



# WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE NETWORK NEWS



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

Spring 2009

Vol. 21, No. 1

## Note from the President

Hello! Many of you have finished your legislative sessions by now, while others are still in the thick of things. I hope you feel a sense of accomplishment in dealing with the most challenging revenue situation many of us have ever seen. On behalf of the Network board of directors, I hope you will call on us and on NCSL if we can provide any assistance.



Rep. Welch

We had an excellent meeting in Atlanta last December about women and financial stability. I was so impressed with the knowledge and breadth of experience of all the women who attended—it was truly a dynamic group. A summary of the sessions is inside; please visit the website for additional information.

One highlight of the NCSL Spring Forum was a meeting with Tina Tchen, the director of the White House Council on Women and Girls. Katie Ziegler, NCSL deputy director Carl Tubbesing, Wyoming Representative Rosie Berger, and New Hampshire Speaker Terie Norelli discussed the Network's history, our financial stability project, and how our organizations can collaborate. The goal of the council is to embed a focus on women and girls in each cabinet department and federal agency. Priority issues include violence against women, work/family balance, women's health and maternal and child health care, and economic security. See inside for information about a housing assistance initiative they've asked the Network to promote.

Our work on financial stability will continue at the Legislative Summit in Philadelphia. I know that traveling to meetings is a challenge this year, but I hope you will join us if you are attending the Summit. At our lunch on Wednesday, July 22, we'll hear from Lynne Cutler, the president of a Philadelphia success story, the Women's Opportunities Resource Center. WORC provides training, individual business assistance, incentive savings programs and job placement to economically disadvantaged women and their families. At the lunch we also will elect next year's officers. Other session topics include job training, health care costs and comparative effectiveness solutions, and foreclosure prevention. And remember to bring your walking shoes and join us at the Walk for Wellness!

I'd like to extend a special welcome to the new Advisory Council members (listed on page 8). The board of directors is counting on you to keep us up-to-date on the activities of women legislators in your state. Please notify us whenever there is a noteworthy event, and Katie will highlight it on the Network website.

Hope to see you soon at a Network event!

Peggy Welch  
State Representative, Indiana  
President, Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

## Network Events at the Legislative Summit in Philadelphia, July 20-24

Check the Network agenda online, Go 17542, for complete information.

### Monday, July 20

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Network Board Meeting



NCSL 2009

### Tuesday, July 21

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

#### Comparative Effectiveness: Better Care or Rationing?

States continue to look for ways to control health care costs while increasing the quality of care. Learn about one approach—comparative effectiveness programs—a dozen states have begun to use and discuss the sometimes controversial provisions of the stimulus law aimed at funding and distributing medical research comparing the benefits and risks of medical treatments.

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

#### Network Reception

Reception for all women legislators and friends to honor incoming Network president, Montana State Representative Elsie Arntzen.

### Wednesday, July 22

6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

#### Walk for Wellness

Join your colleagues on a 5K fun run/walk through Philadelphia's beautiful Fairmount Park. The walk, intended to raise awareness about chronic disease prevention and health disparities, is open to all Legislative Summit attendees. Transportation will be provided from NCSL hotels.

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

#### NCSL / Annie E. Casey Partnership Breakfast: Family Economic Success

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### Consumers and Credit

NCSL Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce Committee

Credit and debit card use has exploded in recent years, creating a \$960 billion industry. As credit card companies have raised their late fees and over-limit penalties, put holds on accounts and reduced available credit limits, state and federal policymakers have instituted new reforms designed to help

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## To Update You

### NCSL Fall Forum—Atlanta, Georgia, December 10-14, 2008

Visit our website for full summaries and PowerPoint presentations: [Go 17578](#)

#### Health Policy Preconference: Health Reform and Women's Health: A Focus on Chronic Disease

Legislators and faculty experts discussed approaches for managing and preventing chronic diseases and promoting physical activity. This was the latest in a series of meetings sponsored by the Network and NCSL's Women's Health Across the Lifespan Project. Look for another meeting at Fall Forum in San Diego.

#### Network Luncheon: So Much More Than an Office Visit – Promoting Adolescent Wellness

Richard Kreipe, president of the Society for Adolescent Medicine, and Kari Sapis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention talked about the importance of well-visits during adolescence, both to obtain preventive services such as vaccines and for education about the health effects of risky behaviors.

#### Financial Stability Postconference

The discussion-centered program included sessions about preparing for retirement, women and the economic crisis, underbanked populations, and financial education. Complete information and extensive resources are available online.

### NCSL Spring Forum— Washington, D.C., April 23-25, 2009

#### Look Good, Feel Better Lunch

The Network and the NCSL Health Committee cosponsored a working lunch session with a panel presentation about the Look Good... Feel Better program. Look Good...Feel Better helps people with cancer offset appearance-related changes from cancer treatment. The program is offered in all 50 states at no charge to participants. Visit [www.lookgood-feelbetter.org](http://www.lookgood-feelbetter.org) for more information.

#### Women's Health Across the Lifespan Reception

Legislators gathered to browse the latest NCSL resources about women's health policy and enjoyed light refreshments.

## Network Events at the Legislative Summit

*continued from page 1*

consumers. Learn about the reforms and the effect on consumers and the credit card business.

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

#### Network Luncheon and Business Meeting

The Women's Opportunities Resource Center (WORC) is a Philadelphia success story. WORC promotes social and economic self-sufficiency for women by providing training, small business start-up loans, incentive savings programs, and access to a network of resources. Come for lunch, learn more about how WORC works, and participate in the Women's Legislative Network's annual election.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### Underbanked and Financially Under-served

*NCSL Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce Committee*

What if you didn't have a checking or savings account? How would you cash your paycheck? What if you needed money to cover an emergency? Some 10 million American households are without bank accounts. Known as the "unbanked," they often use check cashing services, payday lenders, wire transfers and refund anticipation loans. Learn why they do this and hear about actions that encourage mainstream financial market participation.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### Wanted: Trained Workers

Job losses are mounting as the economy stumbles, but there are still industries where workers are in short supply. Learn how states are connecting workers to jobs by targeting regional labor markets and integrating the training programs and resources of community colleges, workforce agencies and private companies.

#### Thursday, July 23

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### State Foreclosure Solutions: Are They Working?

State policymakers have crafted programs to help homeowners facing foreclosure. Examine state programs designed to keep people in their homes, and find out how effective they are.

#### Friday, July 24

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

#### Making Strides Against Cancer

Learn about ways to increase breast and cervical cancer early detection and treatment by leveraging non-state funds. For example, the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition uses a state income tax check off and other strategies to promote the state's program for low-income women and free care at hospitals and clinics.

## Financial Stability Announcements

### Washington State Representative Deb Wallace Educates Constituents about Free Tax Filing



*Rep. Wallace*

Representative Deb Wallace attended the Network's Financial Stability meeting in December. Among the many topics of discussion was the Free File Alliance, a national public-private partnership between the Internal Revenue Service, 21 state tax agencies, and several tax software manufacturers that helps low- and moderate-income taxpayers electronically prepare and e-file their taxes for free. Rep. Wallace saw an opportunity to educate her constituents about tax incentives they might be unaware of and about how to achieve greater financial stability. Rather than restricting the outreach to her own state, Rep. Wallace, whose Vancouver district borders Oregon, collaborated with Oregon State Representative Jefferson Smith to organize a press conference and training workshop about the Free File Alliance.

In February, at the height of tax season, representatives from both state departments of revenue, Clark College and the Computer and Communications Industry Association trained individuals from Oregon and Washington community groups about who is eligible to use Free File and how to take advantage of the program. Since the program's inception in 2003, 24 million tax returns have been Free Filed. One of Rep. Wallace's goals for the training was to "put thousands of dollars back into the pockets of lower-income families." She emphasized that the IRS reports that as many as 15 percent of taxpayers eligible to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit don't do so. Free Filing a tax return ensures that individuals and families receive the tax credits applicable to their situations. For more information, visit <http://www.freefilealliance.org/>. For NCSL information about tax credits, visit [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org) and search Go 16311.

### Making Home Affordable

When Network representatives met with Tina Tchen, the di-

rector of the White House Council on Women and Girls, we talked about how our organizations can support one another's goals. Through the Financial Stability Project, the Network strives to increase state legislators' understanding of the economic status of American women and provide in-depth information and resources legislators can use to make a difference for women in their communities. The White House Council will work to ensure that each cabinet department and federal agency considers how their policies

affect women and girls. Economic security and work-family balance are among the council's priority issues. Ms. Tchen recognizes that state legislators are "on the ground" in communities across America and know which programs and strategies are improving the lives of women. The council would like to hear from state legislators with suggestions about the administration's work.

A recent initiative, directly related to our focus on financial stability, is Making Home Affordable. The Home Affordable Refinance Program is targeted at homeowners with loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. Four million to five million people will have the opportunity to refinance for more affordable monthly payments. The Home Affordable Modification Program will keep three million to four million people in their homes by preventing avoidable foreclosures.

The website, [www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov](http://www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov), should be the first stop for any homeowner who has difficulty making mortgage payments. The website has self-assessment tools and resources for individuals to determine whether they are eligible for the Home Affordable programs. Homeowners also can consult with free HUD-approved counselors to review their options.

Consider promoting the Home Affordable website in your newsletters and other outreach materials. Foreclosure rescue scams are appearing more frequently these days, and it is important that homeowners are aware of good sources of information. The website includes these helpful tips about signs of a scam:

- Beware of any person or organization that asks you to pay a fee in exchange for housing counseling services or modification of a delinquent loan. Do not pay – walk away!
- Beware of anyone who says they can "save" your home if you sign or transfer the deed to your house. Do not sign over the deed to your property to any organization or individual unless you are working directly with your mortgage company to forgive your debt.
- Never submit your mortgage payments to anyone other than your mortgage company without their approval.

For NCSL information about mortgages and foreclosures, visit [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org) and search Go 12515. If you'd like to contact the White House Council, email Katie Ziegler, [katie.ziegler@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.ziegler@ncsl.org).

## Hello from the Alliance Chair

Hello to all Alliance Sponsors and Friends of the Network!

This has been the most difficult budget year in recent memory for legislators, and for many in the private sector as well. We've all made difficult choices and are wondering what the rest of the year will bring. NCSL has been hard at work tracking innovative cost-saving measures and the economic stimulus package. I hope you'll take advantage of the array of resources NCSL experts have to offer.



Clark

NCSL is moving full-steam ahead with planning for the Legislative Summit in Philadelphia. For many on the East Coast, Philadelphia is just a train ride away, and I encourage you to join us for a week of stimulating policy discussions and fun social events. We truly value each Alliance sponsor and appreciate your support. Let us say thank you in person this summer!

After a wonderful three years of serving as Alliance chair, it's time for me to retire from the position. Dennis Brown of the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association, will become the new chair at the Legislative Summit. Dennis has been a loyal Network supporter for many years, and will provide the Network with new leadership and enthusiasm. I look forward to working with him on future Network events—I'll see you there!

*Jackie Clark*

Jackie Clark  
 Director of Communications and Public Affairs  
 Ash Grove Cement Company  
 (913) 319-6131 or jackie.clark@ashgrove.com

### Introducing Dennis Brown



Dennis Brown joined the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association in 1993 as vice president of State Government Relations to implement a proactive program developing and promoting ELFA positions and policy. Mr. Brown has served as president of the State Government Affairs Council and of the Washington Area State Relations Group, and has won the Award of Excellence in Government Relations from the American Society of Association Executives on several occasions. He has also served as a liaison to several NCSL tax committees. A veteran of the U.S. Army having reached the rank of Sergeant, Brown holds a degree in political science from the University of Maryland.

Dennis Brown  
 Vice President, State Government Relations  
 Equipment Leasing & Finance Association  
 (202) 238-3411 or dbrown@elfaonline.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)

- ExxonMobil
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- National Education Association
- State & Federal Communications
- Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America

#### \* Friend (\$500)

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- The ARC of Indiana
- Avon
- BMI
- Clarian Health
- Edison Electric Institute
- Embarq Corporation
- Ice Miller, LLP
- Indiana Bankers Association
- Indiana Health Care Association
- Pepco Holdings Inc.
- Personal Care Products Council
- Procter & Gamble
- UCLA State Government Relations

## 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 Ziegler at (303) 856-1514 or [katie.ziegler@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.ziegler@ncsl.org)*

### Developing Meaningful Comparative Effectiveness Research in the United States

Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) is an evaluation of the effects of various treatment options for a particular set of patients with a given medical condition. It has caught the attention of lawmakers and other stakeholders, many of whom feel CER will help physicians and patients make better treatment decisions and improve overall quality of care.



In the February 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Congress appropriated an unprecedented \$1.1 billion for CER. Use of this funding, which must be allocated within two years, will undoubtedly lay the groundwork for future CER efforts. As a result, it is important to develop policies early in the process that will support credible, long-term CER focused on patient and clinician needs.

To that end, CER-related policies should ensure transparency of processes, include broad stakeholder involvement in setting research priorities and establishing dissemination strategies, allow relevant physician input on research design and conduct, and focus on improving patient health outcomes. It also is important that research covers all health care services, including medical and surgical procedures, diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and health care delivery methods. Understanding the appropriate delivery systems, such as care coordination models and benefit designs, is an important first step to improve care and facilitate the translation of information about the effectiveness of various interventions.

If it is implemented appropriately, CER has the potential to improve patient health and our health care system more broadly. We are at a critical juncture in implementing meaningful CER, and it is important for policymakers to engage patients, physicians and other stakeholders in dialogue focused on research priorities and dissemination of information.

James Carey  
Vice President of Policy  
Novartis Health Policy

### Breaking Malaria's Grip

Any organization with operations in Africa knows the cost of malaria. The disease accounts for 40 percent of Africa's health expenditures and costs an estimated \$12 billion in lost productivity annually. The human cost is even greater. Malaria is a tragedy for Africa, killing more than 1 million people per year, most of them pregnant women and children under age 5. But times are changing. We've learned that only a sustained, coordinated, cross-border approach is effective against a mosquito-borne disease like malaria.



So today, an unprecedented effort by governments, businesses and nongovernmental organizations is mobilized against malaria. We are leveraging each other's strengths, expanding education and prevention, and developing new medicines. ExxonMobil is a proud corporate leader in this effort, and we are bringing our business strength to bear on issues such as accountability and results.

Collectively, these efforts are paying off. Deaths are down by more than 50 percent in several countries, including Rwanda and Ethiopia. Our successes include the recent introduction of Coartem Dispersible, the world's first malaria medication for children. It was made possible by support from ExxonMobil, Novartis and the nonprofit Medicines for Malaria Venture.

Many challenges remain, however, including sustaining the financial support necessary to fight the disease. To that end, the Malaria Capital Campaign, co-chaired by ExxonMobil Chairman and CEO Rex Tillerson, is seeking to raise \$100 million from corporations and other donors with the goal of providing all at-risk Africans with malaria prevention and treatment tools by the end of 2010. We know what works in the fight against malaria. It's time to use these proven tools to break malaria's grip on children, society and Africa's economy.

## Sharing Our Views

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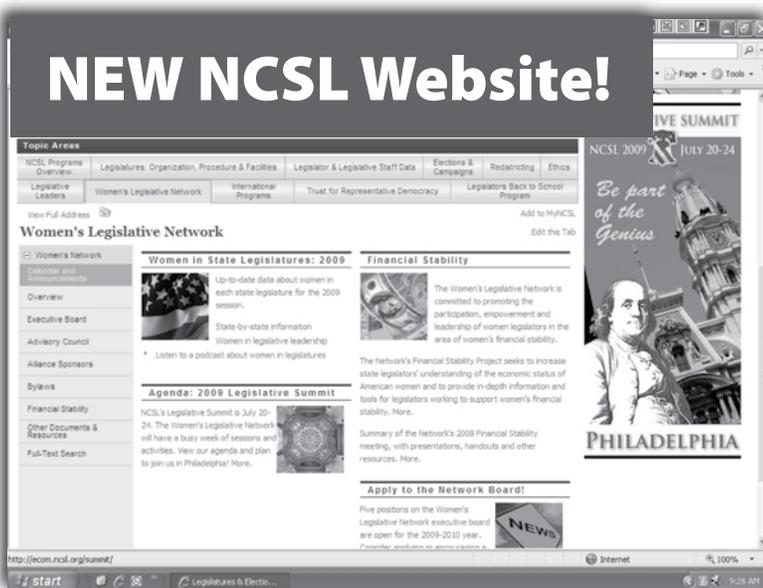
### Equipment Leasing and Finance Association Members Finance Commercial Needs of Your State

ELFA members finance commercial equipment. These financial services companies, manufacturers, regional/community banks, and independent medium- to small-finance companies facilitate economic growth by enhancing business investment and capital formation. Our public policy priorities range from environmentally safe recycling or disposal of electronic equipment to supporting NCSL efforts on the Streamlined Sales Tax.



Our industry does not have retail stores, own equipment or maintain equipment inventories because we are not involved with consumer rentals for personal use. We provide access to capital for business in your state and hope you will call upon us when examining economic incentives to spur growth.

Dennis Brown  
Vice President, State Government Relations  
Equipment Leasing and Finance Association  
(202) 238-3411  
[dbrown@elfaonline.org](mailto:dbrown@elfaonline.org)



As you may have noticed by now, [www.nctl.org](http://www.nctl.org) has a new look. We've updated all our program pages, deleted outdated content, and reorganized the structure. The new site makes it easier to navigate and find the latest information. Six main portals are accessible from the top navigation bar. These portals provide comprehensive access to all information on the site concerning their respective topic areas. To reach the Women's Legislative Network page, mouse-over the "Legislatures and Elections" portal tab at the top of the homepage, and select "Women's Legislative Network." News and announcements are on the main page; other important information is in

the menu at left. The "Other Documents and Resources" link takes you to a list of publications, meeting summaries and additional pages.

From this point forward, NCSL won't publish links to individual documents; instead, we will use the document's "Go ID." Every document is identified by a unique five-digit number. The "Go ID" box is always at the top-right of the page. For example, type "Go 17542" and click "Go" to reach the Network's agenda for the Legislative Summit. You also can use the box for text searches by keyword.

Although the new NCSL website may take a little getting used to, we're here to help. Contact Katie Ziegler at [katie.ziegler@nctl.org](mailto:katie.ziegler@nctl.org) or (303) 856-1514 with any website questions.

# Meet The Network Board . . . . .



President  
Representative  
Peggy Welch (D)  
Indiana



President-Elect  
Representative  
Elsie Arntzen (R)  
Montana



Vice President  
Assemblywoman  
Kathy McClain (D)  
Nevada



Past President  
Representative  
Sheryl Allen (R)  
Utah

## Eastern Regional Members



Representative  
Marjorie Smith (D)  
New Hampshire



Senator  
Dori Connor (R)  
Maine

## Western Regional Members



Representative  
Rosie Berger (R)  
Wyoming



Senator  
Maggie Carlton (D)  
Nevada

## Midwestern Regional Members



Representative  
Terrie Huntington (R)  
Kansas



Senator  
Capri Cafaro (D)  
Ohio

## At-Large Members



Representative  
Deborah Hudson (R)  
Delaware



Representative  
Marilyn Lee (D)  
Hawaii

## Southern Regional Members



Representative  
Ruth McClendon (D)  
Texas



Representative  
Julia Howard (R)  
North Carolina

## NOBEL Representative



Senator  
Margaret Carter (D)  
Oregon

## *Become an Advisory Council member!*

The Advisory Council is comprised of two members from each state and is politically balanced. Advisory Council members serve as the liaisons between their states and the Network and work with the Executive Board in fulfilling the purpose of the Network: to promote the participation, empowerment and leadership of women legislators. Advisory Council members work with the Network on activities and events within their state, provide information to the Network regarding organizations and activities involving women legislators, and assist with program and fundraising efforts as determined by the Executive Board.

Review the list of members on the following page, and consider applying to represent your state. Contact Katie Ziegler at [katie.ziegler@ncsl.org](mailto:katie.ziegler@ncsl.org) or (303) 856-1514 for more information.

## Women's Legislative Network of NCSL

### Advisory Council (2008-2009)

State	Title/Name	Party
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Alabama	Rep. Laura Hall	D
Alaska	Sen. Bettye Davis	D
Alaska	Sen. Lesil McGuire	R
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<i>Arkansas</i>	<i>Rep. Johnnie Roebuck</i>	<i>D</i>
<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>California</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>California</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Connecticut	Sen Andrea Stillman	D
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Delaware	Sen. Patricia Blevins	D
<b>Delaware</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>Dist. of Columbia</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Florida</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<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
<i>Hawaii</i>	<i>Rep. Corinne Ching</i>	<i>R</i>
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
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Kansas	Rep. Barbara Ballard	D
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Kentucky	Rep. Joni L. Jenkins	D
Kentucky	Rep. Susan Westrom	D
Kentucky	Sen. Elizabeth Tori	R
Louisiana	Rep. Jean Doerge	D
Louisiana	Rep. Kay Kellogg Katz	R
Maine	Speaker Hannah Pingree	D
<i>Maine</i>	<i>Sen. Debra Plowman</i>	<i>R</i>
Maryland	Sen. Delores Kelley	D
Maryland	Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam	D
<i>Maryland</i>	<i>Del. Donna Stifler</i>	<i>R</i>
Massachusetts	Rep. Marie St. Fleur	D
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Michigan	Sen. Martha G. Scott	D
<i>Michigan</i>	<i>Rep. Kathy Angerer</i>	<i>D</i>
Minnesota	Rep. Nora Slawik	D
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Mississippi	Rep. Jessica Upshaw	R
Mississippi	Sen. Alice Harden	D
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Montana	Sen. Trudi Schmidt	D

State	Title/Name	Party
Montana	Rep. Janna Taylor	R
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>X</b>
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>Sen. Kathy Campbell</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>Nevada</i>	<i>Assy. Debbie Smith</i>	<i>D</i>
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<i>New Hampshire</i>	<i>Rep. Patricia McMahon</i>	<i>D</i>
New Hampshire	Rep. Phyllis Katsakiones	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
<b>New York</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
North Carolina	Rep. Beverly Earle	D
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
North Dakota	Rep. Nancy Johnson	R
North Dakota	Rep. Lois Delmore	D
Ohio	Rep. Tracy Maxwell Heard	D
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>Rep. Lee Denney</i>	<i>R</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>Rep. Leslie Osborn</i>	<i>R</i>
<i>Oregon</i>	<i>Rep. Sherrie Sprenger</i>	<i>D</i>
<b>Oregon</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>R</b>
Pennsylvania	Rep. Babette Josephs	D
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>Rep. Marguerite Quinn</i>	<i>R</i>
Puerto Rico	Sen. Luz Z. Arce-Ferrer	N
Puerto Rico	Rep. Jenniffer González Colón	N
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>Sen. Elizabeth Crowley</i>	<i>R</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>Sen. Rhoda Perry</i>	<i>D</i>
South Carolina	Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter	D
<i>South Carolina</i>	<i>Rep. Jenny Anderson Horne</i>	<i>R</i>
South Dakota	Rep. Margaret Gillespie	D
South Dakota	Rep. Joni Cutler	R
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>D</b>
Tennessee	Rep. Beth Halteman Harwell	R
<i>Texas</i>	<i>Rep. Dawnna Dukes</i>	<i>D</i>
Texas	Rep. Linda Harper-Brown	R
Utah	Sen. Karen Morgan	D
Utah	Rep. Merlynn Newbold	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
<i>Washington</i>	<i>Rep. Deb Wallace</i>	<i>D</i>
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. Mary Throne	D
Wyoming	Rep. Sue Wallis	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 various 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 ([www.cawp.rutgers.edu](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu))
- Center for Women Policy Studies ([www.centerwomenpolicy.org](http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org))
- National Order of Black Elected Legislative Women ([www.nobelwomen.org](http://www.nobelwomen.org))
- National Women's Political Caucus ([www.nwpc.org](http://www.nwpc.org))
- Women in Government ([www.womeningovernment.org](http://www.womeningovernment.org))
- The Women Legislators' Lobby ([www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org))
- Women's Legislative Network of NCSL ([www.ncsl.org/wln/](http://www.ncsl.org/wln/))

### Center for Women Policy Studies

During 2009, the Center for Women Policy Studies is convening three special programs for women state legislators.



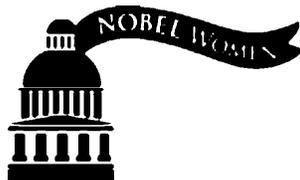
GlobalPOWER® (Partnership Of Women Elected/Appointed Representatives) brings women members of parliament from around the world, and state legislators who have graduated from the Center's Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators, to Washington, D.C., for a week-long program designed to build sustainable partnerships – across borders and over time – to confront violations of women's human rights through enlightened public policy. Parliamentarians from Bahrain, Burundi, Dominica, Kenya, Namibia, Pakistan, Uganda, and Zambia will be joined by Maryland Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez, Florida Senator Arthenia Joyner, and Utah Representative Jennifer Seelig.

The 2009 Strategic Action Convening (SAC) will address the changing federal policy environment for reproductive rights and justice since the November 2008 election and will focus on state legislators' increasingly essential role as the "front lines" to preserve women's reproductive rights and health and to promote woman-centered policies to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has become a "women's epidemic" in the United States and worldwide. Twelve legislators from eight states will participate.

The Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators will welcome its ninth class of 15 women state legislators to Washington to learn about the effects of U.S. foreign policy on women worldwide and the role of state legislators in influencing that policy. The institute agenda covers such issues as international trafficking of women and girls, poverty, violence against women, women and HIV/AIDS, reproductive rights and health, girls' education, and climate change.

### NOBEL Women

Launch of the NOBEL/Women African American Technology Caucus (AAWTC) at the Annual National Legislative Conference!



The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative women is launching the NOBEL/Women African American Technol-

ogy Caucus at its 24th Annual National Legislative Conference in Chicago, Ill., June 18-21, 2009, at the Sofitel Water Tower Hotel. Senator Margaret Carter, National President of NOBEL/Women, stated that the mission is to leverage the expertise and influence of women in the public, civic, academic and private sectors to affect the long-term development of advanced communications policies to ensure that our communities are full beneficiaries of the information economy. As women public policymakers, we know technology is knowledge and knowledge is power.

Join NOBEL/Women at their Annual National Legislative Conference in Chicago as we continue to create, shape, guide and lead.

### WILL

As elected officials at every level face an uncertain economy and budget challenges, the Women Legislators' Lobby (WILL) continues to educate and advocate about the nation's spending priorities and the effect on our state budgets. In February, Indiana House Minority Leader Vi Simpson hosted WiLL at a breakfast budget briefing at the State House that highlighted state budget needs and prefaced a meeting with Senator Dick Lugar's staff.



Nearly 400 women state legislators from across the country signed a letter to Congress that WiLL delivered on the Hill last month. The letter urged more robust funding for programs that effectively keep us safe and secure (emergency preparedness, first responders, rail and transit security, and more) and advised against more spending on costly, outdated Cold War weapons.

WILL is working with women legislators to promote a responsible spending message in their local and state media outlets. In our April teleconference, American Forum media expert Denice Zeck briefed legislators on messaging in their in-state media.

Legislators are invited to contact WiLL president, Georgia Senator Nan Orrock, [willpres@wand.org](mailto:willpres@wand.org), (404) 524-5999; and Christina Cernansky, [will@wand.org](mailto:will@wand.org), (202) 544-5055, ext. 2602, for information about future opportunities. When you plan your next trip to Washington, let us know how we can help host you on the Hill! [www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org).