



Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) July 2013 e-newsletter:

## 2013 WiLL/WAND National Women's Leadership Conference

Join us September 29-October 1 in Washington, DC! Our 2013 national conference will provide a unique opportunity to meet with fellow state legislators from across the country. There will also be briefings with Congresswomen and leading policy experts on cutting-edge issues, state and federal budget challenges and solutions, a gala awards dinner, and a Congressional lobby day.

To register and apply for a scholarship, or for more information on this ground-breaking conference, please visit our [website](#) or contact [Adzi Vokhiwa](#) or [Kimberly Niono](#) in our Washington office (202-544-5055).



## Upcoming Events

### Webinar: The Essential Role of Women in Building Sustainable Peace and Security

Do not miss our upcoming webinar on Wednesday July 24, discussing women, peace, and security and promoting the role of women as agents of change in political life, conflict prevention, and peace-building. Colorado State Representative Angela Williams and former member of the Pakistan National Assembly Hon. Donya Aziz will be featured presenters on WiLL's recent international exchange in Turkey. [Register here!](#)

## WiLL in the News

WiLL members continue to speak up for their constituents and communities, and address important public policy issues in the media. Drawing upon their recent experience in an international delegation, Tennessee [Rep. Karen Camper](#) and Wisconsin [Sen. Lena Taylor](#) had their opinion columns published highlighting the importance of fully including women as decision-makers in peace negotiations for more sustainable conflict resolution outcomes.

In a stunning display of courage and leadership, **Texas Senator Wendy Davis** began a 13 hour filibuster on June 25 to block a vote on a bill that would severely restrict women's reproductive rights in Texas. [WiLL salutes Sen. Davis for her leadership!](#)

**Washington Senator Maralyn Chase**, WiLL State Director, [recently welcomed Dr. Askin Asan](#), the Deputy Minister of the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Policy, to Olympia. Dr. Asan is a former member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. During her time in Washington, Dr. Asan was able to meet other Washington state leaders as well, including state Senators Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Jeannie Darnielle, and Karen Fraser.

## Capital Hill Update



On June 14, by a vote of 315-108, the House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2014 version of the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 1960).

The highlight of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) process in the House was the adoption of an amendment put forth by Congressmen Jim McGovern (D-MA), Walter Jones (R-NC) and others including WAND/WiLL Honorary Co-Chair Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), which urges the President to accelerate the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan before the current 2014 deadline. The vote count, 305-121 in favor of the amendment, shows strong bipartisan support for ending the war in Afghanistan.

What is remarkably disappointing about the House version of the NDAA is that it authorizes a funding amount well above the sequestration caps that current law, the Budget Control Act, sets for the Pentagon. Under the House Budget plan, this additional amount added to Pentagon spending comes from deeper cuts to needed investments in critical domestic programs. To further understand WAND's analysis of the House NDAA, please visit our website [here](#).

The Senate Armed Services Committee completed its work to prepare the NDAA on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and the full Senate will vote on their version of the NDAA sometime later this year.

In the House, all eyes have moved onto the Defense Appropriations bill – the required spending bill for the Pentagon – which may or may not be brought to the House floor for a vote later this month, depending on how the House leadership views the likely outcome. Stay tuned for more information and possible action on amendments to the House Defense Appropriations bill.

## **Past Events**

### **Webinar: Pull the Plutonium Pork – End MOX**

On June 24, WAND and Georgia WAND held a webinar highlighting wasteful government spending on the costly and dangerous Mixed Oxide (MOX) Plutonium Fuel Program. [The webinar can be viewed on our website](#).

### **Webinar: Humanitarian Threats of Nuclear Weapons**

On July 16, WAND hosted Dr. Catherine Thomasson of Physicians for Social Responsibility for a webinar discussing the effort and plans for a 2013 campaign that will move us closer to a world free of nuclear weapons. [View the webinar here](#).

## **Connect with WiLL**

For the latest on WiLL events and news, be sure to follow @WomenLegisLobby on [Twitter](#), friend WiLL on [Facebook](#), and visit our website [www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org)

WiLL is a program of [Women's Action for New Directions](#)