



Women Legislators' Lobby



June 19, 2014

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

WiLL Networking Reception at NCSL

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

WiLL in the News



In response to debate of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last month, WiLL members thanked their Members of Congress for offering amendments to the NDAA that would reduce Pentagon spending. **Senator Karen Keiser** (WA) wrote a [letter in the *Seattle Times*](#) highlighting **Congressman Adam Smith's** (D-WA-9) amendment regarding base closures, while **Representative Carly Melin** (MN) [applauded Congressman Rick Nolan](#) (D-MN-8) for his efforts to reduce wasteful spending on infrastructure in Afghanistan.

We would love 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).

Capitol Hill Update



At the end of May, the House debated and voted on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015. The bill authorizes funding for the Department of Defense, nuclear weapons, and war spending (different appropriations bills actually allocate funds). Please read more about the [NDAA and key amendments](#). Through June and July, Congress will be considering key appropriations bills to allocate funds for the Department of Defense, nuclear weapons, war spending, foreign affairs, and international development.

This week, the U.S. House of Representatives is debating and voting on Pentagon spending and war policy as the House considers the Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 4780). The bill allocates spending for nearly a half a trillion dollars for the Department of Defense. In addition there is still the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) war spending slush fund. For more details about the Defense Appropriations Act, including details of amendments, please view our [summary](#).

After delivering our letter to Congress concerning federal budget priorities, women legislators met with their Members of Congress in person to urge reductions in Pentagon spending during the appropriations process. We cannot afford to keep funding out-of-date, unnecessary programs in the Pentagon at the expense of essential investments in our communities!



In Georgia, WiLL President **Senator Nan Orrock** led a delegation including **Representative Simone Bell**, **Representative Sheila Jones**, and **Representative Keisha Waites** in a meeting with **Congressman David Scott** (GA-7). In Minnesota, WiLL Vice President **Senator Sandy Pappas** joined **Representative Alice Hausman**, **Representative Phyllis Kahn**, and **Senator Patricia Torres Ray** in meetings with **U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar** (MN), **U.S. Senator Al Franken** (MN), and **Congresswoman Betty McCollum** (MN-4). If you are interested in meeting with your Members of Congress to discuss federal budget priorities, please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at 202-544-5055 ext. 2603 or avokhiwa@wand.org.

As the crisis in Iraq escalates, WAND and WiLL have joined the growing chorus urging the President to consider diplomacy rather than military intervention. Read our [special statement](#) on Iraq.

Women, Peace, and Security



We are thrilled to introduce WAND's new Women, Peace, and Security Policy Director [Julie Arostegui](#), who started on June 2. Julie is off to a running start as we embark on the next steps of our programs on empowering and engaging women to build enduring peace.

The first Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict was held in London June 10-13 following a multitude of cases of violence against women in conflict stricken areas. More information about this summit can be found in Julie Arostegui's [blog](#).

On May 27, the President announced that 9,800 U.S. troops will remain in Afghanistan through this year. This reduces U.S. troops from current levels of over 32,000, but we'd like to see an end to war sooner and more completely. Coincidentally, May 27 also marked the birthdate of Julia Ward Howe, author of the Mother's Day Proclamation urging women to work for global peace. Read the blog "[From Julia Ward Howe to Afghanistan](#)" for more thoughts about the transition and next steps in Afghanistan. Raising the issue of Afghan women's roles in building a sustainable peace is vitally important, and WiLL is pleased to see that women leaders in Congress are taking steps to further this agenda.

Connect with WiLL

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

Sincerely,



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