



March 27, 2014

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

WiLL in the News



WiLL Vice President **Senator Sandy Pappas (MN)** again weighed in on the Iran debate with [an op-ed](#) which ran in *The American Jewish World*. In honor of International Women's Day, several WiLL members published op-eds recognizing the important role of women leaders globally. **Representative Jeannie McDaniel (OK)** [was published in the Edmond Sun](#), while **Senator Lena Taylor (WI)** and **Representative Melissa Sargent (WI)** [wrote a joint piece](#) advocating for passage of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2014.

Several members of the Minnesota Legislature – including **Representative Connie Bernardy**, **Senator Chris Eaton**, **Senator Alice Johnson**, **Representative Sandra Masin**, **Representative Kim Norton**, **Senator Sandy Pappas**, **Senator Patricia Torres Ray**, **Representative Mary Sawatzky**, **Representative JoAnn Ward**, **Senator Melissa Wiklund**, and **Representative Barbara Yarusso** – joined **Candice Quinn** and **Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire** to co-author an op-ed titled [“Women, Peace, and Security”](#) for *The Minnesota Women's Press*.



Send Congress a Message:

Women Leaders for New Priorities

For more than 2 decades, the women of WiLL have been working to shift our federal spending priorities to better meet our communities' needs. Add your signature today to a [critically important letter](#) to Congress calling for changes in our federal budget. We cannot afford to keep funding out-of-date, unnecessary programs in the Pentagon at the expense of essential investments in our communities. **The deadline is April 7, but please join hundreds of women state legislators from across the nation by [adding your signature today!](#)**

Capitol Hill Update

March 6, 2014 marked the day when Rose Gottemoeller was confirmed by the Senate as Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. The hard work of our WAND and WiLL members, who urged their Senators to confirm her, has finally paid off! To read more about Rose Gottemoeller and her Senate confirmation, please click [here](#).

WAND observed International Women's Day by circulating a letter in support of women and girls in Afghanistan. Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) spearheaded the letter which emphasizes the continued commitment of Members of Congress to protect the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. For more information and to sign on to this letter, please take action [here](#).

S. 2070, the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act of 2014 was introduced by Senators Ed Markey (D-MA) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR). This bill would effectively save U.S. taxpayers about \$100

billion over ten years by reducing spending on nuclear weapons programs and facilities. Its House companion bill, H.R. 4107, the REIN-IN Act, was introduced by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR). Please encourage your Senators to [support the SANE Act](#) and your Representative to [support the REIN-IN Act](#).

Past Events

“Empowering Women in Afghanistan”

Michelle Barsa, Senior Manager for Policy at Inclusive Security Action, led an informative WAND webinar on March 11. Barsa discussed the need for women’s inclusion in the Afghanistan political and security transition process, obstacles and barriers to women’s participation in Afghanistan’s April 2014 elections, the need to support women’s increased political participation, and the current U.S. policy aimed to empower and protect women and girls in Afghanistan. You can see this webinar by clicking [here](#).



“Fulfilling the Promise of Our Nation”

On March 19, we hosted a webinar with Jo Comerford, Executive Director of National Priorities Project, and Judith LeBlanc, Field Director for Peace Action, on President Obama’s FY15 budget, other emerging blueprints from the Congressional Progressive Caucus and Congressman Paul Ryan, and an overview of this year’s budget process. 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](#). We wish you well in your current sessions and upcoming elections!

WiLL

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