



Women Legislators' Lobby



February 27, 2014

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

WiLL in the News



WiLL Vice President **Senator Sandy Pappas** (MN) added her voice to the growing chorus calling for [**continued diplomacy in Iran**](#). **Representative Pricey Harrison** (NC) [**authored an op-ed**](#) for *The Charlotte Observer* highlighting the anniversary of the New START Treaty and noting that high levels of spending on nuclear weapons are harmful to both national and economic security.



Capitol Hill Update

Women, Peace, and Security

The bipartisan Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2014 was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Mark Kirk (R-IL). This legislation, if passed, would ensure the future implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (U.S. NAP), which President Obama introduced as an Executive Order in 2011. The U.S. NAP and the WPS Act guarantee that the United States promotes the critical role of women in peace-building processes and conflict prevention, protects women and girls from gender-based violence in conflict areas, and ensures women and girls have equitable access to humanitarian assistance during crises and disasters. Read Sen. Boxer's press release on the WPS Act [here](#).

Iran

WiLL/WAND applauds the letter sent by 104 members of the U.S. House of Representatives to President Obama which supports the ongoing diplomatic efforts between world powers and Iran over Iran's nuclear program. Susan Shaer, WAND's executive director, commented, "A bipartisan group of U.S. Representatives are making their voices heard that we must exhaust the current path of diplomacy before moving into significantly more dangerous territory. If diplomacy fails, the prospect of war grows. Members of the House understand this historic moment and want to be a part of helping to increase the chance of success." WAND members and staff were an active part of the efforts to get Congressional support for the [letter](#).

Budget Priorities

The Administration expects to release its Fiscal Year 2015 budget request for the federal government on March 4. The budget deal agreed to at the end of 2013 reset budget caps for both defense and non-

defense discretionary spending, avoiding sequestration's automatic, across-the-board cuts. The Pentagon, however, sent along with its budget request, a \$26 billion "wish list," proving that it hopes to receive money over budget caps in current law.

Past Events



Communications Training: "Message Matters"

On February 14-16, we were pleased to welcome women leaders from 7 states to St. Paul, MN, for an intensive communications training. Featured sessions included strategic communications, op-ed drafting and pitching, social media, and on-camera interview skills. Thanks to all who joined us, our sponsors, our trainers from Truman National Security Project, and our luncheon speaker Kate Parry from the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*! Let us know if you're interested in future training opportunities with WiLL!

Webinar –Dealing with Iran: Where are We Now and How Did We Get Here?

On Wednesday, February 19 we hosted Robin Wright, a journalist and author who is a joint fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Woodrow Wilson International Center, and Kate Gould, the Friends Committee on National Legislation's lead lobbyist on the Middle East, for a webinar explaining the Congress' current work finalizing sanctions for Iran's nuclear program. A recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#).

Webinar – Transitioning to a New Economy

On February 6, Judith LeBlanc of Peace Action and Miriam Pemberton of the Institute for Policy Studies underscored efforts to diversify state and local economies that rely heavily on the defense industry to

prevent job loss. A recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#).

Connect with WiLL

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

WiLL

691 Massachusetts Avenue | Arlington MA 02476
322 4th Street NE | Washington, DC 20002
250 Georgia Avenue S.E. Suite 202 | Atlanta, GA 30312

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Tumblr](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

[Support our work!](#)

[Join our mailing list!](#)

[Join WiLL! Become a Member.](#)