



The Legislative Voice

The Official Newsletter of
WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

The Legislative Voice

A Biannual Publication Summer 2006

ADVANCEMENTS IN ELIMINATING CERVICAL CANCER & IMPROVING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

PROGRESS IN ELIMINATING CERVICAL CANCER

Women In Government's *Challenge to Eliminate Cervical Cancer Campaign* applauds the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approving an HPV Vaccine to aid in the fight against cervical cancer. "Gardasil," the vaccine manufactured by Merck, is approved for girls and women between the ages of 9 and 26, to help prevent cervical cancer. "Gardasil" has been shown in clinical trials to be 100 percent effective in preventing the two most common types of HPV (16 and 18), which are responsible for 70 percent of all cervical cancers. The vaccine also targets HPV types 6 and 11, which cause 90 percent of genital warts. Screening, using advanced and appropriate technologies, such as HPV testing, continues to be a priority to detect those HPV types not covered in the vaccine. Women In Government also commends the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)'s decision

on June 29, 2006 to recommend that the HPV vaccine be given routinely to girls aged 11 and 12, that it be provided at a doctor's discretion to all other FDA-approved age groups, and that it be included in the federal Vaccines for Children Program, which provides free immunization to underinsured and uninsured children. The ACIP's guidelines are frequently used as the basis for insurance coverage decisions, medical guidelines and inclusion in other public health programs. Through the *Campaign*, 45 states have introduced cervical cancer prevention and education bills or resolutions, and 39 states have enacted such measures.

The *Campaign* has been working on several projects in the past few months. Women In Government's first "HPV and Cervical Cancer Summit" in November 2005 was a tremendous suc-



Senator Beverly Hammerstrom, Dr. Thomas Cox, Senator Gloria Lawlah, Representative Gale Candaras, Christine Baze and Susan Crosby at Women in Government *Challenge to Eliminate Cervical Cancer Campaign* press conference.

cess. Responses from discussion groups at the Summit produced a manuscript entitled, "Strategies for Eliminating Cervical Cancer: Recommendations for a Collaborative Approach." The manuscript aims to motivate coordinated and focused partnerships among stakeholders in the fight against cervical cancer.

For more information, please contact the HPV & Cervical Cancer Resource Center at 1-888-333-0164 or email us at resource@womeningovernment.org. ■

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION: STATE BRIEFINGS 2006

In the first half of 2006 Women In Government convened state briefings on higher education in Maryland, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts with the support of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. With the interest of gathering state legislators, advocates, and Women In Government staff to discuss the issues linked to access to higher education, each briefing consisted of presentations on successful programs in each state followed by critical discussions of how to apply such programs and addi-

tional concepts throughout the states.

On February 22nd, Maryland Senator, Women In Government Board of Directors Chair Gloria Lawlah hosted the first briefing which featured Dr. Britt Kirwan, Chancellor of the University of Maryland System, who discussed the ways in which the university system addressed issues of both access and affordability. Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez then specifically addressed issues of access for minority students in Maryland.

The New York state briefing was held on March 1st and co-hosted by Representative Annette Robinson, and Senator Diane Savino. The briefing featured speakers from The Posse Foundation, which strives to create small diverse groups, or "posses" of youth leaders from urban public high schools that are then sent together to top colleges throughout the country. Leroy Foster, Senior Training Specialist and alumnus of the program, and Sandra Pradas, Program Director, spoke about the Posse Program. With

continued on page 8

OUTBREAK ON THE HORIZON? THE TRUTH ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA

By Kate Roche, Public Policy Intern

If an avian flu outbreak “occurs anywhere in the world, it’s just a matter of time before it will be in the United States,” reported United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary, Mike Leavitt.

Many different types of avian influenza occur naturally in birds, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Wild birds frequently carry these viruses in their intestines without getting sick from them. However, avian influenza is highly contagious among birds and can cause severe illness and death in certain types of birds including turkeys, chicken, and ducks. These domestic birds catch the viruses from direct contact with other infected poultry or from surfaces or material that are contaminated from the viruses.

Overall, the risk of avian influenza to humans is low, as these viruses rarely affect people. However, H5N1 is a strain of avian influenza that has spread from birds to humans. While other strains have passed this way as well, H5N1 is the most deadly of these diseases, as noted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Recent H5N1 outbreaks have appeared in people in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

To date, cases have appeared in six countries, most of which are in Asia. The first case appeared in Vietnam, which has reported 90 cases, making it the most severely affected country, according to the World Health Organization.

Almost all human cases of H5N1 are caused by direct contact with infected poultry or with surfaces contaminated with the excretions of infected poultry. As noted by the CDC, over half of the people afflicted with H5N1 died, most of who were previously healthy children and

young adults. There is currently no commercially available vaccine for H5N1.

Fortunately, the spread of H5N1 from person to person has been extremely limited, not continuing beyond one person, according to the CDC. However, the CDC notes that viruses can evolve and change, and the fear remains that one day the spread of H5N1 could spread easily among the human population, resulting in a global outbreak of the disease.

Currently, some are mislabeling avian influenza, referring to it as a pandemic flu. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, “Pandemic flu is virulent human flu that causes a global outbreak, or pandemic, of serious illness. Because there is little natural immunity, the disease can spread easily from person to person. Currently, there is no pandemic flu.”

However, the danger of the avian flu evolving into a pandemic remains. If this danger becomes a reality, the role of states will be tremendous. “Actions at the state and local level will define victory,” Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt explained. “States and communities will be the ones making decisions about whether to close schools or cancel public events. They will also be deciding how to handle the influx of patients at local hospitals and how to distribute medicines.”

The April 2006 edition of *State Legislatures* magazine cited that a Department of Homeland Security survey indicated that most states reported that they are not completely prepared for a catastrophe. However, forty-one states have posted a pandemic influenza plan on their websites.

State Legislatures also notes that in April 2006, at least eleven states



were already considering legislation related to avian influenza, in an effort to best protect themselves.

According to an Associate Press article, if the avian flu evolves into a worldwide pandemic, states will determine how vaccines will be distributed. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt explained that different groups of the population have different arguments supporting why they should be a priority to receive the vaccine. Potential key groups include the elderly, children, and workers essential to maintain order and key services. ■

Sources

- Centers For Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/facts.htm>
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services <http://avianflu.gov>
Neergaard, Luran. “Bird Flu Vaccine For All? Think Again” Associated Press. 6 June 2006.
Winterfold, Amy. “Preparing for a Pandemic.” *State Legislatures* April 2006.
World Health Organization
http://www.who.int/topics/avian_influenza/en/

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT’S CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE POLICY RESOURCE CENTER

In response to lack of awareness and education of CKD in our country, Women In Government launched the Chronic Kidney Disease Policy Resource Center in Spring 2006. The Resource Center has established a clearinghouse for policymakers on issues surrounding Chronic Kidney Disease. In our efforts to promote the adoption of sound public health policies, our Policy Resource

Center provides model legislation and health policies that serve as educational references for legislators to address this health issue appropriately in their respective states. The Policy Resource Center’s website includes educational and policy materials regarding chronic kidney disease, publications such as our quarterly newsletter, *The Kidney Link*, and other online resources. With our partnership

with the National Kidney Foundation, the Policy Resource Center has been able to offer additional educational resources and perspectives concerning chronic kidney disease. Networking with local DC organizations has resulted in further exchange of educational materials and attendance at various conferences and summits in the DC area. The Chronic Kidney Disease Policy Resource Center will continue its

continued on page 8

Letter from the Desk of Susan Crosby

Hello again, Friends!

I hope everyone is having a wonderful 2006. I am delighted to report that Women In Government is having another banner year. Women In Government has made great strides in the *Challenge to Eliminate Cervical Cancer Campaign*, and our Annual Regional Conferences have gotten off to a great start.

Women In Government increased awareness of HPV and Cervical Cancer through a series of state briefings in Vermont, West Virginia and California. In May we conducted a radio media tour as a part of National Women's Health Week, resulting in more than 12 million media impressions. This media tour came on the heels of the release of *Strategies for Eliminating Cervical Cancer: Recommendations for a Collaborative Approach* manuscript, produced as a result of the 2005 National HPV & Cervical Cancer Summit. I look forward to the 2nd Annual HPV & Cervical Cancer Summit, which will be taking place in Washington, DC later this year. Along these same lines, on June 8th, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the very first HPV vaccine. Produced by Merck, the HPV vaccine is preventative for girls and women age 9 to 26. This is a truly historic moment in the fight against cervical cancer, and all cancers in general. The vaccine is significant because it prevents 100 percent of HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18, with types 16 and 18 accounting for 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases. Women In Government is truly proud of what we have been able to accomplish, and of what our members have accomplished - to date, 45 states have introduced cervical cancer prevention legislation and 39 states have enacted it!

Increasing our membership has been a goal of Women In Government this year, and we are well on our way to achieving this goal. Bringing new women to our membership is something each of us can contribute to, by spreading the word about Women In Government, and sharing individual stories of how Women In Government has educated and helped each of us, whether it was through our extensive and ever growing policy library, or one of our many meetings.

Our Annual Regional Conferences have been greatly successful. The 7th Annual Southern Regional Conference, held in Little Rock, Arkansas May 18th to the 20th, brought together dozens of state legislators from across the southern states and national experts to discuss pressing regional and national issues, including natural disaster preparedness; new advances in Alzheimer's disease; osteoporosis and hormone replacement therapy; cardiovascular disease and family economic success in communities. Our 13th Annual Midwestern Conference took place in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 11th through the 13th, with legislators from states across the Midwest and experts from across the country to discuss issues including preventative health care; women, substance abuse, and mental health parity; emerging issues in energy and electricity; biotechnology and consumer driven healthcare.

Women In Government hosted many meetings in the first half of the year, including the 2nd Annual Outreach to Vulnerable Constituents Legislative Training Session in Alexandria, Virginia in early May. Legislators learned how to effect good policy to aid vulnerable constituents in the areas of health, education, and economic success. Also, in later May, Women In Government hosted a Legislative Training Session on Preventing Pre Term Birth in Dana Point, California and legislators walked away with a wealth of information on preventative measures, including valuable knowledge about recent technology that can save lives. We also continue to see tremendous success out of our Access to Higher Education Policy Research Center and Chronic Kidney Disease Policy Resource Center.

Women In Government and our membership has accomplished so many objectives this year, and I am looking forward to continuing this success! Thank you to everyone who helps make Women In Government's accomplishments possible.

Sincerely,



Susan R. Crosby
President
Women In Government



2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Susan Crosby

Chair

Senator Gloria Lawlah (MD)

Vice Chair

Senator Connie Lawson (IN)

Secretary/Treasurer

Representative Jeannie Darneille (WA)

Member

Senator Kathryn Bowers (TN)

Member

Representative Shirley Hinson (SC)

Member

Representative Karen Morgan (UT)

Member

Delegate Carol Petzold (MD)

Business Council Chair

Marjorie Maginn, Wellpoint, Inc.

Immediate Past Chair

Senator Beverly Hammerstrom (MI)

Southern Regional Director

Representative Mary Sue McClurkin (AL)

Midwestern Regional Director

Senator Debbie Halvorson (IL)

Eastern Regional Director

Representative DebraLee Hovey (CT)

Western Regional Director

Senator Mary Jane Garcia (NM)

STEPPING OUT OF THE SHADOWS: Domestic Violence Awareness & Action

By *Diana Diaz*

As a victim and a witness of domestic violence, it took me and my family a great deal to heal. We were new to this country, none of us able to speak English and depending on people at House of Ruth, a shelter for women and their families, which was hard to accept. I came from a country where women and children had to work and rarely attended or finished school. My mother grew up with a “woman’s job,” feeding and providing for her nine brothers and sisters. She never finished school; she got married to a man who physically and mentally abused her, including me and my older sister who at the time was 14. We ended up running away from a life we thought we were destined for.

I grew up in the House of Ruth along with my older sister, her baby, my little sister and mother. Those years at House of Ruth really changed us all. It made us trust people, have a positive attitude for our lives and we became independent. We will never forget those years that changed us to who we are now. We may have some negative outlooks in life but in time, our positive outlook will come forth.

Domestic violence is an issue that affects many Americans, of all racial/ethnic and age groups, and many communities. One in four women will experience domestic violence, with young women ages 16-24 experiencing the highest rate of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is something that occurs within a family or an intimate relationship as in abuse of a partner and child.

Three million women are physically/sexually abused by their husband or boyfriend each year. In one study, 30 to 50 percent of female high school students reported having experienced teen dating violence. From 3.3 to 10 million children are exposed to some sort of domestic violence. Nearly 31% of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point of their lives. Murder, battering, and sexual assault are the three main forms of violence that women face. Each year approximately 1,400 women are killed, two to four million women are battered and 132,000 women report that they have been victims of rape or attempted rape, with half of women knowing their attackers.

Victims experience many physical and mental consequences of domestic violence such as broken bones, headaches, symptoms of post traumatic stress disorders and gynecological disorders. Depression, anti-social behavior and suicidal behavior are common among victims, and women who have suffered through sexual violence experience fear of intimacy.

There are many programs and laws are in place to help domestic violence victims, such as House of Ruth. House of Ruth shelters 500 people, mostly children. They provide these families with housing, day care, extensive outreach and counseling. Each year, thousands of individuals and hundreds of foundations, businesses, churches, and groups donate to the organization. Places like the House of Ruth play a critical role

in helping to end domestic violence can and making families aware that there are people who care.



Both civil and criminal justice systems address domestic violence through protective orders and addressing child custody if child abuse is present. Tough law enforcement laws have been put in place in many states; effective prevention programs have done a great deal as have shelters for families.

The positive thing coming from being a survivor of domestic violence is that you get something special from the experience. You love your family more, you thank god for the people who have such big hearts like those at House of Ruth. Without them I don’t think my family nor would I ever forget those traumatic days. Domestic violence is such an important issue that needs special attention. Women and children don’t deserve the broken hearts, bloody bruises and scarred souls. Everyone deserves to live and no one is served the right to take one’s soul and life away. A battered heart is more beautiful than a broken one. ■

Diana Diaz is a student entering her senior year this fall at César Chávez Public Charter High School in Washington, DC. Diana participated in a two-week public policy fellowship with Women In Government in June, 2006. She loves art and hopes to pursue a career in that field. Diana is currently looking at colleges in the DC-area; her plans for the future include traveling the world, learning new languages and helping people.

FOUNDATION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

Women In Government and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation have a long-term commitment to women’s health. In 2004 and 2005, Women In Government, in conjunction with the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, hosted Cardiovascular Disease in Women National Health Summits. The summits convened, for the first time, state policymakers with fourteen state offices of women’s health directors from across the country. For many of these participants, it was the first time state legislators and state offices of women’s health directors had met. The summit enabled state leg-

islators and state agency health officials a platform in which to collaborate on comprehensive and gender specific cardio care.

Based on the tremendous success of these summits, Women In Government and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation shifted gears in 2006 to focus on substance abuse issues in women and girls. This time, Women In Government summit participants included state policymakers, state offices of women’s health directors, and state offices of addiction and/or mental health directors. The summit was also the



Bristol-Myers Squibb

official rollout to state policymakers of The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University’s new book, *Women under the Influence* (The Johns Hopkins University Press).

Compared to boys and men, girls and women become addicted to alcohol, nicotine and illegal and prescription drugs, and develop substance-related diseases at lower levels of use and in less

continued on page 8

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

By Sarah Wells, Senior
Director of Public Policy

in HIV/AIDS Prevention

Can you imagine the end of HIV/AIDS? It is hard to picture the end of an epidemic that has infected more than 60 million people and killed 20 million. However, this remains the vision that drives thousands of researchers, educational and advocacy institutions and members of the business community, worldwide, to continue searching for an HIV vaccine.

HIV touches every part of the world, although developing nations are disproportionately affected. AIDS is the leading cause of death for Africans. Researchers have been working for years to develop a vaccine against HIV and most believe that this is the only way to end the epidemic. Treatment for HIV and AIDS is cost prohibitive for many, complicated medically and can cause drug resistance for patients.

Two decades later and nearly a billion research dollars spent annually, are we closer to finding a vaccine? Yes and no. Research studies have shown some protection against an animal form of HIV (SIV) in monkeys, and scientists have found some unusual ways to create powerful antibodies to fight off the virus. However, research has shown that creating an HIV vaccine is more complicated than we originally thought – for example, there may be genetic ties to immunity and there are different “strands” of HIV found throughout various regions of the world.

The good news is that dozens and dozens of HIV vaccine clinical trials have taken place since the 1980’s. The National Institutes of Health launched a trial in 2005 investigating a “global” HIV vaccine that, if proven safe and effective, could offer protection from multiple strands of HIV. In addition to public sector support for this research, pharmaceutical companies are hot on the trail of HIV vaccines.

“Although we’re 25 years into [the HIV] epidemic now, it’s never too late to take leadership in confronting it” says Representative Jeannie Darneille (D-WA). Policymakers play an important role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS has made this a top issue priority, advocating funding for researching, testing, treatment and education. Right here in the United States, legislators at the federal, state and

even local level are making strides on this issue.

In addition to her role as state legislator from the Tacoma, Washington area, Representative Darneille has served as the Executive Director of the Pierce County AIDS Foundation for 17 years. “It took getting elected in 2000 to raise the public debate about this issue. People said that the debate about my first bill addressing HIV prevention and education was the first time AIDS had been mentioned in legislative debate in at least seven years. That bill was passed with strong bipartisan support.”

Can you imagine the end of HIV/AIDS? You can be a part of the process – through education, prevention and participation. As so eloquently put by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, “Developing an AIDS vaccine to save lives and economies will be one of the world’s greatest achievements. Not to do so would be one of its greatest failures.”

What is Representative Darneille’s advice to WIG members and the community as a whole? “Know your HIV status. Recognize that HIV will affect your family, your church family, your community. Talk about HIV prevention, care services and create links with people in your community to stop the spread of HIV...provide compassionate care for those families already impacted.” She also suggests specific steps that policymakers and community leaders can take to combat HIV/AIDS:

- Be aware of the demographics of HIV/AIDS and know your service providers in your community;
- Talk openly with people - public health providers, docs, activists, church leaders, teachers - about the effects of HIV in the community;
- Become an educator and advocate yourself. Think about the ways you have already impacted your community, and then imagine what your leadership would mean to an effort to save lives - truly, save LIVES in your community;
- Answer these questions: what behaviors place people in your community at risk for HIV transmission and what is the



community doing to respond to those behaviors and protect people from HIV?

- Identify barriers that people face: do they have enough information? Know their [HIV] status? Have access to good treatment? Are they safe from discrimination?

What can you do today to help prevent HIV/AIDS?

1) Educate yourself and others: “Until a vaccine is available, and even afterwards, we must continue to reinforce the already proven methods of HIV prevention.” National HIV Testing Day is one critical step towards educating the community about HIV/AIDS detection and ways to stop the transmission of this deadly disease. For more info about National HIV Testing Day, sponsored by the Association of People with AIDS, visit <http://www.napwa.org/hivtestinfo/>.

2) Protect yourself: Know how HIV is spread and how you can protect yourself. There are many resources to learn about HIV/AIDS prevention, including: Centers for Disease Control (<http://www.cdc.gov>) and the National Minority Aids Council (<http://www.nmac.org/home/>).

3) Participate in clinical trials: Taking part in a clinical trial is not for everyone, but for those who are eligible and willing, it is an opportunity to help advance critical research towards an HIV vaccine. Many clinical trials are looking for women, who are often difficult to recruit, to volunteer. To learn more about clinical trials, check out: <http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/vaccines/> ■

**CORPORATE SPONSORS PARTNER
WITH WIG ON PREVENTION ISSUES**

Women In Government has formed beneficial alliances with our corporate sponsors to encourage preventative behaviors addressing urban sprawl, disease management, natural disasters, and numerous other vital issues. These alliances provide state legislators with valuable educational information and policy solutions.

Prevention was a theme at our recent Women In Government 7th Annual Southern Regional Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Governor Mike Huckabee spoke about “Building A Healthier America,” sharing goals and strategies from the National Governor’s Association and Healthy America Initiatives. Ways to partner with corporations, state legislators, and other state programs were discussed. Dr. Jennifer Dillaha of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, educated the attendees, including state legislators, corporate sponsors, and distinguished guests, on the effects of urban sprawl. Dr. Dillaha noted the significant negative impact on the health of residents in areas of urban sprawl, including this finding: “The odds that

a county resident will be obese increases 10% with every 50-pt increase in the degree of sprawl.” Dr Dillaha advocated the building of “complete streets” and sound developments to prevent the many negative characteristics of urban sprawl and their harmful impact on residents’ health and wellness. James Lee Witt, former FEMA director and current CEO of James Lee Witt Association, a public safety and crisis management consulting firm, talked about important strategies for states to consider in terms of disaster preparedness, as well as what steps should be taken when a natural disaster strikes.

Additionally, a recent speaker at our Midwestern Regional Conference, Harvey Ryland, President & CEO of the The Institute of Business & Home Safety summarized it well, “A community cannot survive a disaster unless its businesses survive the disaster.”

It is through Women In Government’s corporate sponsorships that all parties gain the necessary knowledge to promote important policy issues. As we work to partner ahead on prevention issues, state legislators and businesses alike will bring these topics home to concerned communities. ■

2006 BUSINESS COUNCIL

Majorie Maginn - Chair

Vice President, Industry and Political Affairs
Wellpoint, Inc.

Linda Alexander, Ph.D., F.A.A.N.

Vice President, Women’s Health
Digene Corporation

Deborah Alfano

Executive Director, Health Policy and External Affairs
Merck Vaccine Division

Marianne A. Becton

Director
Public Policy and Strategic Alliances
Verizon Communications

Sara Tays

Southwest Government Relations Manager
ExxonMobil Corporation

Elizabeth Seifert

Director Public Policy
GlaxoSmithKline

Susan Crosby

President
Women In Government

Lisa Kos

Senior Director of Development
Women In Government

For a complete staff directory, please visit our website at www.womeningovernment.org

**2006
CORPORATE SPONSORS**

- Abbott
- Adeza Biomedical
- AEP-SWEPCO
- Allergan, Inc.
- Altria Corporate Services, Inc.
- Alzheimer’s Association
- American Diabetes Association
- Amgen
- Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.
- Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
- AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
- Bayer HealthCare
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Bobby Hogue & Associates
- Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Bose Treacy Associates
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
- CVS/pharmacy
- DaimlerChrysler
- Digene Corporation
- Digital Healthcare, Inc.
- Duke Energy
- Edison Electric Institute
- Eli Lilly and Company
- Entergy Arkansas
- ExxonMobil
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Hoffman-LaRoche Inc.
- Ice Miller LLP
- Indiana Health Care Association
- Indiana Ophthalmology Association
- Indiana State Chiropractic Association
- Indiana State Medical Association
- Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Insight Communications
- Johnson & Johnson
- KWK Management Group, LLC
- Managed Health Services
- McDonald’s
- Merck Vaccine Division
- Michigan Association of Health Plans
- Mullenix & Associates
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals
- Novo Nordisk, Inc.
- Ohio Hospital Association
- Pfizer, Inc.
- PhRMA
- Procter & Gamble
- Rifkin, Livingston, Levitan & Silver, LLC
- Sanofi Aventis
- State Farm Insurance
- Verizon Communications
- Wal-Mart
- WellPoint, Inc.
- Wholesale Beer Distributors of Arkansas, Inc.
- Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

2006 State Directors

Rep. Alma Allen (TX)
Rep. Sheryl Allen (UT)
Rep. Fran Amos (MI)
Sen. Mary Andrews (ME)
Rep. Kathy Angerer (MI)
Rep. Catherine Barrett (OH)
Sen. Vaneta Becker (IN)
Rep. Patti Bellock (IL)
Rep. Joan Brady (SC)
Sen. Joan Bray (MO)
Sen. Billie Breaux (IN)
Del Bonnie Brown (WV)
Rep. Edna Brown (OH)
Sen. Pam Brown (NE)
Rep. Harriet Cady (NH)
Rep. Gale Candaras (MA)
Rep. Marge Chadderdon (ID)
Rep. Dawn Charging (ND)
Rep. Cheryl Chase (AZ)
Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland (HI)
Rep. Linda Coleman (MS)
Sen. Jeanne Combs (NE)
Rep. Marian Cooksey (OK)
Sen. Bettye Davis (AK)
Sen. Katie Dorsett (NC)
Rep. Debbie Evans (VT)
Rep. JoAnne Favors (TN)
Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (IL)
Sen. Jennie Forehand (MD)
Rep. Brenda Fraser (MO)
Sen. Karen Fraser (WA)
Rep. Frances Fredericks (MS)
Sen. Judith Freedman (CT)
Rep. Laurie Funderburk (SC)
Rep. Anne Gannon (FL)
Rep. Alberta Gardner (AK)
Rep. Linda Gentile (CT)
Rep. Janice Giegler (CT)
Rep. Sandy Haas (VT)
Rep. Laura Hall (AL)
Rep. Kathy Hawken (ND)
Rep. Michele Henson (GA)
Rep. Jamie Ison (AL)
Rep. Sally Kern (OK)
Del. Susan Krebs (MD)
Rep. Wilhelmina Lewellen (AR)
Rep. Beth Low (MO)
Sen. Evelyn Lynn (FL)
Rep. Barbara Marerro (TN)
Rep. Rita Martinson (MS)
Rep. Barbara Marumoto (HI)
Rep. Carolene Mays (IN)
Rep. Shirley Meyer (ND)
Rep. Hellen Miller (IA)
Sen. Pat Miller (IN)
Rep. Carol Mumford (RI)
Sen. Jane Orie (PA)
Rep. Nan Orrock (GA)
Rep. Ruth Ann Palumbo (KY)
Rep. Janice Pauls (KS)
Sen. Linda Evans Parlette (WA)
Rep. Donna Pence (ID)
Rep. Betty Pickett (AR)
Rep. JoAnn Pottorff (KS)
Sen. Pam Resor (MA)
Rep. Annette Robinson (NY)
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez (NM)
Rep. Kimberly Rosen (ME)
Sen. Carol Roessler (WI)
Sen. DiAnna Schimek (NE)
Sen. Susan Schrader (MD)
Sen. Martha Scott (MI)
Rep. Barbara Skyora (MN)
Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon (MN)
Rep. Kathy Stein (KY)
Rep. Debbie Stafford (CO)
Sen. Lena Taylor (MI)
Sen. Maggie Tinsman (IA)
Rep. Nancy Todd (CO)
Rep. Barbara Toles (WI)
Sen. Laura Toy (MI)
Rep. Linda Upmeyer (IA)
Rep. Jessica Upshaw (MS)
Rep. Neva Walker (MN)
Sen. Suzanne Williams (CO)
Assemblywoman Valerie Weber (NV)
Rep. Annette Young (SC)

UPCOMING WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

- ✦ **9th Annual Western Regional Conference**
September 7-9, 2006
LaMansion del Rio in San Antonio, Texas
- ✦ **2nd Annual HPV & Cervical Cancer Summit: Accepting the Challenge to Eliminate Cervical Cancer**
November 16-18, 2006
Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, DC
- ✦ **13th Annual State Directors and Biennial First Term Legislators Leadership Conference**
January 4-7, 2007
Marco Island Marriott Resort in Marco Island, Florida



"My involvement with Women In Government has afforded me many opportunities to meet outstanding people across the globe. WIG strives to educate its members on various policy and social issues and provides valuable information through some of the best experts in the world. As a member of WIG, I have been able to use this information to help create sound public policy in Michigan. I have been fortunate to be part of this excellent organization for over 10 years."

– Senator Beverly Hammerstrom (Michigan)
Immediate Past Chair, Women In Government
Majority Floor Leader, Michigan State Senate

Join Women In Government

Women In Government recently enhanced its Legislative Membership program to better serve our members. Women In Government Membership is now on an annual rolling basis. Your \$100 dues secure your membership for twelve months, and bring you a unique set of benefits including: advance regional conference date/location notice, access to our Membership Library of Policy Resources, issue talking points on a wide variety of topics, legislative toolkits, policy and educational publications, and additional information, 12 month subscription to Policy Milestones (a monthly briefing), Quarterly Membership eNewsletter with Women In Government updates, special Recognition at Women In Government Conferences, and access to Women In Government staff for research assistance and networking support

For more information, or to sign up for Women In Government membership, please contact Kate Roche at 202-333-0825, ext.209 or membership@womeningovernment.org.

Got Mail?

Are you currently receiving our monthly Policy E-Newsletter? Signing up is easy. Visit www.womeningovernment.org and click JOIN NOW to start receiving monthly email updates from Women In Government on important policy issues, including updates from each of our resource centers.

Higher Ed continued from page 1

sites in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, DC, the program has placed more than 1200 students over the past 14 years and has achieved a graduation rate of 90 percent.

On March 16th, Connecticut State Representative DebraLee Hovey hosted the third state briefing which featured Dr. Blenda Wilson, President and CEO of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, and Dr. Valerie F. Lewis, Commissioner of the Department of Education, who discussed the Foundation's evaluation of the success of Connecticut students after secondary school.

Finally, Senator Pamela Resor and Representative Gale Candaras co-

hosted the briefing in Massachusetts on April 5th that was moderated by the former Chair of Women In Government Michigan Senator Beverly Hammerstrom. In addition to a presentation by Dr. Blenda Wilson, the briefing included Bill Guenther, President and Founder of Mass Insight Education and Mass Insight Corporation, who addressed the challenge of preparing math- and science-educated students for a global workforce.

If you would like more information on upcoming events on access to higher education please visit our website at www.womenin-government.org/highered. ■

**2006
Foundation Partners**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
Lumina Foundation for Education
Nellie Mae Education Foundation

CKD continued from page 2

successful work throughout the fall by providing additional educational and policy materials to state policymakers. For further information, please contact the Chronic Kidney Disease Policy Resource Center at 1-888-333-0164 or email us at kidney@womeningovernment.org.

Foundation Spotlight continued from page 4

time, according to *Women under the Influence*.

The book also reveals that the gender gap in substance use has closed for young girls. They are smoking, drinking and using drugs the same as young boys but the impact on them is greater. Because of biological differences, one drink for a woman commonly has the impact of two drinks for a man and one cigarette smoked by a woman has nearly the carcinogenic effect as two smoked by a man.

Girls and women often abuse substances for different reasons than boys and men and have different treatment needs, yet only eight percent of women requiring treatment receive it and few programs are tailored to women.

For policymakers, key recommendations in the book include educating

CASA is the only national organization that brings together all professional disciplines needed to study and combat all types of substance abuse as they affect all aspects of society. CASA's book can be ordered from Amazon.com. For more information about the book's content, contact Susan

Foster, Vice President and Director, Division of Policy Research and Analysis, at sfoster@casacolumbia.org. For press inquiries, contact Lauren Duran at lduran@casacolumbia.org.

women and parents, training healthcare professionals, assuring insurance coverage

for gender specific treatment, regulating tobacco and alcohol advertising and marketing, and funding much needed research.

Women In Government, CASA, and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation are committed to arming state policymakers with the most accurate and up-to-date information on women and substance abuse. For more information on the summit or policy resources, please contact Abby Mills, Policy Grants Manager, at 202.333.0825 ext. 210. Finally, Women In Government and CASA warmly thank the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation for their generous and ongoing program support. ■ *With contributions from Susan Foster*

Women In Government is a national 501(c)(3), non-profit, bi-partisan organization of women state legislators providing leadership opportunities, networking, expert forums, and educational resources to address and resolve complex public policy issues. Women In Government leads the nation with a bold, courageous, and passionate vision that empowers and mobilizes all women legislators to effect sound policy.



Women In Government
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 709
Washington, DC 20037

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, VA
PERMIT # 6127