



Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) March 2013 e-newsletter! We value your input as we share updates and breaking news on WiLL events and member activities.

WiLL in the News

WiLL members across the country are engaging in important and timely public policy debates, speaking up for the best interests of their constituents and communities. In the wake of devastating automatic federal budget cuts, Wisconsin Senator Lena Taylor [decried the sequester](#), noting that several programs critical to her constituents and Wisconsin's economy as a whole will suffer because of the across-the-board budget cuts; she pointed out that sensible, targeted cuts can be made to Pentagon spending. Just in time for International Women's Day, Georgia Representative [Keisha Waites](#) and Minnesota Representative [Phyllis Kahn](#) called upon Congress to do their part in stopping sex trafficking and violence against women. Inspired during Women's History Month, 10 women legislators in Minnesota— Rep. Connie Bernardy, Sen. Kari Dziedzic, Sen. Melisa Franzen, Rep. Phyllis Kahn, Sen. Susan Kent, Rep. Sandra Masin, Hon. Mary Jo McGuire, Rep. Rena Moran, Sen. Sandy Pappas, and Sen. Katie Sieben — co-signed an op-ed calling for [expanded women's rights](#).

We urge you to submit your own op-ed or letter to the editor. For assistance contact Maureen Campbell (mcampbell@wand.org 202/544-5055 ext. 2603).

Capitol Hill Update

The House voted last week on a Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2014. Not surprisingly, the Republican-led House approved Paul Ryan's (R-WI) Budget Resolution with a vote of 221-207. This budget makes draconian cuts in needed safety net and earned benefit programs and a wide variety of programs needed to sustain and strengthen our economy, while sparing the Pentagon budget from any cuts. (For more on the Ryan budget plan see our recent blog [Time for a New Budget Tune](#).)

Regrettably, the alternative budget offered by the Congressional Progressive Caucus failed 84-327. The CPC budget would have made sensible cuts to the Pentagon budget — saving \$900 billion over the next decade, while strengthening investments in needed programs and creating jobs.

The Senate also passed a Budget Resolution last week. Budget Chair Sen. Patty Murray's (D-WA) budget is expected to track closely with the President's Budget Request which is delayed and will be released the week of April 8.

Meanwhile both the House and Senate approved a budget for the remaining Fiscal Year 2013 averting a government shut-down. Both the Administration and Congress are now contending with the automatic sequestration cuts, and we are awaiting the next fiscal showdown about the debt ceiling in May.

Budget priorities continue to be front and center in Washington debate. It's time to speak up for

budget priorities that reflect our values. Let's push for nutrition programs for pregnant women and babies, education for our children, and jobs to strengthen America instead of continuing to fund unnecessary, over-budget, outdated weapons systems.

Women legislators across the nation are being asked to add their names to our letter to Congress strongly underscoring these common-sense priorities. Look for more information and add your name in the upcoming weeks. Thanks!

Past Events

"Stop the Sequester" Rally



On March 20, W/LL President Sen. Nan Orrock spoke at a "Stop the Sequester" rally in Atlanta, hosted by Georgia AFL-CIO, Georgia Fair Share, Georgia WAND, and Organizing for Action. Sen. Orrock highlighted the damage that the sequester is doing to Georgia's economy. Participants called upon Congress to reverse the sequester and instead find savings by closing tax loopholes and reducing wasteful Pentagon spending.

Webinar: Riding the Fiscal Roller Coaster

WAND's March 14 webinar featured Jo Comerford of National Priorities Project. Comerford reviewed current federal budget proposals and how the sequester influences budget-making and funding for domestic priorities, highlighting education, healthcare, and other social services. 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 sequestration debacle and its impacts on our states and communities.



Capitol Hill Reception

On March 13, WAND and W/LL celebrated the historic number of women in the U.S. Congress who are taking their seats at the tables of power. Our reception on the Hill saluted these Honorees: Congresswomen Julia Brownley (CA-26), Cheri Bustos (IL-17), Tammy Duckworth (IL-08), Elizabeth Esty (CT-05), Lois Frankel (FL-22), Ann McLane Kuster (NH-02), Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-01), Carol Shea Porter (NH-01), and Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-09) and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (WI) and Elizabeth Warren (MA). Of these

women, Senator Tammy Baldwin and Congresswomen Lois Frankel and Kyrsten Sinema all rose through the ranks of our W/LL network!

See photos from the reception on our [Facebook page here](#).

Connect with W/iLL

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

Upcoming Events

Save the Date! 2013 W/iLL Conference | Sept. 29-Oct. 1 | Washington, DC