



September 25, 2014

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

WiLL in the News



On Labor Day, **Senator Sandy Pappas** (MN) wrote a column for the *Union Advocate* [reflecting on the legacy of American workers](#). **Representative Diane Russell** (ME) cautioned [that investing in a missile defense site](#) is not a good way to boost Maine's economy. International Peace Day on September 21 motivated **Senator Audrey Gibson** (FL) to write [a letter focused](#) on the role of women in peacemaking and **Representative Harriet Drummond** (AK) to [compose a letter](#) asking Congress to pass the Women, Peace and Security Act.

We want 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

Nuclear Weapons

On September 22, the front page of [The New York Times](#) devoted space to one of our most important issues: **prospects for nuclear disarmament**. As a state legislator and leader in your community, you know that opportunities to have a national conversation about federal budget priorities are few and far between. The time is now to respond; for more information about this article and topic, instructions on how to submit a letter to the editor, samples tweets, and more, click [here](#).

This summer marked a very worrying fray in Russia-U.S. relations, largely due to Russia's military adventurism in Ukraine. With it came calls to expand U.S. nuclear weapons overseas. This reaction and other overly militaristic proposed solutions are shortsighted. [Read Erica Fein's piece on how not to further inflame tensions](#). Interested in other opinions? Please see the Carnegie Corporation of New York's [take](#) on the array of issues related to this conflict. Also check out a [piece](#) from friend of WAND, Martin Hellman.

Pentagon Budget

Are we falling into the next decade of war and completely unchecked growth in Pentagon spending? In Iraq and Syria, we're seeing a possible leap into a war as the international community grapples with how to address the threat of ISIS/ISIL. On September 10, the President announced that there would be more airstrikes, an additional 475 U.S. service members to Iraq, and the United States plans to train and equip the Syrian opposition. [Please see WAND's Response to the President's September 10, 2014 speech](#).

Women, Peace, and Security

WAND is working with partner organizations to support a bipartisan amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), introduced by Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH). The amendment would continue to advance the meaningful inclusion of women in the political, economic, and security transition process in Afghanistan, as well as further the recruitment and retention of women in the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in order to address issues of gender-based violence and the security challenges faced by women serving in these forces. We are also working with women's organizations on making recommendations to the Administration for the 2016 budget on funding for women, peace, and security and gender-based violence issues.

Women in Leadership



On Wednesday September 17, we were pleased to host Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, for our quarterly teleconference for WiLL State Directors. Debbie gave an overview of the prospects for women candidates in the 2014 elections and discussed CAWP's new initiative "Teach a Girl to Lead," a unique resource that will connect educators, leaders of youth organizations, parents, authors, librarians, women leaders, and students in order to refocus the picture of public leadership to include women. For more information about women and the 2014 election, visit [CAWP's website](#).

Connecting with Congress

In August and September, WiLL members held in-district meetings focusing on all of our issue areas with their Members of Congress during the August recess. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to our members who held these meetings. Meeting with your member of Congress is a great opportunity to promote your leadership and develop a relationship with your Congressional office! For help scheduling meetings, please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at 202-544-5055 ext. 2603 or avokhiwa@wand.org.

Connect with WiLL

For the latest on WiLL events and news, be sure to follow [@WomenLegisLobby](https://twitter.com/WomenLegisLobby) on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and friend WiLL on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). We wish you well in your current sessions and upcoming elections!

Sincerely,



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