May 22, 2014

Welcome to the Women Legislators’ Lobby’s (WiLL) May 2014 e-newsletter:

**WiLL in the News**

WiLL members continue to speak up for their constituents and communities and discuss important public policy issues in the media. On March 30, Ohio State Senator Charleta Tavares’ letter to the editor ran in the *Columbus Dispatch* in response to an article regarding nuclear weapons and Ukraine. Minnesota State Rep. Kim Norton’s letter replying to an article about the Mayo clinic and Pentagon funding was the featured letter in the *Star Tribune* on April 6.

Nevada State Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton and Susan Cundiff of Oregon WAND co-authored a letter in response to an article about wasteful spending on the F-35 in the *Washington Post*. Three Mother’s Day themed op-eds were published during the beginning of May. Tennessee State Representative Karen Camper wrote one centered on nuclear weapons which was published in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*. Minnesota State Representative Connie Bernardy published an op-ed highlighting the need for women’s empowerment around the globe titled “From MN to Afghanistan: Women’s voices heard around the world.” Our own WiLL Vice President, Minnesota State Senator Sandy Pappas, reflected on the importance of shifting budget priorities from the Pentagon to our communities in an op-ed published in the *Twin Cities Daily Planet*.

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...
For more than 2 decades, the women of WiLL have been working to shift our federal spending priorities to better meet our communities’ needs. Our critically important letter to Congress calling for changes in our federal budget was signed by 290 women legislators and delivered to Congress last month.

We cannot afford to keep funding out-of-date, unnecessary programs in the Pentagon at the expense of essential investments in our communities. For more information about the letter and resources, including talking points, social media posts, and the completed letter with signatories, please visit our website.

If you are able to meet with your Member of Congress and present the letter in person, it’s a great opportunity to promote your leadership and this issue! Please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at 202-544-5055 ext. 2603 or avokhiwa@wand.org.

Capitol Hill Update
On April 7, WAND launched a Thunderclap (a social media tool used to amplify a message which blasts out a timed Facebook post or tweet from all who sign up, creating a wave of attention) to promote the SANE and REIN-IN Acts, two bills introduced by U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) and Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), which could save billions of taxpayers’ dollars over the next 10 years by reducing spending on unnecessary nuclear weapons programs.

On April 23, WAND staff partnered with other organizations to personally ask Congressional offices to sign on to the REIN-IN Act (H.R. 4107). Urge your U.S. Senator and your Representative to co-sponsor the SANE and REIN-IN Acts today!

On May 7, the House Armed Services Committee met to consider and prepare, or “mark-up”, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015. This bill, which sets policy and authorizes funding for the Pentagon, war spending, and nuclear weapons, was voted on by the full House this week. WAND joined with 27 other organizations to deliver a letter to members of the House Armed Services Committee regarding the NDAA, specifically addressing recommendations related to nuclear weapons and missile defense provisions in the bill.

The House of Representatives voted 325-98 to complete its work on the NDAA and send the bill, as amended, to the Senate. For more about the NDAA, please view this summary.
Recent Webinars

Webinar: Join the Federal Budget Dance

On Tuesday, April 29, 2014, WAND hosted a webinar called "Welcome to the Federal Budget Dance" featuring presentations from WAND Senior Public Policy Director Kathy Robinson and Oregon WAND Chair Susan Cundiff. Kathy and Susan described the appropriations process, helped participants understand how federal spending is divided up and how these budget priorities impact us, and finally discussed opportunities to take action and speak out against excessive Pentagon spending as Congress moves through the steps of the budget process. A recording of the webinar is available here.

Webinar: Write Where It Counts

On Wednesday, May 14, 2014, WAND hosted a webinar called "Write Where It Counts" featuring a presentation from Mary Kaszynski, Media Associate for Peace & Security at ReThink Media. Mary discussed tips and best practices for crafting letters to the editor about Pentagon spending and nuclear weapons issues. A recording and letter to the editor tips from the presentation are available here.

Save the Date!

Join WiLL for happy hour networking 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, please email will@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 current sessions and upcoming elections!