



January 28, 2014

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

WiLL in the News



WiLL members continue to speak up for their constituents and communities and discuss important public policy issues in the media. WAND Education Fund Board Chair and OH State Senator Charleta Tavares [reflected on the meaning of Thanksgiving](#) and the need to put the needs of our veterans first. On the third anniversary of the U.S. NAP, WiLL President GA State Senator Nan Orrock [highlighted the importance of women's leadership](#) and called for Congressional passage of the Women, Peace, and Security Act.



Capitol Hill Update

Congress voted last week on an omnibus bill that appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 2014 for all federal government programs and activities in the \$1.1 trillion discretionary budget. After raising the budget caps that trigger automatic, across the board cuts known as sequestration, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees worked through the holidays to work out this omnibus appropriation bill.

While the Pentagon is funded at about the 2013 level, it is billions less than the Administration asked for. Unfortunately, money has been added to the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), or war funding account, which is not subject to budget caps, possibly to hide some programs from cuts. For more explanation about the bill and how it came about, please visit the [WAND website](#).

As you know, we at WAND are strongly committed to a nuclear weapons-free world. That is why we are supporting the First Step agreement between Iran and world powers, which set up intrusive inspections on and halts Iran's nuclear program in exchange for modest sanctions relief. As WAND Executive Director Susan Shaer put it, "Continued negotiations, diplomacy, and dialogue with Iran significantly reduce the likelihood of a military strike by the United States or our allies. We should do everything we can to prevent war." In this light, WAND opposes the Kirk-Menendez bill that would impose additional, unilateral sanctions. [You can read our statement on the deal here](#). You can also [see what key women](#) members of Congress are saying about the deal. And, for more information about the deal, check out WAND's [fact sheet](#)!

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Transitioning to a New Economy

On February 6 at 3PM EST, we will be hosting Miriam Pemberton of Institute for Policy Studies and Judith LeBlanc of Peace Action for a webinar discussing current efforts to help communities transition away from wartime economies and create sustainable jobs. [Register here!](#)

Women Leaders Communications Training

Join us February 14-16 in St. Paul, MN for an exclusive communications training! The training will teach participants how to communicate expertly about tough issues, including state and federal budget issues, how to connect with diverse audiences, craft message and opinion columns, enhance your on-air presence, expand your print and electronic media opportunities, and amplify your constituent outreach in real-time through outlets like Facebook and Twitter.

Registration is closing soon, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Adzi Vokhiwa (avokhiwa@wand.org, 202-544-5055 ext. 2603).

Pacesetter Profile

WiLL Pacesetter Pennsylvania State Representative Vanessa Brown was featured on the WiLL website. [Read more about Rep. Brown here!](#)

Connect with WiLL

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