minute to pass an omnibus bill that funds the government through the end of Fiscal Year 2015, with the Senate voting on December 13 to approve the measure.

Women, Peace, and Security



On November 17-20, in partnership with the EastWest Institute's Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention, our coalition of U.S. women legislators and women parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including Afghanistan, Egypt, Pakistan, and Morocco, [met in Rabat, Morocco for a conference on advancing the role of women political leaders in peace and security](#). With the rise of violent extremism and conflict in the region, it is more important than ever to continue our common work to build trust between and among women legislators from the U.S. and the MENA region, and to further strengthen the role of women in building sustainable peace.

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Preventing a Nuclear-Armed Iran through Diplomacy

Join WAND and WiLL to discuss the Iran nuclear negotiations on January 7, 2015, 2-3pm EDT. Experts Kelsey Davenport, Director for Nonproliferation Policy at the Arms Control Association, and Jamal Abdi, Policy Director of the National Iranian American Council, will review the latest news on the negotiations, how the domestic political debate is playing out in the halls of Congress, and what you can do to support diplomacy.

[Register for the webinar today!](#)

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 2015!

Sincerely,



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