



January 21, 2016

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

WiLL in the News



During the holiday season, WiLL members urged Congress to consider different budget priorities in the New Year. **Representative Kay Khan (MA)** [called on Congress to invest more funds in veterans' care](#). **Representative Sarah Roberts (MI)** highlighted the need for a [robust state-federal partnership and national budget priorities that focus on human needs](#).

Congratulations!

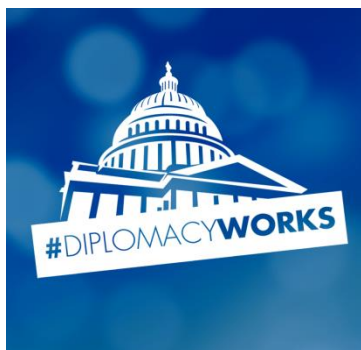
WAND, Inc. board member **Hon. Jennifer Seelig (UT)** was appointed to the administration of history-making Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski as the Community Relations Director. Mayor Biskupski is the first openly gay and second woman to serve as Mayor for Salt Lake City.

WAND, Inc. board member **Rep. Gael Tarleton (WA)** was recently elected Majority Floor Leader of the Washington House of Representatives by her colleagues in Olympia.

Rep. Gloria Frazier (GA) was recently elected Chief Deputy Whip of the Georgia House Democratic Caucus, a leadership position that assists the Minority.

In South Carolina, **Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter** and her colleague Sen. John Matthews were named the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation 2015 Legislators of the Year.

Capitol Hill Update



Iran Deal "Implementation Day"

On Saturday, January 16, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) [verified that Iran has completed its commitments made under the Joint Comprehension Plan of Action \(JCPOA\)](#). The JCPOA, an agreement between Iran and the members of the P5 + 1 (United States, UK, France, Germany, Russia, and China), has helped to ensure that Iran will not use its nuclear program in the creation of weapons. Their compliance has resulted in the lifting of nuclear-related sanctions that had adversely affected their economy.

Also on January 16, good news continued as White House administration officials announced they had negotiated a prisoner swap with Iran which led to [the release of five American prisoners](#):

Jason Rezaian, a *Washington Post* correspondent; Saeed Abedini, a Christian pastor; Amir Hekmati, of Flint, MI; Nosratollah Khosravi-Roodsari, and Matthew Trevithick, a student. The United States held up its part of the deal by announcing clemency for seven individuals jailed in the U.S., including six with dual Iranian and American nationality.



It is our hope that Members of Congress will not attempt to undermine this advantageous agreement. As WiLL President Senator Nan Orrock (GA) urged, “Let’s not waste time and taxpayer money in futile opposition to the Iran Nuclear Deal. Instead we can join together and celebrate this historic progress on making the world a safer place.”

Budget Priorities

While we were relieved there was no government shutdown last year, we were disappointed that the omnibus budget and tax deal passed with an outstanding \$561 billion allocated for the Pentagon as well as an additional \$59 billion for the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) war spending. We hope that 2016 will be a fresh start for Congress to take a new approach to the apportionment of the federal budget, with the intent to foster security in our country and not war. You can read more about the federal budget and war in Syria [here](#).

Women, Peace, and Security

In 2016 we will be continuing our work on women, peace, and security (WPS) by participating in activities to build more bipartisan support around WPS legislation and integrating gender perspectives into the federal budget. [See more about where we are headed this New Year and what was accomplished in 2015.](#)

Join or Renew Your Membership in WiLL!



We invite you to [join the Women Legislators' Lobby \(WiLL\)](#) or [renew your current membership](#) in WiLL and share our resources to support your effectiveness as a leader.

The Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL) is a national nonpartisan network of women state legislators who work together to influence federal policy and budget priorities. WiLL provides state legislators with valuable resources and services:

- WiLL shares timely materials with you about how critical state programs and services are affected by federal policy and budget decisions.
- WiLL provides simple, effective ways for you to influence federal decisions that will impact your constituents.
- WiLL offers highly-rated national conferences, policy briefings, communications trainings, and other professional development programs designed to help you become more effective in your leadership role.

When women state legislators join WiLL, we strengthen our ability to make our voices heard. We become more informed and more effective.

Connect with WiLL

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