



Women In Government “Women & Heart Disease” Task Force Policy Recommendations

The following policy recommendations were developed by Women In Government’s “Women & Heart Disease” Task Force and approved by the Board of Directors. The Task Force was formed in 2007, will meet annually, and consists of a national, bi-partisan group of state legislators and state agency representatives.

Task Force Mission Statement

The mission of the Women & Heart Disease Task Force is to reduce the impact of Cardiovascular Disease on women and their families through promoting awareness, implementing prevention and early intervention strategies based on established medical guidelines, facilitating partnerships, sharing best practices and developing a state action plan.

Task Force Policy Recommendations

Serve as a Role Model/Leadership

State policymakers and other stakeholders should serve as individual role models for a heart healthy lifestyle and encourage staff and colleagues to do the same. State policymakers should use their leadership positions to take action to reduce the burden of heart disease, which can be achieved by establishing dialogue with relevant state agencies, community organizations, and members of the medical community, etc.

Support Coverage for Preventive Health Services

States should support coverage of preventive health services through public and private insurance providers. States should also support incentives, such as tax credits, for employers to adopt insurance plans with prevention services, or provide benefits for healthy heart living, etc.

Increase Utilization of Preventive Health Services and Promote Healthy Lifestyles

States should promote awareness of heart disease in women by convening partners and establishing public outreach and screening programs supported by public and/or private funding. Policymakers and other stakeholders should encourage older women to take advantage of the heart disease screenings available through the Medicare program. States should seek to optimize existing partnerships and seek out public, private and non-profit organizations with mutual interest to achieve shared goals.

For more information, please visit www.womeningovernment.org.