



June 23, 2016

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

WiLL in the News

Minnesota **Representative Jennifer Schultz** reflected on how wasteful Pentagon spending hurts her state in [an op-ed](#) for the *Duluth Budgeteer*.

We want to assist you with op-eds and letters-to-the-editor! Media placement ramps up your profile and educates your voters, with multiple chances share your message online. For assistance, please contact WiLL Vice President Senator Sandy Pappas (sandy@wand.org).

Congratulations!

Massachusetts **Senator Barbara L'Italien** was recently named "Legislator of the Year" by the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts for her work supporting programs and legislation designed to keep seniors healthy and in their homes. Senator L'Italien is vice chair the Legislature's Joint Committee on Elder Affairs and a former social worker at Merrimack Valley Elder Services.

Florida **Senator Geraldine Thompson** received the "Senator of the Year" Award from the Tri County League of Cities, which focuses on civic education, economic development, and ethics for elected officials.

Massachusetts **Senator Karen Spilka** was recognized as one of Emerge Massachusetts' 2016 Women of the Year, along with other elected officials and nonprofit leaders.

Recent Events

2016 WiLL/WAND and SiX Communications Training



On June 10-12, 2016, WAND held a communications training in Denver, CO, in partnership with the State Innovation Exchange (SiX). The training was attended by women legislators and activists from 10 states including Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

Trainers from Wellstone Action, Campaign for a Strong Colorado, and Project New America guided participants on storytelling and communicating with conviction, messaging, best uses of digital media, working with the press, how to hold a successful press conference, and crafting a comprehensive communications plan.

During the opening reception, Colorado House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, Colorado Senator Nancy Todd, and Denver City Councilwoman Robin Kneich welcomed participants and gave remarks about women's leadership. On June 11, Marianne Goodland, a political reporter for the *Colorado Independent* with nearly 2 decades of experience covering the Colorado Legislature, taught participants how to engage with the media and build relationships with journalists.

Webinar: Advancing Women's Rights, Peace, and Political Participation Globally

On May 25, WAND hosted a webinar with Tanya Henderson, founder of Mina's List and former WAND Policy Director, titled, "Advancing Women's Rights, Peace, and Political Participation Globally." Tanya talked about the state of women's political participation in governments globally, barriers to women's participation, and why we need more women in national governments. She also spoke about what organizations like Mina's List and WAND can do to help and explained Mina's List's innovative model of partnering with local women's groups to recruit, support, and mentor women candidates for Parliament. If you missed the presentation you can view the webinar recording on WAND's YouTube channel – [check it out here!](#)

Upcoming Events

Webinar: The Iran Nuclear Deal After One Year

Join WAND on Tuesday, June 28 at 3pm EDT as we hear from two Middle East policy experts, **Barbara Slavin** of the Atlantic Council and **Kate Gould** of Friends Committee on National Legislation, on successes and challenges to Iran Deal implementation. Nearly a year has passed since six world powers and Iran signed a comprehensive nuclear agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program. The agreement greatly reduced the chance of a military conflict between Iran and the United States or its allies.

This webinar will cover what has happened since July 14, 2015 – the day the deal was signed – and potential challenges to further implementation, including geopolitics, compliance issues, and Congressional obstruction. [Register today!](#)

Capitol Hill Update

Nuclear Weapons

President Obama made history by becoming the first sitting U.S. President to visit the Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park. WAND was heavily involved in promoting the visit and urging real action on an agenda that President Obama began in 2009 to reduce nuclear risk; we created buzz among the grassroots and made headlines for our work.

On May 18, WAND Nuclear Weapons Policy Director Erica Fein led a [delegation](#) to the White House to deliver WAND's petition urging President Obama to visit the Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park, as well as other signatures from colleague organizations. She was joined by colleagues at the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Arms Control Association, Council for a Livable World, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Peace Action, Global Zero, Win

Without War, and Physicians for Social Responsibility. Collectively, these organizations demonstrated support from over 52,000 individuals for the President's visit and further action to reduce nuclear dangers. The group met with the Office of Public Engagement's Julie Rodriguez, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Deputy Director; John Bisognano, Associate Director for Public Engagement; and Alissa Ko, Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Women, Peace, and Security

During a U.S. election season that is far from over, it's important to consider the violence that politically active women face around the world. Much of May's women, peace, and security work focused on women's political rights, both as members of civil society and as elected leaders. On May 26, the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016 (H.R. 5332) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congresswoman Kristi Noem (R-SD-At Large), Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-09), House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA-39), and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY-16). Stay tuned for updates as the bill progresses.

Budget Priorities

Following its recess break, last week the Senate resumed consideration of the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This is the annual defense policy bill covering the Pentagon, wars, and nuclear weapons. Although the NDAA authorizes more than \$600 billion for the Pentagon, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) offered an amendment to add an additional \$18 billion to the Pentagon budget. In a major victory for spending sanity, a bipartisan group of Senators rejected the McCain amendment.

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Ranking Democrat on the Armed Services Committee, led his party's opposition to the McCain amendment on the principle that an increase in defense spending should see a comparable increase on the "non-defense" side, i.e., funding for domestic, non-military needs. The Reed Amendment, voted on first, failed by a vote of 43-55. A vote on the McCain amendment, immediately after, failed 56-42.

Thank you to those who called to urge your Senators to oppose adding \$18 billion to already oversized Pentagon and war spending. WAND sent two letters to the Senate opposing these extra dollars for the Pentagon. The first letter written and coordinated by WAND is signed by eighteen organizations from across the political spectrum. The second letter is signed by organizations that support investing in crucial domestic programs and rebalanced budget priorities.

Stay tuned for more news about how the House and Senate NDAA bills are reconciled and how the now-muddled appropriations process moves forward. Next week, the House will consider the National Defense Appropriations bill which appropriates funds for the Department of Defense. The Senate also plans to take up its version of the Defense Appropriation bill in June. This summer and fall there will be more opportunities to talk to policymakers as they leave Washington to participate in election conversations and activities. WAND will be sending more information about how you can engage in critical debates about spending on weapons, wars, and waste versus the other things we need for safe, healthy communities.

Connect with WiLL

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