

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 30, 2007**

**STATEMENT BY WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT
REGARDING ITS MISSION AND PROGRAMS**

Women In Government is a national bi-partisan, non-profit organization representing women state legislators. We were formed in 1988 to provide leadership opportunities, networking, expert forums and educational resources to address and resolve complex public policy issues. Our vision is to empower and mobilize women legislators to effect sound policy.

Women's health has traditionally been an important policy area for Women In Government. In 1994, we helped facilitate the establishment of the first state Office of Women's Health in California. Since then, more than a dozen states have established Offices of Women's Health. In 2000, Women In Government, through a Women's Healthcare Platform, worked to correct inequalities in the standard of health care provided to women by helping to make this a campaign issue in the 2000 Presidential election. Inspired by our efforts, 15 states introduced or passed resolutions calling for policymakers to eliminate discrimination against women in healthcare delivery, clinical research, insurance coverage and education.

Women In Government's Board of Directors, comprised of a bi-partisan group of current and former women state legislators, chooses the organization's public policy program areas, based on topics of interest to our members. Examples of program areas that we are currently tackling through dedicated task forces and resource centers are: cervical cancer elimination, access to higher education and preventing chronic kidney disease. Cervical cancer is of particular interest to our members because it represents the first opportunity that we have to actually eliminate a cancer.

Women In Government advocates for specific issues, including issuing policy recommendations. We conduct a variety of activities to help educate and support our members on key topics. These include: featuring presentations at our regional conferences; conducting state legislative briefings at legislators' request; providing background information and sample legislation introduced by other members; issuing research-based reports; and using other vehicles such as newsletters and our Web site. These materials, along with more information about our programs, are featured on our Web site at www.womeningovernment.org. In addition, Women In Government helps legislators interested in specific issues by directing them to their colleagues in other states to share resources and information.

Women In Government receives funding from a variety of corporate, governmental, individual and foundation sources. A full list of supporters is available on our Web site. We receive unrestricted educational grants, which means that our bi-partisan Board of Directors, in conjunction with our policy staff, determines the content of our programs.

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