

WiLL

Women Legislators' Lobby



July 24, 2014

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

WiLL Networking Reception at NCSL



Join WiLL's networking reception during the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit this summer. Our reception on Thursday, August 21, 2014, 4:30pm-6:00pm, is in the Gallery Room of the Hilton Minneapolis (1001 Marquette Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55403). For more information and to RSVP, please email will@wand.org.

WiLL in the News

Citing needs in her own community, **Senator Carolyn Nelson** (ND) [urged decision-makers in Washington](#) to put our tax dollars to work in a better way and reshape the Pentagon budget.

WiLL President **Senator Nan Orrock's** 2013 article, "[The Crucial Role of Women in Public Service,](#)" received new acclaim this month. *Creative Loafing Atlanta* received a first place award from the Association for Alternative Newsmedia for its August 2013 special issue on nonviolence, guest-edited by Congressman John Lewis (D-GA). Senator Orrock's column highlights the importance of having women engaged in peacemaking, conflict resolution, and all aspects of society, the foremost emphasis of the [Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2014](#).

We want to work with you on writing an op-ed or letter to the editor! Media placement ramps up your profile and educates your voters, with multiple chances to Facebook, tweet, and post on your website. For assistance, please contact **Senator Sandy Pappas** (sandy@wand.org).

Send Congress a Message: Women Leaders for New Priorities

Can you make plans to meet with your members of Congress when they come home for August recess? We'll help arrange the meeting and provide you the toolkit to carry the urgent message on each of our issue areas to benefit the needs of our constituents and communities.

Our [critically important letter](#) to Congress calling for changes in our federal budget was signed by 290 women legislators and delivered to Congress. You can deliver the letter yourself and underscore the need for essential investments in our communities. For more information, including talking points, social media posts, and the completed letter with signatories, please visit our [website](#).

Meeting with your member of Congress is a great opportunity to promote your leadership and this issue! For help scheduling meetings, please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at 202-544-5055 ext. 2603 or avokhiwa@wand.org.

Capitol Hill Update

New Women, Peace and Security Toolkit!

A comprehensive Women, Peace and Security toolkit written by WAND's Women, Peace and Security Policy Director Julie Arostegui is now available on our [website](#). The toolkit provides guidance on integrating international principles on gender equality and women's rights into post-conflict legal systems.

We also continue to work with Members of Congress to garner support for the [Women, Peace and Security Act](#). To urge your Member of Congress to support the WPS Act, sign our petition [here](#).

#BringBackOurGirls

Earlier this year, more than 200 girls were taken from their school in Nigeria by the extremist group Boko Haram. Nearly 60 girls have managed to escape their captors since then, but the majority of them are still being held. WiLL and WAND are supporting **Congresswoman Frederica Wilson (D-FL)** and her efforts to get the kidnapped schoolgirls back into the headlines, using Twitter tactics that got them front page coverage in the first place. Join the conversation on Twitter daily at 9am EDT using the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls and help us put pressure on the Nigerian government to do more to bring the girls back to their families. Follow WiLL ([@WomenLegisLobby](#)) and WAND ([@WomensAction](#)) on

Twitter!

Nuclear Weapons

On July 18, 2014, key world powers and Iran agreed to extend by four months negotiations over an accord to ensure that Iran's nuclear program cannot be used to build a nuclear bomb. We urge Congress to support the extension and agree with the [majority of Americans](#) on this issue. Let diplomacy work!

Budget Priorities

At the end of June, the Administration announced its official \$60 billion request for "OCO" war spending for the coming fiscal year. Although this is \$20 billion less than the \$80 billion that had been the "placeholder" amount prior to the Administration finalizing its request, this is still too much. This \$60 billion, which comes as an extra add-on to the half a trillion dollars the Pentagon will spend this year, is more than the entire annual budget for sixteen federal agencies. See this [analysis from Taxpayers for Common Sense](#).

We're also trying to throw water on the flames of [war that threaten Iraq, again](#). Thank you to those who have participated in efforts such as urging your U.S. Representative to sign on to a letter urging that Congress consider whether or not we'll head towards war in Iraq!

Upcoming Webinars

The Nuclear Zero Lawsuits: Why the tiny Marshall Islands took on the Nuclear Nine

On Wednesday, August 6, at 3pm EDT on the anniversary of the U.S. nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, please join WiLL and WAND and the NuclearZero.org consortium to learn about the latest grassroots disarmament movement. You will hear from Rick Wayman, Director of Programs & Operations for Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, and Neisen Laukon, originally from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who works with the Marshallese Education Initiative.

Space is limited, register for this free [webinar](#) now!

Women's Equality Day

On August 26, in honor of Women's Equality Day, WAND's WPS Policy Director, Julie Arostegui, will host a webinar that highlights her recently published, Women, Peace, and Security Toolkit. Registration for this webinar will be available soon!

Past Webinars

Webinar: Get Ready to Lobby!

On July 17, WAND hosted a webinar which provided instructive information to help prepare for communicating with federal policymakers during the August Congressional recess.

WAND's policy team, Women Peace and Security Policy Director Julie Arostegui, Nuclear Weapons Policy Officer Erica Fein, and Senior Public Policy Director Kathy Robinson highlighted best practices for lobbying Congressional representatives and provided timely updates on WAND's policy goals. Slides from the webinar are available [here](#).

For help scheduling in-district and in-state meetings, please contact Senior Program Associate Adzi Vokhiwa at avokhiwa@wand.org.

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 your upcoming elections!

Sincerely,



Senator Nan Grogan Orrock (GA),
WiLL President
willpres@wand.org | 404-524-5999



Senator Sandy Pappas (MN),
WiLL Vice President
sandy@wand.org | 651-247-8698

Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL)

691 Massachusetts Avenue | Arlington MA 02476
322 4th Street NE | Washington, DC 20002

250 Georgia Avenue S.E. Suite 202 | Atlanta, GA 30312

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Tumblr](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

[Support our work!](#)

[Join our mailing list!](#)

[Join WiLL! Become a Member](#)

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us,
please [unsubscribe](#)