



WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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

Spring 2007

Vol. 19, No. 1

Note from the President

Dear Women Legislators and Friends,

Welcome and congratulations to all the legislators who were newly elected in November. A record number of women legislators are now serving across the country! I am sure that your first session has been a busy time of exciting new challenges. As things wind down in many states, I encourage each of you to take some time to get to know the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL. Browse our website (www.ncsl.org/wln) and please call on me or any of the board members with questions about the Network or about life as a legislator. I hope you will attend a Network event in the future, where you will find not only insightful policy discussions and skills trainings, but also a dedicated group of women legislators who can be valuable mentors as you make your way through your first term.

Please join us at the NCSL Annual Meeting in Boston, August 5-9. As always, the Network will sponsor and cosponsor a great series of events. Consider arriving early to attend the Conflict Resolution training on Sunday, August 5. Remember to bring your walking shoes for the Network-cosponsored Walk for Wellness on August 8. Be sure to attend the latest in a series of great programs that have resulted from the Women's Health Across the Lifespan

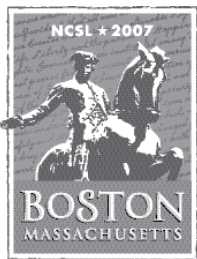
project on August 8. See the schedule below for a list of the week's activities.

Special recognition goes to the Network Alliance sponsors. This dedicated group of prestigious corporations, unions and associations makes the work of the Network—promoting the participation, empowerment and leadership of women legislators—a reality. For more information about the Network Alliance, see page 6. I hope to see many Alliance members at the Annual Meeting and ask that legislators thank them personally.

Finally, I want to ask veteran legislators to please consider applying to the Network Executive Board or Advisory Council. Several vacancies will occur at the Annual Meeting, and we need your help to keep the Network strong. Please review the application form included in this newsletter.

See you in Boston!

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



Highlights of the 2007 Annual Meeting

For more information and to view the complete schedule, visit www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/AMagenda07.htm

Sunday, August 5

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

How Do You Resolve Conflict? Are You a Turtle or a Shark?

Faculty: Myrna Bair, Ph.D., Director, Women's Leadership Development Program, University of Delaware. Dr. Bair will lead participants through the Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument to determine their preferred styles of managing conflict and negotiation.

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Network Executive Board Meeting

All are welcome to attend.

Monday, August 6

Opening Social Event:
A Night at Fenway Park

Tuesday, August 7

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

NCSL /Annie E. Casey Partnership
breakfast: **Strategies to Help Low-Income Families Achieve Economic Success**

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Network Reception

Inaugural event for incoming Network President Sheryl Allen, State Representative, Utah

Wednesday, August 8

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Walk for Wellness

Bring your walking shoes to Annual Meeting and join us for a 5K route through the historic streets of downtown Boston.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Annual Network Business Meeting and Luncheon

Program will include the Network elections and a vote on the proposed bylaws change (see page 4)

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lessons from End-of-Life Care

Care at the end of life is principally governed by state, not federal, law. State legislators, therefore, will be looked to for wisdom and action as end-of-life care evolves. This session provides a unique opportunity for legislators and experts to discuss policymakers' role in this complex issue.

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Women's Health Across the Lifespan

Thursday, August 9

Closing Social Event: Boston Pops Concert

To Update You . . .

NCSL Fall Forum, Dec. 5-8, 2006, San Antonio, Texas

More than 50 legislators gathered for the **Women's Health Across the Lifespan** seminar on Wednesday, December 6. The meeting was the result of ongoing collaboration between the Network and the NCSL Health Program, supported by a grant from Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Participants and faculty spent the morning engaged in lively discussion about health policy issues and the importance of paying attention to women's health needs.

Dr. Wanda Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Women's Health), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Office on Women's Health, presented *Thinking Differently: Opportunities for Improving Women's Health Through A Higher-Level Approach*. Dr. Jones spoke about federal initiatives to improve the health and well-being of U.S. women and girls through innovative programs and collaboration among the states.

Dr. Michelle Berlin, of Oregon Health and Science University, is an Associate Professor, departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology and Director of the Center of Excellence in Women's Health. In the session, *Women's Health Report Card*, Dr. Berlin spoke of state initiatives on women's health and examined policy options resulting from the national report card, "Making the Grade on Women's Health."

Dr. Sandra Guerra-Cantu is Public Health Regional Medical Director, Texas Department of State Health Services, in San Antonio. **Suncerrria Tillis** was manager of the Arizona Health Disparities Center/Healthy Arizona 2010, Arizona Department of Health Services, in Phoenix. As faculty for *State Perspectives in Women's Health: The Texas and Arizona Experiences*, they discussed how their states are addressing women's health and health disparities and shared some successes and challenges.

Following the seminar, the **Women's Health Advisory Committee**, a small group of legislators, met for the first time to review the project and discuss ideas for future programming. Visit the Women's Health Across the Lifespan website for more information about the project and to view faculty PowerPoint presentations from this meeting: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/womenmain.htm>.

The **Network Executive Board Meeting** also was held December 6. Attendees reviewed past activities and discussed plans for upcoming events at the NCSL Spring Forum and Annual Meeting 2007. They heard an update about ongoing collaboration between the Network and NCSL's partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Network, which has cosponsored several sessions at NCSL meetings about strengthening economic opportunities for low-income families, plans to continue working with the Casey Partnership. The board also discussed changing the structure of the officers. See page 4 for a complete explanation of the proposed change to the Network Bylaws. Meeting minutes are available upon request.

On December 7, the Network cosponsored **Starting on the Right Foot: New Member Orientation** with the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness and State Government Committee. The roundtable discussion was led by experts who provided advice on how to plan more involved and interactive new member orientations. They discussed what and how to teach at these sessions and who should be teaching. They also talked about how to plan new member orientation so that first-termers continue to learn throughout the legislative session. The Network provided information about programs that some state women's caucuses provide for new members.

CHECK OUT THE NETWORK WEBSITE:

www.ncsl.org/wln

NCSL Spring Forum, April 19-21, 2007, Washington, D.C.

The **Women's Health Across the Lifespan Advisory Committee** met on April 19. The small group of legislators from various backgrounds reviewed the NCSL project's products and activities and discussed the best way to communicate information to NCSL constituents. They also discussed top women's health issues of the 2007 session and brainstormed ideas for future meeting topics. There will be a women's health session at the NCSL Annual Meeting in Boston. If you would like to be informed of project developments, please contact Katie Fischer, Network policy associate.

The Network cosponsored **How to Be a Media Rock Star** with the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness and State Government Committee on April 20. Gene Rose, NCSL's co-director of communications, provided tips on how to develop rapport and a strong ongoing relationship with the media. According to Gene, a media rock star: knows how the media operates; is accessible; builds media relationships; becomes THE expert on the issues; creates compelling messages; understands that public perception is reality; confidently craves the spotlight; remains cool under pressure; and creates a brand. View Gene's PowerPoint presentation at www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/SFevents2007.htm.

The Network sponsored the **General Session Breakfast** on April 21. Pollsters Celinda Lake and Kellyanne Conway are authors of *What Women Really Want: How American Women are Quietly Erasing Political, Racial, Class and Religious Lines to Change the Way We Live*. They discussed what voters think about major issues—energy policy, immigration, the economy and the war in Iraq—then described what the prevailing public opinion means to state legislators and provided useful tips for how to frame the issues to voters. Listen to Lake's and Conway's presentation at www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/SFevents2007.htm.

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

Delaware State Senator Liane Sorenson inducted into Hall of Fame of Delaware Women

Senator Liane Sorenson was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Delaware Women at the 26th Annual Hall of Fame of Delaware Women Reception and Award Ceremony on March 15. Senator Sorenson, a past president of the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL, has held many notable leadership positions, including Director of Women's Affairs at the University of Delaware and Minority Whip of the State Senate. Senator Sorenson has sponsored and co-sponsored numerous important pieces of legislation, including the Breast Cancer Tax Check Off; Establishment of the Cancer Consortium and Office of Women's Health; Securing the Privacy of Genetic Testing; the Historical Preservation Tax Credit; Sentencing Reform; and Creation of the Office of the Child Advocate. Since 1981, the Delaware Commission for Women has celebrated Women's History Month by recognizing and honoring the achievements and contributions of exceptional Delaware women.



Sorenson

Update from the California Women's Caucus



Berg

The members of the California Legislative Women's Caucus intend to make the most of 2007. We came together as the year began and celebrated the rise of Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Members of our caucus soon were on Capitol Hill, meeting with the new speaker and with women chairs and others in the California delegation. We met with Lois Capps,

chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus, and offered to join her to build a new era of cooperation and communication between our two caucuses.

We then began to gather our resources, pool our ideas, and build the first-ever legislative platform, focused this year on women, children and working families. Our caucus has supported legislation in the past but has never before put our collective stamp on a set of bills. We believe this is an important step in the evolution of the Women's Caucus.

In short, this already has been an incredible year for women. We all are beneficiaries of change at the national level, and we hope to make the kind of changes in California that will pave the way for ever greater contributions from women in the future.

Assemblywoman Patty Berg
Chair of the California Legislative Women's Caucus

Update from the Connecticut Task Force on Human Trafficking

Connecticut Representative Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey, a Network board member, shares this report from the Connecticut Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons. Senator Andrea Stillman, a Network Advisory Council member, chaired the task force, which was convened in 2004.



Kirkley-Bey

As a basis for its research, the task force defines human trafficking as, "all acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage." The U.S. Department of State estimates that between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. It is estimated that 80 percent are female and up to 50 percent are children. Between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year.



Stillman

Connecticut task force members include elected officials, law enforcement officials, leaders of state agencies, community-based advocates and providers of services to victims. The task force made five recommendations in January 2006:

1. Establish contractual relationships with other state agencies or nongovernmental agencies to coordinate efforts to assist victims of trafficking.
2. Establish interagency protocols and collaboration between federal, state, and local law enforcement, state and governmental agencies, child welfare agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.
3. Increase public awareness and outreach by training law enforcement, social service providers, and nongovernmental organizations and develop a public awareness campaign.
4. Provide funding to service providers who assist victims.
5. Establish a Trafficking in Persons Council.

Many of these recommendations were passed in *PA 06-43, An Act Concerning Trafficking in Persons*, which became effective July 1, 2006.

For more information about the Connecticut Task Force and the report, visit <http://www.cga.ct.gov/PCSW/Trafficking/traffickinghome.htm>.

Notice

Proposed Change to Network Bylaws

The Women's Legislative Network Executive Board has approved a change to the Network bylaws. The proposed change will add the position of President-Elect to the Network Executive Board. The four Network officers (Immediate Past President, President, President-Elect and Vice President) would alternate political parties. The board proposed this change to allow officers more time to grow and pursue their interests during their term of leadership (which would increase to four years), and to more closely mirror the officer structure of the NCSL Executive Committee. View the proposed bylaws revision at www.ncsl.org/programs/wln/2007bylawschange.htm. All women legislators are invited to vote on the bylaws change at the Network Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, August 8, at the NCSL Annual Meeting in Boston. (See page 1 for the complete meeting schedule.)

Would YOU Like to Become a Network Board Member?

The Network Nominating Committee is accepting applications for Network Executive Board membership for 2007-2008. The following positions will be vacant: President (Republican), Vice President (Democrat), two Eastern Regional Positions (Republican and Democrat), one Western Regional Position (Republican), one Midwestern Regional Position (Democrat) and one At-Large Position (Democrat). See the enclosed application form for more information.

At A Glance: Asset Development and Financial Literacy

Financial literacy is a broad term that has multiple meanings, depending on an individual's situation. It may mean learning how to create and manage a household budget, learning how to invest money for retirement, or participating in one-on-one coaching and counseling to learn how to buy a house or start a business. It also is part of an overall strategy to increase economic security for lower-income families. At a time when debt, foreclosures and personal bankruptcy filings are reaching new heights, state legislators are implementing various policies to ensure that students and adults have the tools they need to manage their personal finances. At least 20 states have introduced legislation in 2007 to address personal finance education, as did at least 23 states in 2006 and 30 states in 2005. Common themes among the bills include:

- Designating the month of April (to coincide with the federal income tax deadline) as Financial Literacy Month to raise public awareness about the need for increased financial literacy.
- Requiring personal finance classes for high school graduation or encouraging school districts to include financial literacy as part of regular math or economics curricula, either at the high school level or for all grades K-12.
- Establishing financial literacy task forces or councils to study problems affecting citizens that result from a lack of financial education and to recommend resources, programs and solutions.
- Regulating credit card marketing to college students, such as prohibiting a gift exchange for a student credit card application. Or, requiring that public colleges and universities offer credit education programs.

For more information about financial literacy policies, visit www.ncsl.org/programs/banking/FinLiteracy_Introduction.htm.



NEW from NCSL!

Strengthening Military-Community Partnerships: Land Use, Clean Energy and Mission Change

States and military installations have unique opportunities to work together to develop and implement proactive strategies to meet future challenges and strengthen the installation/community relationship. Learn about pressing current issues facing military communities and discover how states and military installations can address issues in three areas: compatible land use near military bases; clean energy and environmental practices; and overall development of installation/community partnerships. Order your copy at www.ncsl.org/bookstore.



New!

Check out *State Legislatures* magazine's new, expanded website at www.ncsl.org/magazine. It's a timely stop for news about state legislatures, with links to daily news, The Thicket at State Legislatures blog, The Buzz at State Legislatures podcast, an audio/video library of recordings from NCSL meetings, and new online columns about ethics and federalism. The updated magazine site also invites your input about the articles.





Apply to the Network Executive Board

Available Positions:

President (Republican)

Vice President (Democrat)

Two Eastern Regional positions (Democrat and Republican)

One Midwestern Regional position (Democrat)

One Western Regional position (Republican)

One At-Large position (Democrat)

Please circle the position of interest and attach your biography or resume as well as a brief description of why you are interested in becoming a board member.

Name _____

Position _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If selected by the Nominating Committee, I will _____ will not _____ be able to attend the NCSL Annual Meeting August 5-9, 2007 in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Network Business Meeting, including the 2007-2008 election, is on Wednesday, August 8.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you in the future!

Please respond by Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Katie Fischer, Policy Associate

Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

7700 East First Place

Denver, CO 80230

Phone: 303-856-1514 FAX: 303-364-7800

katie.fischer@ncsl.org



The Network needs you
for the Executive Board!

Please complete and fax back
the application on the reverse side!

Women's Health Across the Lifespan

National Women's Health Week 2007 began on Mother's Day, May 13, and ended on May 19. The week included National Women's Check-up Day and the kick-off to the WOMAN Challenge, an eight-week program for individuals and teams to increase their physical activity. The WOMAN (Women and girls Out Moving Across the Nation) Challenge offered free pedometers to the first 10,800 participants, who set physical activity goals and tracked their progress in an online journal.

National Women's Health Week was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HRSA) Office on Women's Health. The WOMAN Challenge attempts to address the growing obesity epidemic in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the most recent data estimates that 66 percent of adults are overweight or obese; just under half of this 66 percent are considered obese. Obesity is defined as a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30. The statistics for young people also are alarming: 17 percent of children and adolescents between the ages of 2 and 19 are overweight.

The HRSA *Healthy People 2010 Goals*, which serve as national health objectives, have addressed the issues of being overweight and obese. *Healthy People 2010* aims to "reduce the proportion of children and adolescents who are overweight or obese," and "reduce the proportion of adults who are obese."

Policymakers have taken notice of this epidemic. Being overweight or obese substantially increases one's chances of illness from cardiovascular disease, hypertension and type 2 diabetes. These conditions are some of the leading causes of death and disability in women today. The cost of these conditions to states and the health care system is staggering. In 2003, CDC-sponsored researchers estimated that the annual medical expenses attributable to U.S. obesity were \$75 billion, about half of which was paid with Medicare and Medicaid funds.

For NCSL resources about women's health, obesity and physical activity, visit www.ncsl.org/programs/health/womenmain.htm.

Connecting America: Broadband Policy at Annual Meeting

NCSL will host an intensive one and one-half day meeting about broadband policy issues and options on Aug. 4-5, 2007. Held in conjunction with the NCSL Annual Meeting in Boston, this meeting will inform state legislators about the importance of broadband to state economies and the social benefits it can bring to communities. The meeting is designed to help legislators better understand successful broadband deployment strategies; the role of task forces and commissions in developing and coordinating innovative solutions; and state-funded incentives.

Contact Pam Greenberg (Pam.Greenberg@ncsl.org) or Bob Boerner (Bob.Boerner@ncsl.org) for additional information about this informative meeting.

Saturday, August 4

8:00 a.m. – 12 noon: Connecting America Site Visits

1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.: Connecting America Meeting

Sunday, August 5

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Connecting America Meeting

Invitation to Join the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) is a continental organization that aspires to bring together members of the 300 parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal, and federated states, regional parliaments, and inter-parliamentary organizations of the Americas. The Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas operates within COPA to prevail upon all the continent's legislative bodies to consider matters that particularly concern women.

Since 1999, the Network has developed expertise in areas upon which we, as women parliamentarians, can act. The challenges we face within our respective states and parliaments often transcend national borders. It follows that only collective and concerted reflection can enable us to advance effective, lasting solutions. This year, the Network has given priority to human trafficking, which currently is the subject of an in-depth study that will allow us to orient the positions adopted by our organization.

The Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas will meet in Los Angeles, Calif., on June 22, 2007. We invite women state legislators to join us. For further information, contact the Network's Secretariat by e-mail at feminamericas@assnat.qc.ca, or by telephone at (418) 644-2888, and visit our website at www.feminamericas.org.

Aparecida Gama

President, Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and Member, Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS

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

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



Printed on recycled paper.

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
- Procter & Gamble
- Wal-Mart

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- Exxon Mobil
- Merck
- Pfizer
- Sprint

*Contributor (\$1,000)

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- Abbott Laboratories
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- Avon
- Barr Laboratories
- BMI
- Direct Selling Association
- Edison Electric Institute
- General Motors Corporation
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- Kansas City Power & Light
- Kansas Gas Service & Oneok
- Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. / Midwest Energy Inc. / Sunflower Electric Power Corporation
- Pepco Holdings Inc.

Note from the Alliance Chair

Dear Alliance Members,



The Network Alliance has grown during the past several years and is now stronger than ever! I thank each of you for your support of women legislators and of the Network's mission. It is a pleasure to work with so many dedicated individuals. I encourage you to bring your colleagues to an upcoming Network event. The Annual Meeting program in Boston is compelling, and we always want to see new Network friends at our sessions.

As you review the list of Alliance sponsors on this page, please take a moment to think about any companies or organizations that should be involved with the Network. You can send any suggestions to me or Katie, and we will be sure to introduce them to the Network and the opportunities it presents for partnerships between legislators and the private sector.

Again, we appreciate your contributions and support.

Jackie Clark

Jackie Clark
Client Services Director
Polsinelli Shalton Flanigan Suelthaus P.C.
(816) 360-4287 or jclark@polsinelli.com

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

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

For nearly three decades, AstraZeneca has offered drug assistance programs side by side with its medicines. In 2006, through the AstraZeneca drug assistance programs, AstraZeneca provided more than \$407 million in savings to more than 530,000 U.S. and Puerto Rico patients who had no drug coverage. In November 2006, AstraZeneca announced new programs for people who are having difficulty paying for their medicines by expanding eligibility to people with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. With this expansion of eligibility, AstraZeneca's programs now also can directly help some middle class people in addition to those with lower incomes



AstraZeneca programs generally provide assistance to people of all ages who lack drug coverage. For people in Medicare Part D, AstraZeneca now offers a separate program. People with drug coverage who are experiencing financial hardship also may apply to the programs and may be considered for eligibility through appeal.

Expanding the number of people who will be able to obtain AstraZeneca's medicines for free or at significant savings is part of AstraZeneca's overall effort to ensure company support of people who are having difficulty accessing and affording their treatments. In addition to providing medicines free of charge or at a savings, many of the AstraZeneca programs provide one-on-one education and information to help individuals with accessing whichever medicines their doctor recommends, even if they are made by another manufacturer.

People who need information can call (800) 424-3727 or visit www.astrazeneca-us.com/drugassistance. Patients also can call 1-800-azandme or visit www.azandme.com for detailed information about all of AstraZeneca's assistance programs.

Helping Patients.....



There is nothing more satisfying than having a positive effect on another human being.

Novartis has a long history of providing assistance; focusing on individual patients who ask directly for our help, by providing support through our "free clinic" program, which provides access to medications in a local community setting. We are also proud to be a founding member of Together Rx Access, a prescription savings card created by 10 pharmaceutical companies to help uninsured individuals and families gain access to meaningful savings on prescription products. The Together Rx Access™ Card is free to get and free to use. (800) 444-4106; www.TogetherRxAccess.com.

The focus of Novartis' Patient Assistance Programs (PAP) is to provide access to medicines for those most in need. This is accomplished through our own programs (800-277-2254; www.pap.novartis.com), which resulted in approximately \$200 million of medicines provided free-of-charge in 2006 and through collaborations such as the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), which has connected more than 3.5 million lower-income uninsured/underinsured patients to assistance programs (www.pparx.org).

Novartis also receives the most heartwarming thanks. An unusual, delicious one was received from a Louisiana patient who wrote, "I want to share some of my recipes with your employees because saying thank you is hardly enough to show my appreciation," and she sent us her very own recipes for Fisherman's Jambalaya and Shrimp Creole!

Barbara Kennedy
Vice President, Access and Advocacy
Public Affairs
Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors; NCSL and the Network do not endorse the views on this page.

Sharing Our Views

P&G and its employees have a long-standing commitment to being good neighbors in places where we do business around the world. We show our commitment through both financial support and volunteerism.



Live, Learn and Thrive

Touching lives, improving life. P&G™

P&G is committed to improving life for children in need, from birth to age 13, through our global cause—P&G Live, Learn and Thrive™. We do this by building on P&G's range of competencies, products and existing programs to help children in need live, by ensuring they have a healthy start; provide access to educational facilities, tools and programs that enhance their ability to learn; and provide access to programs that build self-esteem and skills for life so they can thrive. In the first year of P&G's cause, we have partnered with like-minded organizations to reach more than 40 million children with Live, Learn and Thrive programs.



**ON YOUR MARK...
GET SET...**

WALK

FOR WELLNESS

NCSL Annual Meeting ♥ Boston 2007

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

**Wal-Mart Works
to Improve Health
Care for Working Families**



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

At Wal-Mart, we're in a unique position to reach millions of American women, from the 137 million customers who visit our stores every week to our 1.3 million associates, most of whom are women. We know that one of their top concerns is health care, so we're doing our part to improve health care for women and their families—those who work here and those who shop here.

Our customers have saved millions through our \$4 generic prescription drug program. We continue to house in-store clinics that provide convenient, affordable care for basic services. We're also proud to partner with Speaking of Women's Health to host informational health events for our customers and associates.

We also have expanded access to our health plans. Both full- and part-time associates—and their children—can become eligible for individual coverage for as little as \$23 per month. Cost for children is only 50 cents more per day.

Even though 90 percent of our associates have some form of health coverage, we know the overall health care system fails too many people. The uninsured epidemic keeps growing, and costs keep rising. That's why Wal-Mart joined leaders in business, government, labor and public policy on the "Better Health Care Together" coalition, which is dedicated to making quality, affordable health care accessible to all Americans by 2012.

We take very seriously the trust millions of working American women place in Wal-Mart. Therefore, we will continue to work hard to find affordable, accessible health solutions for our associates, customers and their families, and to lead important discussions about helping America achieve a better health care system.

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors; NCSL and the Network do not endorse the views on this page.

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

Republican
Position
Vacant

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.

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. 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	VACANT	R
Alabama	Rep. Laura Hall	D
Alaska	Sen. Bettye Davis	D
Alaska	Sen. Lesil McGuire	R
<i>Arizona</i>	<i>Rep. Lena Saradnik</i>	<i>D</i>
Arizona	VACANT	R
Arkansas	Rep. Betty Pickett	D
Arkansas	Rep. Shirley Walters	R
California	Assy. Betty Karnette	D
California	VACANT	R
Colorado	Rep. Alice Borodkin	D
Colorado	VACANT	R
Connecticut	Sen Andrea Stillman	D
Connecticut	VACANT	R
Delaware	Sen. Patricia Blevins	D
Delaware	Rep. Nancy Wagner	R
Florida	Rep. Joyce Cusack	D
Florida	VACANT	R
Georgia	Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague	D
Georgia	VACANT	R
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 (Majority Leader)	R
Iowa	Rep. Pam Jochum	D
Iowa	VACANT	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
Louisiana	VACANT	D
Louisiana	Rep. Kay Kellogg Katz	R
Maine	Rep. Hannah Pingree	D
<i>Maine</i>	<i>Rep. Roberta Muse</i>	<i>R</i>
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	VACANT	R
Minnesota	Rep. Nora Slawik	D
Minnesota	Rep. Kathy Tingelstad	R
Mississippi	Rep. Jessica Upshaw	R
Mississippi	Sen. Alice Harden	D
Missouri	VACANT	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
Nevada	VACANT	D
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	VACANT	R
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
Ohio	VACANT	R
Oklahoma	VACANT	D
Oklahoma	VACANT	R
Oregon	Sen. Margaret Carter	D
Oregon	Rep. Donna Nelson	R
Pennsylvania	VACANT	D
Pennsylvania	VACANT	R
Puerto Rico	Sen. Luz Z Arce-Ferrer	N
Puerto Rico	Sen. Velda Gonzalez-de Modesti	P
Rhode Island	VACANT	R
Rhode Island	VACANT	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	VACANT	D
Tennessee	Rep. Beth Halteman Harwell	R
Texas	Rep. Ruth McClendon	D
Texas	Rep. Linda Harper-Brown	R
Utah	Rep. Karen Morgan	D
Utah	VACANT	R
Vermont	VACANT	D
Vermont	VACANT	R
Virginia	Sen. Yvonne Miller	D
Virginia	Sen. Patricia Ticer	D
Virginia	Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple	D
Washington	Sen. Karen Fraser	D
Washington	VACANT	R
West Virginia	Del. Bonnie Brown	D
West Virginia	Sen. Donna Boley	R
Wisconsin	VACANT	D
Wisconsin	VACANT	R
Wyoming	VACANT	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/>)

Announcement from Will

Will is thrilled to announce the recent delivery of its annual Federal Budget Letter to members of Congress with an astounding 262 signatures from women state legislators in all 50 states! A special "congratulations" goes to the following state directors for extraordinary efforts in their own legislative bodies: Sen. Nancy Sullivan and Rep. Marilyn Canavan of Maine, gathering 26 signatures; Sen. Gloria Butler and Rep. Roberta Abdul-Salaam of Georgia, bringing in 22 signatures; Sen. Sandy Pappas and Rep. Phyllis Kahn of Minnesota, with 21 signatures (view the letter at www.willwand.org).



The upcoming 2007 WAND/Will National Conference, "Women at the Table of Power," will be held September 30 – October 2 in Washington, D.C. The conference brings in hundreds of women state legislators and community leaders for issue briefings and trainings with leading policy experts and members of Congress. The conference culminates in a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. The topics covered include the federal budget, running for office and message training. The conference also honors women leaders such as Former Attorney General Janet Reno, Ambassador Carol Mosley Braun, and Helen Thomas. Visit www.willconference.org for more information. For additional updates about Will activities, visit www.willwand.org.

The Center for Women Policy Studies

Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators 2007: The seventh Institute is scheduled for Sept. 16-20, 2007, in Washington, D.C. Applications will be sent to all state legislators who are members of the National Honor Roll of State Legislators. The Institute educates state legislators on the effects of U.S. foreign policy on women worldwide and includes meetings with members of Congress and State Department officials.



GlobalPOWER 2007: The Center's newest program, GlobalPOWER (Partnership Of Women Elected/Appointed Representatives), brings together women members of Parliament and Ministry leaders with state legislators to create sustainable partnerships to combat international trafficking of women and girls worldwide. The second annual GlobalPOWER program (May 6-11, 2007, in Washington, D.C.) included 10 women Members of Parliament from nine countries and four U.S. women state legislators who have graduated from the Foreign Policy Institute.

The Center at NCSL in Boston: The Center will convene its two annual sessions—one on reproductive rights and justice as and one on international trafficking of women and girls into the USA. A special session will highlight plans for the Center's new National Task Force of State Legislators on the Women's HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the USA. For more information, contact Leslie R. Wolfe at LWolfe@centerwomenpolicy.org or Amy Bain at ABain@centerwomenpolicy.org

Women In Government Launches Medicare Preventive Services Policy Resource Center

Women In Government announces the opening of the Medicare Preventive Services Policy Resource Center, dedicated to identifying specific policy issues related to Medicare's disease prevention and early detection services. The Resource Center will educate women state legislators about Medicare Preventive Services and specific health issues such as cardiovascular disease. Educational and policy resources on Medicare Preventive Services will be available to women state legislators at our regional conferences and the Resource Center's website at www.womeningovernment.org/Medicare. The Resource Center also encourages partnerships between women state legislators and key stakeholders to address policy issues related to preventive services offered by the Medicare program. For more information about the Medicare Preventive Services Policy Resource Center, contact us at (888) 333-0164.



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WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS
National Conference of State Legislatures
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WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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