



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

Building International Bridges

WiLL partnered with the EastWest Institute's Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention to bring a delegation of 10 women legislators –

Rep. Karen Camper (TN), **Sen. Barbara Favola** (VA), **Del. Ana Sol Gutiérrez** (MD), **Sen. Nan Grogan Orrock** (GA), **Sen. Sandy Pappas** (MN), **Del. Joseline Peña-Melnyk** (MD), **Sen. Patricia Torres Ray** (MN), **Rep. Jennifer Seelig** (UT), **Sen. Lena Taylor** (WI), and **Rep. Angela Williams** (CO) – to Ankara, Turkey for a 3-day legislative exchange with women Parliamentarians from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Tunisia, and Morocco. Our exchange focused on cultivating relationships between U.S. women leaders and international Parliamentarians that will promote women's rights and equality and bring women to the tables of power globally. Photos from the 2013 Legislative Exchange Program are on our website [here](#).



WiLL in the News

WiLL legislators across the country continue to weigh in on important domestic and international policy concerns. WI **Sen. Lena Taylor's** MSNBC interview appeared online: "[Sen. Lena Taylor compares Senate abortion debate to Taliban's treatment of women.](#)" This piece focuses on a bill which would require women to receive an ultrasound before an abortion. Drawing upon her experiences in Turkey, Sen. Taylor likened the way this bill infringes upon women's rights to the way the Taliban suppresses the rights of women in the Middle East.

Taking the Message About Budget Priorities to the Hill

The WiLL budget letter to Congress – signed by a bipartisan group of more than 360 women legislators from all 50 states – was delivered to every Member of Congress on May 7. Thanks to everyone who added their name to our urgent message about wasteful Pentagon spending and the need to redirect those dollars to needs in our communities!

Several signers of the letter took the extra step to personally deliver the letter to their Congressional representatives and discuss sensible reductions to the bloated Pentagon budget: NH State **Rep. Cindy Rosenwald** met with the staff of U.S. **Senator Kelly Ayotte** (NH), MI State **Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton** met with the staff of U.S. **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (MI), and MN State **Rep. Rena Moran** joined MN ASAP to meet with the staff of U.S. **Representative Betty McCollum** (MN-4).

Capital Hill Update

[The National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\) passed the U.S. House of Representatives on June 14, 2013.](#) The NDAA covers conventional weapons programs, nuclear weapons and missiles defense, war spending and policy, as well as military sexual violence.

[Rep. Tammy Duckworth \(IL-8\)](#) was commended for introducing an amendment to require testing and assessments before spending more money on the F-35 Military Aircraft. Unfortunately, her amendment did not pass in committee. **Rep. Loretta Sanchez** (CA-46) pushed to have reductions in nuclear weapons and

defense spending. Regrettably, the House ultimately voted for promoting East Coast Missile Defense, restricting the President's capacity to reduce nuclear weapons, and possibly reducing funding of programs to prevent nuclear terrorism.

During the debate over military sexual violence, a number of Congresswomen including **Rep. Susan Davis** (CA-53), **Rep. Niki Tsongas** (MA-3), **Rep. Jackie Speier** (CA-14), and **Rep. Tammy Duckworth** (IL-8), spoke out against this issue. With the help of **Rep. Jackie Speier** (CA-14) and **Rep. Mike Coffman** (CO-6), an amendment that would expand protections for whistleblowers and sexual assault victims in the military passed.

Upcoming Events

Webinar: *Taking our Communities from Pentagon Cuts to a New Economy*

On Thursday, June 20 at 8PM EDT, Peace Action, US Labor Against the War & WAND/WiLL will host a webinar giving an in-depth overview of what we need to do to prepare our communities, workers and workplaces for the Pentagon budget cuts which have begun. We have an opportunity to move to a "new economy" which creates and sustains good paying union jobs by meeting community and social needs. CT State **Senator Toni Harp** will discuss her recent successful efforts in passing a bill to establish a commission to propose how to convert military industry to civilian use. Miriam Pemberton of the Institute for Policy Studies will drill down on proposals for Congressional action and possible state legislation to begin to make the transition to a new economy. **RSVP to movingtoneweconomy@gmail.com.**

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

On Monday, June 24 at 3PM EDT, WAND and Georgia WAND will host the second webinar in our nuclear weapons briefing series. The webinar will examine the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Plutonium Fuel Program – an over-budget, delayed nuclear weapons program that is costly, dangerous, and on the verge of collapse. MOX also siphons dollars away from other nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear weapons cleanup priorities. Tom Clements from Friends of the Earth, Katherine Fuchs from Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, and Amanda Hill-Attkisson from Georgia WAND will share their expertise. [Register today!](#)

Past Events

Webinar: *Is it Time to Boot the B-61 Nuclear Bomb?*

On Thursday, May 30, WAND hosted Hans Kristensen from Federation of American Scientists and David Culp from Friends Committee on National Legislation to highlight the folly of a proposed \$10 billion expenditure on the B61 nuclear bomb. Hans covered the history of the B-61 nuclear bomb and the proposal to convert old B-61 bombs. David enlightened the audience on opportunities and strategies to advocate for a better use of taxpayers' dollars. If you missed this great presentation, [a recording is available online](#). We urge you to promote this solid information to your colleagues and constituents to shed light on the nuclear debate and its impacts on our states and communities.

Save the Date!

2013 WiLL/WAND National Women's Leadership Conference, "Women at the Tables of Power!"

September 29-October 1, 2013 | Washington, DC

For more information about the conference, please contact [Adzi Vokhiwa](#) (tel: 202-544-5055 ext. 2603) or [Kimberly Niono](#) (tel: 202-544-5055 ext. 2602).

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