



# WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK OF NCSL

Fall 2006

Vol. 18, No. 2

## Note from the President

Dear Women Legislators,

I am so excited to be serving as the new president of the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL. I hope to work with many of you this year to ensure that all Network activities and events are successful and meet your needs.



I have a particularly exciting development to announce: the Network, in partnership with NCSL's Health Program, has received a grant from Novartis Pharmaceuticals to study women's health. The funding will allow for increased tracking of state legislation related to women's health, several publications, and a meeting at NCSL's Fall Forum in San Antonio. Please turn to page 5 for more information about the project and for the special Spotlight on Women's Health section.

The Women's Legislative Network hosted many events throughout the week of NCSL's Annual Meeting, August 14-18, 2006, in the Music City, Nashville, Tennessee. The sessions were dynamic, with excellent attendance, and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet with our legislative colleagues from across the country. For a summary of Network events at the Annual Meeting, see page 2.

I also would like to welcome Jackie Clark of Hallmark Cards as the new Network Alliance Chair. Jackie and Hallmark have been involved with the Network for many years, and she brings great enthusiasm and ideas to the position. I hope the Alliance members will enjoy Jackie's leadership, and we will look forward to seeing her at Network events.

The Women's Legislative Network of NCSL promotes the participation, empowerment and leadership of women legislators. Please help keep the Network strong by attending Network events and becoming involved in other Network activities. The NCSL Fall Forum will be held December 5-8, 2006, in San Antonio, Texas. I hope you will plan to join us there—the Network board meeting will be Wednesday, December 6. Please contact me with questions or comments about the Network at [kuet@aol.com](mailto:kuet@aol.com) or (785) 232-0717.

Best of luck for the start of the 2007 sessions!

Sincerely,

Annie Kuether  
State Representative, Kansas  
President, Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

## NCSL Fall Forum December 5-8 in San Antonio, Texas

Wednesday,  
December 6, 2006

7:00 am – 1:00 pm

### *Women's Health Across the Life-span: A Special Pre-Conference*

This meeting is part of the new project described on page 5.

Sessions include "Thinking Differently: Opportunities for Improving Women's Health Through a Higher-Level Approach," "Women's Health in Your State: How Do You Measure Up?" and "State Perspectives on Women's Health: The Texas and Arizona Experience." Dr. Wanda Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Michelle Berlin, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Oregon Health and Science University, are confirmed faculty. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please contact Katie Fischer for more information ((303) 856-1514 or [katie.fischer@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.fischer@ncsl.org))

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

### *Women's Legislative Network Executive Board Meeting*

All are welcome to attend.

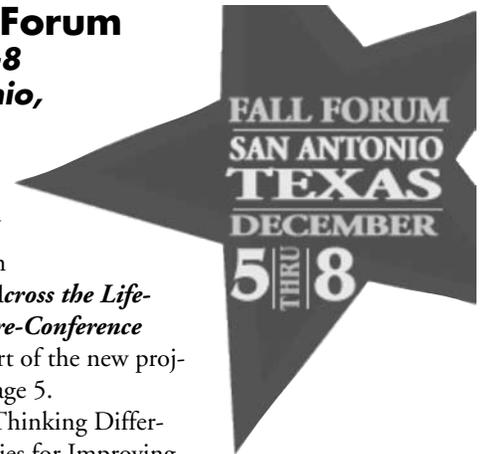
Thursday, December 7, 2006

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

### *Starting on the Right Foot: New Member Orientation*

*Cosponsored with NCSL's Legislative Effectiveness and State Government Committee.*

Legislative leaders and staff directors are planning new member orientations that are more involved and interactive than ever before. Experts will lead this roundtable discussion and provide advice on what and how to teach at these sessions and who should be doing the teaching. Also discussed will be the unique experiences of new female legislators and examples of successful women's mentoring programs within legislatures.



## To Update You . . .

### Luncheon at the NCSL Executive Committee meeting in Philadelphia, Pa., May 5, 2006.

The Network hosted a luncheon in honor of women legislators from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia at Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse. More than 30 women legislators and Alliance members attended the event, which was sponsored by Merck & Co. Inc. Delaware Senator Dori Connor presided at the event, and the featured speaker was Pennsylvania Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, a former Network president. Following the luncheon Dr. Richard Haupt, of Merck Pharmaceuticals, spoke about HPV, cervical cancer and Merck's new HPV vaccine.



### From the Annual Meeting...

*The NCSL Annual Meeting* in Nashville, Tennessee, was a rousing success. The Network sponsored or cosponsored nine events during the week of August 14-18, 2006. Visit [www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/AMevents2006.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/AMevents2006.htm) for more information, including PowerPoint presentations, faculty biographies and a link to Notes from Nashville, NCSL's database of dozens of Annual Meeting session summaries.

On Monday, Aug. 14, the Network presented *Beyond Bickering: How Women Legislators Can Bridge the Partisan Divide*, in collaboration with the Policy Consensus Initiative. More than 40 women legislators gathered for this day-long workshop that focused on collaboration and consensus-building. Faculty led several discussion sessions about the dynamics of conflict, negotiation skills, collaborative processes, convening meetings and engaging the public.

Florida Representative Nancy Detert, the Network president, presided at the *Executive Board Meeting* on Monday, Aug. 14. Kansas Representative Annie Kuether presented the report of the Programming Committee, and Georgia Representative Lynn Smith presented the report of the Nominating Committee, including the candidates for Executive Board membership for the 2006-2007 year. Karen Smith, Alliance Chair, reported on Network fundraising activities and recognized Jackie Clark of Hallmark Cards as the incoming Alliance Chair. Board members also discussed activities for the coming year. Minutes from the meeting are available upon request.



Representative Nancy Detert hosted a *Kick-Off Breakfast* on Tuesday, Aug. 15, that was open to all Annual Meeting attendees. The event was sponsored by the Johnnie B. Byrd Sr. Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute.

Also on Tuesday, Aug. 15, the Network collaborated with NCSL's Legislative Effectiveness and State Government Committee to sponsor two sessions with faculty from the Bainbridge Leadership Center in Bainbridge Island, Washington. Center co-founders Donna Zajonc and David Womeldorff presented *For Men and Women Only: Emerging Leadership Styles of the Feminine and Masculine and Why We Need Both*. The facilitators examined the audience's assumptions and beliefs about feminine and masculine leadership qualities and created a list of key leadership traits. They then connected this list to two different models of leadership. The next session, a luncheon, included the *Network Annual Business Meeting* and elections. Additional cosponsors of the session were the Center for American Women and Politics, the Center for Women Policy Studies and Women in Government. The 2006-2007 board was elected, and Donna Zajonc presented the keynote address, *Keeping Your Vision for Public Service Alive*. Donna acknowledged that, in the intensely partisan political climate, some legislators are feeling that "we have lost our way." She suggested strategies to help lawmakers rekindle their passion for public service.



The *First Annual Walk for Wellness* was the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 16. More than 150

legislators, legislative staff and other meeting attendees participated in the 5K run/walk, led by kick-off speaker Eddie George, former Tennessee Titans running back. The Network cosponsored the Walk with the National Caucus of Native American Legislators, the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators and NCSL's Health and Transportation programs. The walk was dedicated to raising awareness of the devastating effects conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity have for our nation as a whole, while drawing special attention to the health disparities that exist in minority and underserved communities. The walk presented a donation to Music City Moves Kids! in recognition of its efforts to promote healthy lifestyles for Nashville youth.

*Stamping Out Disease: A Look at the Leading Causes of Death in Women* took place on Wednesday, Aug. 16. The session focused on heart disease and cancer, the two leading causes of death for American women. Michigan Senator Bev Hammerstrom introduced the panelists and shared some of her work on behalf women's health in Michigan. Kathy Kastan shared her experiences as a bypass survivor and discussed some of her advocacy work as president of WomenHeart. Dr. Judith Prestifilippo, a senior medical director at Novartis, discussed the importance of public-private-nonprofit partnerships to improve outcomes in cancer treatment and care. Christy Schmidt, senior director of policy at the American Cancer Society, presented ACS statistics about breast and cervical cancer mortality rates, and gave specific recommendations for how state policymakers can improve access to care and treatment and eliminate health disparities. Special thanks to Novartis for making the session possible.

The *Inaugural Reception* for incoming Network president Representative Annie Kuether of Kansas was the evening of Wednesday, Aug. 16. All interested Annual Meeting attendees were invited. The reception was made possible by the

*continued on page 3*

## News from the Network Board and Advisory Council

If you're a member of the Board or Advisory Council and would like to share news about interesting legislation in your state, contact Katie Fischer (303) 856-1514 or [katie.fischer@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.fischer@ncsl.org)



Wyoming Representative Ann Robinson, a member of the Network Advisory Council, has received the 2006 Wyoming Woman of Distinction Award. The "once in a lifetime" award celebrates those who have significantly helped women and families in Wyoming with education, community, health and legal issues. Robinson has represented Natrona County in the Wyoming House for 10 years. She has sponsored legislation that improves child protection, child care, early childhood education and education for disabled children. Representative Robinson also sponsored legislation for fair labor standards, fair insurance practices and workers' compensation and led the "Axe the Tax on Food" effort, which removed sales tax from food in 2006.

California Assemblywoman Betty Karnette, Advisory Council member, reports on her recent legislation related to domestic violence: "Domestic violence is defined by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence as 'the willful intimidation, assault, battery, sexual assault, or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another.' It is an epidemic that affects people across the United States, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion or educational background. One important way to help protect victims of domestic violence is through community programs, especially shelters. Three decades ago, California passed legislation allocating a portion of marriage license fees to fund domestic violence shelter programs. During tough budget cycles, other programs and groups have tried to tap into this funding source for non-shelter-based domestic violence programs. For the past few years, I have worked with California domestic violence groups to ensure that this money, though modest, is directed solely to domestic violence shelter-based programs as intended. Shelters are the safety net for domestic violence victims who need refuge from violent and dangerous situations. The collaborative effort resulted in California's enactment of a measure I authored (AB 2084, Karnette, 2006) that dedicates a fraction of the total domestic violence program's funding to shelter-based needs."



### From the Annual Meeting...

Network Alliance, with special thanks to: Aquila Inc.; Anheuser-Busch; AstraZeneca; Exxon Mobil; General Motors Corporation; Hein Law Firm, Chartered; Kansas City Power & Light; Kansas Gas Service & ONEOK; Kansas Electric Cooperatives; American Federation of Teachers/ Kansas Association of Public Employees; Merck; Midwest Energy Inc; Pepco Holdings Inc.; Southwest Kansas Royalty Owners Association; State Independent Telephone Association; Sunflower Electric Power Corporation; Walmart Stores Inc; and Westar Energy.

Michigan Representative Fran Amos, Network Board Member, was lead sponsor on a package of bills passed by the Michigan House to combat mortgage fraud. Representative Amos notes, "Mortgage fraud affects so many people across the state and, with the state of our economy, the increasing numbers of those refinancing their homes have a better chance of falling victim to this devastating crime. We need to reform the system to protect our citizens. Michigan's poor economy has created fertile ground for mortgage fraud scams that can steal away people's homes. Refinancing your home to help pay bills can be a viable option; unfortunately, the world is full of individuals looking to capitalize off the misfortunate of others." Michigan is one of the top 10 "Hot Spots" nationwide for mortgage fraud; the state's mortgage fraud losses skyrocketed from almost \$9 million in 2003 to \$26 million in 2005, according to the FBI. The legislative package of five bills will combat mortgage fraud by:



- Clarifying what constitutes fraud in the mortgage industry and making mortgage fraud a felony;
- Allotting \$3 million in the Real Estate Enforcement Fund to be used by the state Attorney General's Office to investigate and enforce mortgage fraud;
- Providing prosecutors with the flexibility necessary to try the cases more efficiently because mortgage fraud crimes can overlap many legal jurisdictions;
- Clarifying specific actions that constitute fraud within the appraisal process to eliminate the manipulation of appraisals;
- Protecting victims of mortgage fraud by allowing the opportunity for civil retribution.

"In today's struggling economy, any crime that takes away people's homes is truly criminal," said Amos. "Mortgage fraud causes people to lose not only their homes, but their life savings. This package gives the state a way to combat this terrible crime against our residents. People are putting their futures in the hands of their real estate professionals. Homeowners must be able to trust that they will do an honest job."



The *Third Annual Governor's Breakfast* was Thursday, Aug. 17. Women legislators and friends of the Network gathered to hear from two experienced women leaders. Tennessee Representative Kim McMillan shared stories of her rise through the legislature into a leadership position. Former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman discussed the current climate of political polarization and talked about the challenges women face in the male-dominated arena. The event was sponsored by Novartis. (See a video of the address on the website.)

## At A Glance: Update on Reauthorized TANF Program

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, signed into law in February 2006, reauthorized the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program at current spending levels. New changes made to the TANF program will require states to make changes to state budgets, administrative structures and policies, and, in some cases, statutes. Changes to the calculation of work participation rates are particularly significant because of penalties faced by states that fail to meet them. Meeting these rates (50 percent and 90 percent for all families and two-parent families, respectively) will be more difficult because of a recalculation of the caseload reduction credit and other changes involving how work participation rates are determined. For example, families in separate state programs now must be included, activities that may be counted toward work requirements have changed, and certain rehabilitation activities now can be counted only under job-readiness and job-search categories.

States can use several strategies to meet the new requirements:

- Work engagement strategies: Reduction of exemptions from work requirements, maximization of claiming activities that count toward the work-participation rate, and stricter enforcement of work requirements;
- Post-employment strategies: The addition of working families to work-participation rates by allowing them to remain on welfare longer; and
- Targeted take-out strategies: Not claiming funds for nonworking families as TANF spending.

NCSL is actively providing technical assistance to states to help them determine the best strategies for their circumstances.

Because changes will be necessary, legislators need to ask their TANF agency how the new law and regulations will affect their state's welfare program. Can the state meet the minimum 50 percent all-family work participation rate (and, if not, what can be done to meet this requirement)? What changes can be made to two-parent programs that likely will not meet the 90 percent work participation requirements? How will these changes affect achievement of primary program goals, such as increased employment of aid recipients and improved outcomes for families leaving welfare? State legislators, who were involved in welfare reform even before passage of federal legislation, should be aware of the challenges their programs face.

NCSL's comments on the Interim Final Rule can be found at: <http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/TANFcomments.htm>. For more information, contact Lee Posey at (202) 624-8196 or [lee.posey@ncsl.org](mailto:lee.posey@ncsl.org).



### NEW from NCSL!

*Childhood Obesity: Legislative Policy Approaches and the Evidence Base to Date* reports state legislative policy options for childhood obesity prevention. For each policy approach, current scientific evidence about the effectiveness of the option also is reported. Download free at the NCSL Bookstore: [www.ncsl.org/bookstore](http://www.ncsl.org/bookstore) (search for "Childhood Obesity").



*State Health Notes* has a new look and a new location. Best of all, it's free! Check it out at [www.ncsl.org/shn](http://www.ncsl.org/shn).

NCSL's Center for Ethics in Government has developed a nine-minute video with facilitator's guide for ethics training at new member/returning member orientations. The video, *Reflections: Being Ethical in Today's Legislature*, features legislators who talk about their perspective on ethics and ethical behavior. Three legislators discuss their dilemmas and how they solved them. The video is designed to be shown alone or with a facilitator leading the discussion. In addition, it is available to legislators for their personal use. Contact Peggy Kerns at [peggy.kerns@ncsl.org](mailto:peggy.kerns@ncsl.org) for more information and to receive a copy.

CHECK OUT THE NETWORK WEBSITE:

[www.ncsl.org/wln](http://www.ncsl.org/wln)

## At A Glance: Women and Asset Development

The Network and the Annie E. Casey Foundation have collaborated for the past two years to provide programming that focuses on helping low-income families succeed. One of the most important pathways to success is asset ownership. An “asset” is defined as a single item of ownership that has exchange value, such as cash savings; stocks; bonds; home, business and real estate equity; and retirement savings. Some statistics about women and asset ownership:

- The average income gap (women earn 76 cents for every \$1 earned by men) contributes to a lifetime loss of \$300,000.
  - 45 percent of women are “asset poor;” they do not have enough financial resources to cover basic needs for more than three months if their income is disrupted.
  - Today, 25 percent of female-headed households have zero or negative net worth.
  - Widowed women fare the best of all female-headed households, but they have only 59 cents for every \$1 of wealth owned by widowed men.
  - Never-married women own less than 25 percent of the wealth of never-married men.
  - Divorced African American women hold only 10 percent of the median wealth of their divorced male counterparts.
  - Women are less likely to have income from pensions than men (30 percent vs. 47 percent), and their pension benefits are less than half of men’s, on average.
  - Women and minorities are more likely to be working in low-wage jobs that do not offer affordable health insurance or retirement benefits.
- Source:** Heather McCulloch, Principal, Asset Building Strategies, 2005.

For more information about women and asset development and to learn what state asset policy initiatives can do to close the gap, contact Mary Fairchild at (303) 856-1396 or [mary.fairchild@ncsl.org](mailto:mary.fairchild@ncsl.org).

## NCSL Brings You Women’s Health Across the Lifespan

The Women’s Legislative Network and NCSL’s Health Program are pleased to announce a



new project supported by Novartis Pharmaceuticals, *Women’s Health Across the Lifespan*. Women’s health issues continue to grow in visibility, often in conjunction with shrinking or strained state budgets. State legislators often are forced to view women’s health by issue areas such as breast cancer, obesity or pregnancy. More effective policies can come about if legislators view a woman’s life comprehensively.

The partnership between NCSL and Novartis Pharmaceuticals will allow NCSL to provide women’s health resources and education for state legislators. Project resources are available now! Check out the new *Women’s Health Across the Lifespan* website at [www.ncsl.org/programs/health/womenmain.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/womenmain.htm). You will find links to a range of health topics that affect women and information from the session at Annual Meeting, *Stamping Out Disease: A Look at the Leading Causes of Death in Women*.

NCSL’s Health Program is looking forward to producing an illustrated postcard on racial disparities in breast and cervical cancer, a *LegisBrief* on women in Medicaid, and a *State Legislatures* magazine article. Keep an eye out for these publications.

This winter, the *Women’s Health Across the Lifespan* project will convene a half-day invitational preconference in conjunction with NCSL’s Fall Forum in San Antonio, Texas, on Dec. 6, 2006. In February, the project will host a Web-assisted audioconference on the role of state legislatures in improving women’s health. Watch your email for an opportunity to participate in the audioconference.

The *Women’s Health Across the Lifespan* project will be guided by an advisory committee that will convene twice during the coming year. The committee will consist of a regionally and politically balanced group of legislators who are interested in women’s health issues.

The Women’s Legislative Network and the Health Program appreciate the support of Novartis Pharmaceuticals and look forward to bringing legislators and legislative staff valuable resources and education through the *Women’s Health Across the Lifespan* project.

# WOMEN'S HEALTH



# ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## States Face Big Decisions Regarding New HPV Vaccine

### HPV: Then and Now

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the human papilloma virus (HPV) currently infects 20 million people with 6.2 million new cases each year. Most strands of HPV do not produce any symptoms and go away on their own, but four strands are linked to genital warts and cervical cancer. HPV causes about 90 percent of genital warts cases for both men and women, and HPV strains 16 and 18 are the cause of 70 percent of cervical cancer cases.

On June 8, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a preventive vaccine for HPV, Gardasil, for girls and women ages 9 to 26. In clinical trials, the vaccine is nearly 100 percent effective in preventing infection of HPV strains 16 and 18.

Cervical cancer is the second leading cancer killer of women worldwide. Fifty years ago, it was the leading cause of death for women in the United States. Incidence rates for cervical cancer in the U.S. have dropped precipitously in that time, thanks in most part to the Papanicolaou (Pap) test, a screening tool that detects cellular abnormalities on the cervix. The Pap test has become part of routine gynecological care for women in America. Screening is a start, but cervical cancer is not gone. In the U.S., nearly 10,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year and 3,700 women die.

### State Roles in Immunizations

States will play a dominant role in determining school requirements and exemptions for the vaccine. Requiring vaccines for school enrollment boosts vaccination rates significantly. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that the vaccine be administered to all girls at age 11 or 12. This timing could correspond with other vaccines routinely administered at age 11 or 12, including a booster for tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough; a new vaccine for bacterial meningitis; and other shots that children may not have received earlier.

The HPV vaccine requires three doses, each with a price tag of \$100 to \$150. The Vaccines for Children Program, which covers Medicaid recipients, Alaska Native and American Indians, and some uninsured and underinsured children will cover the vaccine. States mandate immunization coverage for children in private insurance plans. The coverage gap may be seen in women ages 19 to 26. Some states do not require Medicaid

or private insurance companies to cover vaccines for adults, though all have the option to do so.

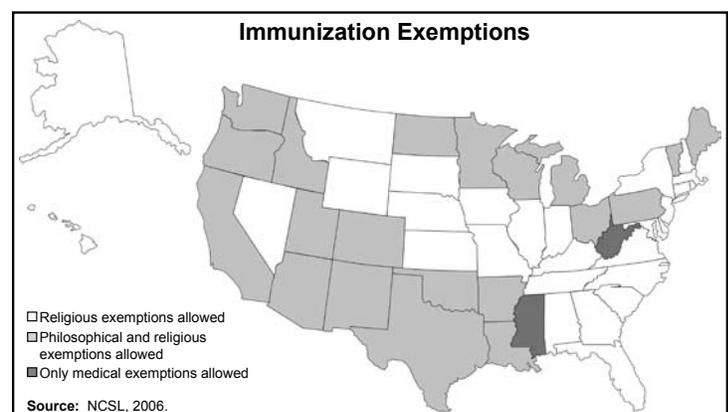
### Options for Policymakers

A bipartisan group of female legislators in Michigan are among the first to create legislation requiring girls to be vaccinated against HPV before starting sixth grade. The Michigan Senate passed this legislation in September, which, as of November, is waiting to be addressed by the Michigan Assembly.

Some groups are concerned about administering the vaccine at such an early age, fearing it could send the wrong message about sexual activity. Although the Family Research Council opposes mandatory HPV vaccines as school entry requirements, it issued a statement saying, "... we and other pro-family groups have concluded that the clear benefits of developing an HPV vaccine outweigh the costs."

For parents who choose not to have their children vaccinated, most states allow for exemptions from school requirements. All states allow medical exemptions with a physician's documentation. Every state except Mississippi and West Virginia allow religious exemptions from immunizations. Twenty states allow philosophical or personal exemptions for people who object to immunizations because of personal, moral or other non-religious beliefs. To see school requirement exemptions your state, see the map below.

For more information, contact Jody Hatz at (303) 856-1521 or [jody.hatz@ncsl.org](mailto:jody.hatz@ncsl.org) or Megan Foreman at (303) 856-1401 or [megan.foreman@ncsl.org](mailto:megan.foreman@ncsl.org).



# WOMEN'S HEALTH



# ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## Disparities in Cancer and Chronic Disease

Racial and gender disparities are visible in many of the leading causes of death and disability in the United States. Cardiovascular disease, which includes heart disease, heart attack and stroke, is the leading cause of death for both men and women in America. However, 50,000 more females than males die each year of the disease—an annual death toll of 500,000 women.

- Women with cardiovascular disease are more likely to seek treatment later or to have a delayed diagnosis.
- Compared to men, women receive both less aggressive early screening for risk factors and treatment for cardiovascular-related health problems.
- African-American women have a 69 percent higher death rate from heart disease than their Caucasian counterparts.
- A recent study indicates that one in three primary care physicians is unaware that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and disability among women.
- Statistics indicate that medical outcomes are influenced by this lack of awareness and differences in treatment.

Cancer incidence rates have been stable across the population as a whole from 1992 to 2003. Still, one in two men and one in three women in the United States will get some form of cancer in their lifetime; underserved and minority populations are at especially high risk. African-Americans have the highest incidence and death rates from cancer.

- Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in the United States across gender and race, but African-American women suffer a disproportionate share of deaths from the disease.
- Hispanic/Latina females have the highest incidence rates of cervical cancer.
- About half of women diagnosed with cervical cancer have never had a Pap test.
- Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths among Hispanic/Latina women, a group where only 38 percent of those over age 40 have regular mammograms.

Diabetes—the sixth leading cause of death by disease and a major cause of disability—is found disproportionately in African-American, American Indian and Hispanic/Latino populations, especially among the elderly.

- African-Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives are at least twice as likely to have diabetes than are whites, although Caucasians have a higher incidence of Type 1 diabetes, with typical onset in childhood.
- One in three Americans born in 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime, unless trends change, which makes rising rates of Type 2 diabetes among younger Americans a growing concern.
- Minority populations have higher rates of uncontrolled blood pressure, eye disease, kidney failure, lower extremity amputation and death.

Disparities result from a variety of factors, including access to routine health care and screenings, socioeconomic status (combination of income and education), cultural barriers, or genetics. However, various options exist to address disparities.

- More than 15 million patients rely on federally qualified community health centers for their care; 9.8 million are from minority populations.
- Community health centers have proven to reduce or eliminate disparities among the populations they serve by customizing care for low-income racial and ethnic minorities.
- The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) serves low-income (up to 250 percent of federal poverty guidelines), underserved and underinsured women by providing screening and diagnostic services, such as mammograms and Pap tests. About half the women screened through the program are racial and ethnic minorities. States are eligible for matching funds when they offer NBCCEDP services through their Medicaid programs. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have elected to offer the services, but with varying degrees of coverage.

For more information, contact Megan Foreman at (303) 856-1401 or [megan.foreman@ncsl.org](mailto:megan.foreman@ncsl.org).

## We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Alliance members are a vital part of the Network. We value our relationships with Alliance members and appreciate the support they provide to women legislators through the Network.

### \*Sponsor (\$5,000)

- AstraZeneca
- Johnnie B. Byrd Sr. Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute
- Novartis
- Pfizer
- Procter & Gamble
- Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

### \*Partner (\$2,500)

- Exxon Mobil
- Key Bank
- Merck & Co. Inc. (Vaccine Division)
- Sprint

### \*Contributor (\$1,000)

- 1-800 CONTACTS
- Alticor
- American Beverage Association
- Aquila Inc.
- Daimler Chrysler
- Equipment Leasing Association
- Hallmark Cards Inc.
- International Council of Shopping Centers
- Intuit
- Kodak
- Mary Kay
- Maximus
- National Education Association
- sanofi-aventis
- Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America

### \*Friend (\$500)

- Abbott Laboratories
- American Federation of Teachers and the Kansas Association of Public Employees
- Anheuser Busch
- Barr Laboratories
- Direct Selling Association
- Edison Electric Institute
- General Motors
- Hein Law Firm, Chartered
- Kansas City Power & Light
- Kansas Gas Service and ONEOK
- Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. / Midwest Energy Inc. / Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
- Pepco Holdings Inc.
- Westar Energy

## Note from the Alliance Chair

What a delight it is to serve the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL as Alliance Chair! We began the Network's year on a high note at Annual Meeting with a well-attended reception honoring Kansas state Representative Annie Kuether's inauguration as Network president. The combination of the many private sector representatives who participate in Network initiatives and the women legislators from across the United States makes for strong relationships and a great deal of cooperation at NCSL meetings and back home in the various state capitols.



Businesses and associations are receiving the Network's annual request for financial support. As you are budgeting for 2007 or determining how to allocate remaining 2006 funds, I hope that you will consider making a contribution to the Women's Legislative Network. You and your organization will gain valuable insight into women legislators' priorities and their approaches to developing legislation in their respective states. Even more important, you will gain a great new set of friends. It's been terrific getting to know legislators from coast to coast who have participated in or led the Women's Legislative Network.

If you have questions about sponsorship opportunities, call me at (816) 274-8893 or Katie Fischer, Network policy associate at (303) 856-1514. We look forward to seeing you at the next Network meeting in San Antonio, Texas

*Jackie Clark*

Jackie Clark

## Sharing Our Views

*Sharing Our Views provides an opportunity for some of our most dedicated Alliance members to express their perspectives. If you would like to see your company's viewpoint included in the next edition, contact Katie Fischer at (303) 856-1514 or [katie.fischer@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.fischer@ncsl.org)*

### Know the Symptoms of Diabetes

More than 20 million Americans suffer from diabetes—the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Another 7 million are undiagnosed and unaware they have diabetes, while as many as 30 million have pre-diabetes, a condition that leads to diabetes. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (NPC) is committed to raising awareness about the serious disease of diabetes and helping all consumers to lead healthier lifestyles.



There are two types of diabetes: type 1 and type 2. People with type 1 diabetes do not make insulin at all. With type 2 diabetes, which accounts for 90 to 95 percent of cases, the pancreas doesn't make enough insulin, and the body has a hard time using insulin. As a result, the amount of sugar in the blood isn't properly managed.

Diabetes is a major contributor to heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney disease and nontraumatic leg and foot amputations. That's why it's important to be aware of the type 2 diabetes symptoms and risk factors and to talk with your doctor about being tested for diabetes.

Symptoms include unusual thirst; frequent urination; hunger; weight loss (without trying); blurry vision; feeling very tired; frequent infections; and cuts and sores that heal slowly.

People who are the greatest risk of developing diabetes include those who are age 45 or older; are overweight; have a family member with diabetes; are not physically active; are African American, Latino, Native American, Asian American or Pacific Islander; have high blood pressure; have low (good) cholesterol; and have a high level of fats (triglycerides) in the blood.

Be sure to speak with your health care provider about being tested for diabetes, especially if you have any of the symptoms or risk factors listed above.

NPC is committed to helping those in need access medicines. To learn about the savings programs NPC offers, call the Novartis Savings Hotline at (800) 277-2254.

Nancy Lurker  
Senior Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

At AstraZeneca, helping people reach their cholesterol goals is at the heart of what we do.



Results from a survey conducted for AstraZeneca by Harris Interactive in 2005 found 80 percent of Americans who are concerned about high cholesterol and 54 percent of those already being treated with a cholesterol-lowering statin medication do not know their target cholesterol goal.

Survey findings also indicated a need for better patient-doctor communication about cholesterol management, one of the main reasons the Association of Black Cardiologists, WomenHeart and AstraZeneca joined forces to launch a national cholesterol education and awareness campaign, GOAL Standard. The campaign goal is to help patients with their health care professionals set, reach and maintain healthy cholesterol GOALS to lower their risk for heart disease.

The campaign offers support, guidance and information through a wide variety of programs, including cholesterol and blood pressure screening events, an interactive website [www.GOALStandard.com](http://www.GOALStandard.com), and an educational brochure.

Many people don't know they have high cholesterol because they usually don't have any symptoms. High cholesterol is one of the leading risk factors for heart disease—the No. 1 cause of death for men and women in the United States. That's why it's so important for adults to make sure they get a cholesterol screening at least every five years.

The GOAL Standard disease awareness campaign encourages patients to begin a dialogue with their physician to discover what their cholesterol GOAL should be and to design a treatment plan that is right for them.

*Opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors; NCSL does not endorse the views on this page.*

# Sharing Our Views

Rising health care costs is one of the most important and challenging issues facing our nation. In particular, the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs affects nearly every family—from working mothers who need prescription medicine for their children to fight common illnesses, to senior citizens who have fallen into the “doughnut hole” coverage gap in their Medicare Part D prescription drug plans and now are responsible for paying 100 percent of their prescription costs.



In February 2005, Wal-Mart’s CEO, Lee Scott, pledged to work with government leaders like you to find real solutions to the nation’s health care problems. As part of that commitment, Wal-Mart launched a new program in September 2006 to make more than 300 generic drugs available for only \$4 per prescription. Our pharmacies see customers struggle with the cost of prescription drugs, and we feel that by cutting the cost of many generics to \$4, we are helping to ensure that our customers and associates obtain the medicines they need at a price they can afford.

In addition, the program provides a solution for the millions of uninsured who also may avoid filling prescriptions and remain untreated. Wal-Mart estimates that the program will save a state’s Medicaid program hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

This innovative program will help to drive costs out of the system and pass those savings to our customers and associates. Wal-Mart is working every day to find new ideas like this that will lead to real change in as many states as possible.

Linda Dillman  
Executive Vice President  
Risk Management, Benefits and Sustainability  
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

For more information about Wal-Mart, visit [www.walmartfacts.com](http://www.walmartfacts.com)

*Opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors; NCSL does not endorse the views on this page.*

## Women in State Legislatures: 2007 Session

A total of 1,720 women state legislators will begin the 2007 session across the 50 states, accounting for 23.3 percent of all legislative seats.\*

Data is current as of Nov. 15, 2006, subject to change due to recounts of contested races. For up-to-date information, visit [www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/WomenInOffice2007.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/WomenInOffice2007.htm).

State	Percent of Women Legislators	State	Percent of Women Legislators
Alabama	12.9%	Nebraska	20.4%
Alaska	21.7	Nevada	28.6
Arizona	31.1	New Hampshire	35.4
Arkansas	20.7	New Jersey	19.2
California	27.5	New Mexico	30.4
Colorado	34.0	New York	22.6
Connecticut	27.8	North Carolina	24.7
Delaware	30.6	North Dakota	17.7
Florida	25.0	Ohio	17.4
Georgia	19.1	Oklahoma	12.8
Hawaii	32.9	Oregon	30.0
Idaho	22.9	Pennsylvania	13.8
Illinois	27.1	Rhode Island	19.5
Indiana	18.7	South Carolina	8.8
Iowa	22.7	South Dakota	17.1
Kansas	29.1	Tennessee	16.7
Kentucky	12.3	Texas	21.0
Louisiana	17.4	Utah	19.2
Maine	30.6	Vermont	35.6
Maryland	33.5	Virginia	17.1
Massachusetts	24.5	Washington	32.7
Michigan	19.6	West Virginia	14.2
Minnesota	34.3	Wisconsin	22.7
Mississippi	13.2	Wyoming	23.3
Missouri	19.3		
Montana	25.3	TOTAL	23.3%

\*A slight increase from 22.6 percent in 2006.

**WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS**  
Published by the National Conference of State Legislatures, 7700 East First Place, Denver, Colorado 80230, (303) 364-7700.

William T. Pound, Executive Director  
Katie Fischer, Network Policy Associate

Special thanks to Leann Stelzer and Jessica Harris at NCSL for their help in preparing this edition of the *Network News*.

  
 Printed on recycled paper.

# Meet YOUR Board . . . . .



**President**  
Representative Annie Kuether (D)  
Kansas



**Vice-President**  
Representative Sheryl Allen (R)  
Utah



**Past President**  
Senator Liane Sorenson (R)  
Delaware

## Eastern Regional Members



**Delegate**  
Jean Cryor (R)  
Maryland



**Representative**  
Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey (D)  
Connecticut

## Western Regional Members



**Representative**  
Elsie Arntzen (R)  
Montana



**Assemblywoman**  
Kathryn McClain (D)  
Nevada

## Midwestern Regional Members



**Representative**  
Fran Amos (R)  
Michigan



**Representative**  
Peggy Welch (D)  
Indiana

## At-Large Members



**Representative**  
Dori Connor (R)  
Delaware



**Representative**  
Linda Lopez (D)  
Arizona

## Southern Regional Members



**Representative**  
Helen Giddings (D)  
Texas



**Representative**  
Cecily Hill  
Georgia

## NOBEL Representative



**Senator**  
Diana E. Bajoie (D)  
Louisiana

**More about the Network Executive Board is available at [www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/officers2006-2007.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/officers2006-2007.htm).**

## *We need you!*

The Women's Legislative Network Advisory Council has vacancies in several states. (See chart on page 10.) Advisory Council members serve as liaisons between their states and the Network. The Network Advisory Council strives to be politically and geographically balanced. If you are interested in serving on the advisory council or you would like to nominate a fellow legislator, please send nominations to [wln-info@ncsl.org](mailto:wln-info@ncsl.org). For more information, visit the Network Advisory Council Web page: <http://www.ncsl.org/wln/AdvBoard06.htm>.

## Women's Legislative Network of NCSL Advisory Council (2006-2007)

State	Title/Name	Party
Alabama	Sen. Sundra Escott-Russell	D
Alabama	Rep. Laura Hall	D
Alaska	Sen. Bettye Davis	D
Alaska	Rep. Lesil McGuire	R
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Arizona	Rep. Cheryl Chase	R
Arkansas	Rep. Betty Pickett	D
Arkansas	Rep. Shirley Walters	R
California	Assy. Betty Karnette	D
<b>California</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Colorado	Rep. Alice Borodkin	D
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Connecticut	Sen Andrea Stillman	D
Connecticut	Rep. Catherine Tymniak	R
Delaware	Sen. Patricia Blevins	D
Delaware	Rep. Nancy Wagner	R
Florida	Rep. Joyce Cusack	D
<b>Florida</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Georgia	Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague	D
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Hawaii	Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland	D
Hawaii	Rep. Colleen Meyer	R
Idaho	Rep. Donna Boe	D
Idaho	Rep. Maxine Bell	R
Illinois	Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (Majority Leader)	D
Illinois	Rep. Elizabeth Coulson	R
Indiana	Rep. Terri Austin	D
Indiana	Sen. Connie Lawson	R
Iowa	Rep. Pam Jochum	D
Iowa	Sen. Maggie Tinsman	R
Kansas	Rep. Barbara Ballard	D
Kansas	Sen. Barbara Allen	R
Kentucky	Rep. Joni L. Jenkins	D
Kentucky	Rep. Susan Westrom	D
Kentucky	Sen. Elizabeth Tori	R
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Louisiana	Rep. Kay Kellogg Katz	R
Maine	Rep. Hannah Pingree	D
<b>Maine</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Maryland	Sen. Delores Kelley	D
Maryland	Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam	D
Massachusetts	Rep. Marie St. Fleur	D
Massachusetts	Rep. Mary Rogeness	R
Michigan	Sen. Martha G. Scott	D
Michigan	Rep. Barbara Vander Veen	R
Minnesota	Rep. Nora Slawik	D
Minnesota	Rep. Kathy Tingelstad	R
Mississippi	Rep. Jessica Upshaw	R
Mississippi	Sen. Alice Harden	D
Missouri	Rep. Barbara Fraser	D
Missouri	Rep. Kathlyn Fares	R
Montana	Sen. Trudi Schmidt	D
Montana	Rep. Janna Taylor	R

State	Title/Name	Party
Nebraska	Sen. Vickie McDonald	X
Nebraska	Sen. DiAnna Schimek	X
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>Assy. Genie Ohrenschall</b>	<b>D</b>
Nevada	VACANT	R
New Hampshire	Rep. Marjorie Smith	D
New Hampshire	Rep. Phyllis Katsakiores	R
New Jersey	Sen. Nia Gill	D
New Jersey	Assy. Loretta Weinberg	D
New Mexico	Rep. Patricia Lundstrom	D
New Mexico	Rep. Jeannette Wallace	R
New York	Assy. Barbara Clark	D
New York	Assy. Adele Cohen	D
North Carolina	Rep. Beverly Earle	D
North Carolina	Rep. Julia Craven Howard	R
North Dakota	Rep. Nancy Johnson	R
North Dakota	Rep. Lois Delmore	D
Ohio	Sen. Teresa Fedor	D
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Oklahoma	Rep. Jari Askins	D
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Oregon	Sen. Margaret Carter	D
Oregon	Rep. Donna Nelson	R
Pennsylvania	Rep. Linda Bebko-Jones	D
Pennsylvania	Rep. Sheila Miller	R
Puerto Rico	Sen. Luz Z Arce-Ferrer	N
Puerto Rico	Sen. Velda Gonzalez-de Modesti	P
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Rhode Island	Sen. Elizabeth Roberts	D
South Carolina	Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter	D
South Carolina	Sen. Linda Short	D
South Dakota	Rep. Margaret Gillespie	D
South Dakota	Rep. Joni Cutler	R
Tennessee	Rep. Kathryn Bowers	D
Tennessee	Rep. Beth Halteman Harwell	R
Texas	Rep. Ruth McClendon	D
Texas	Rep. Linda Harper-Brown	R
Utah	Rep. Karen Morgan	D
Utah	Rep. Ann Hardy	R
<b>Vermont</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Vermont</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Virginia	Sen. Yvonne Miller	D
Virginia	Sen. Patricia Ticer	D
Virginia	Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple	D
Washington	Sen. Karen Fraser	D
Washington	Rep. Beverly Woods	R
West Virginia	Del. Bonnie Brown	D
West Virginia	Sen. Donna Boley	R
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Wyoming	Rep. Ann Robinson	D
Wyoming	Rep. Rosie Berger	R

*Names that are italicized are legislators who have been nominated to serve on the Network Advisory Council, but have not been confirmed by the Network Executive Board.*

## WINGS Announcements

Women in Informal Networking Groups (WINGS) is an interactive network of national organizations that serve women legislators in a variety of capacities. These organizations have joined to share information and resources and to work together on leadership, education, training and development to empower legislative women throughout the nation. Participating organizations include:

- Center for American Women and Politics (<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu>)
- Center for Policy Alternatives (<http://www.stateaction.org>)
- Center for Women Policy Studies (<http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org>)
- National Order of Black Elected Legislative Women (<http://www.nobelwomen.org>)
- National Women's Political Caucus (<http://www.nwpc.org>)
- Women in Government (<http://www.womeningovernment.org>)
- The Women Legislators' Lobby (<http://www.willwand.org>)
- Women's Legislative Network of NCSL (<http://www.ncsl.org/wln/>)

### Women In Government Releases Policy Recommendations for Cervical Cancer Prevention

In August 2006, Women In Government's national, bipartisan Cervical Cancer and HPV Task Force met to discuss the new licensure and provisional recommendations of an HPV vaccine. Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the cause of cervical cancer, and, with available screening technologies (Pap and HPV testing) and a new HPV vaccine, we can eliminate this deadly disease.



To continue momentum around the elimination of cervical cancer across the United States, Women In Government's Cervical Cancer and HPV Task Force developed six key policy recommendations for comprehensive cervical cancer prevention: 1) the Vaccines For Children Program; 2) school entrance requirements; 3) health coverage; 4) access to preventive technologies for uninsured and underinsured individuals; 5) education and awareness; and 6) the role of statewide accountable entities. The full recommendations, along with educational materials and model legislation, can be found on the web at [www.womeningovernment.org/prevention](http://www.womeningovernment.org/prevention). For more information, please call 1-888-333-0164.

**If you would like to receive future newsletters via e-mail or have a comment about what you would like to see in the *Network News*, contact Katie Fischer at (303) 856-1514 or [katie.fischer@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.fischer@ncsl.org)**



WiLL is excited to announce that WiLL President, Georgia State Senator-Elect Nan Grogan Orrock, and California Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey will provide a plenary session at the upcoming annual conference of the Center for Policy Alternatives to be held at the Capitol Hilton, Dec. 8-10, in Washington, D.C. The focus of the plenary will be the Common Sense Budget Act, filed by Congresswoman Woolsey in March of this year and currently coauthored by 38 congressional colleagues. The act would require Congress to transfer \$60 billion currently budgeted for obsolete Cold War weapons and return it proportionally to state legislatures to be appropriated according to the priorities and needs of each state. Legislators can access <http://www.sensiblepriorities.org/csba/factsheet.php> for charts detailing annual funds the act would recoup for each state that could be applied to schools, health care, infrastructure or other priorities. To register for the conference, go to [www.cfpa.org](http://www.cfpa.org).

WiLL also is pleased to announce that, on September 20, we completed an exciting collaboration with the Center for Law and Social Policy. This project consisted of three national conference calls hosted by WiLL and CLASP for legislators on paid sick days: what are the issues, who are the proponents/opponents, how to craft legislation. National experts were interviewed and made available for audience questions on each call, including such notables as Sen. Edward Kennedy and his key staff member. A manual of resources and recommendations is being developed and will be available upon request at (202) 544-5055.

PRSRJ STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Denver, Colorado  
Permit No. 3534

**WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS**  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
7700 East First Place  
Denver, Colorado 80230



# WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS

A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK OF NCSL