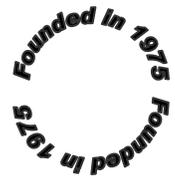


Caucus of Women Legislators



ROOM 460 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS 02133 617 722 2266

2nd Quarter 2010

Caucus Showcases Girls Inc.



Close to 50 legislators and staff attended a presentation given by Girls Inc. at the State House in May. Girls Inc., which offers gender specific programming internationally, was represented at the State House by program directors from across the Commonwealth participating in a forum held by the Caucus. At issue was the status of girls in the Commonwealth.

Girls Inc. got its start in New England during the Industrial Revolution in response to the needs of the young women who had migrated from rural communities in search of jobs in textile mills and factories. Today, Girls Inc focuses on every aspect of girls' lives, developing research-based educational programs addressing math and science education, pregnancy and drug abuse prevention, media literacy, economic literacy, adolescent health, violence prevention, and sports participation.

Patricia Driscoll, Executive Director of Girls Inc. of Lynn, offered the assistance of the Massachusetts Girls Inc. affiliates to the legislators as they look at issues through a gender-

lens; gathering data on girls' needs and strengths and working to identify strategies to support girls across the Commonwealth.

"Girls Inc. is all about providing opportunities for girls. From the opportunity to have a safe place; to get homework help; to visit museums, women's basketball games and women-owned businesses; to opportunities to be leaders in our communities by testifying at city council meetings, organizing park cleanups and proposing regulations around drug paraphernalia, Girls Inc. offers concrete paths to becoming a responsible, economically-independent and personally fulfilled adult," said Driscoll of the group's programming.

The clear conclusion of the presentation was that, although women's status has progressed in society, girls still lag behind boys in crucial areas like math and science, sports participation and even in numbers of future legislators. Because the state of girls in any given community is a direct indication of the strength and wellness of that community, girls require and deserve leadership to preserve and improve their futures.

Cathi Coridan of Girls Inc. of Worcester added, "The health and well being of the girls in a community must be at the forefront of concern because they are the mothers of every child yet to be born. If their health is

compromised, the health of their children is too; if educational opportunities are not available, their earning power and the ability to care for their children is compromised. The health and well being of the girls and women in a community is the strongest barometer of the overall health and resiliency of the community."

There are over 12,000 girls in Massachusetts benefitting from Girls Inc. programming, many of whom are most at-risk for the very issues Girls Inc. addresses. Suzanne Parker, Executive Director of Girls Inc. of Holyoke, pointed out that immediate attention to these issues prevents high costs down the road. "Girls Inc. programs are cutting edge and research based. Girls Inc. not only inspires girls to be strong, smart and bold, but also impacts positive change in families and our communities across Massachusetts."



DATES

**2009/2010
Legislative Session
ends
July 31, 2010**

**Celebrate the
90th Anniversary
of
Women's Suffrage
August 26, 2010**

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Caucus of Women Legislators

A Message from the Co-Chairs



Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Somerville) and Representative Alice K. Wolf (D-Cambridge)

Dear Colleagues, Staff and Friends,

The legislature has tackled several issues of broad impact during the last three months. Safe driving, municipal relief and CORI reform were just a few of the significant matters addressed by the House and the Senate aside from one of the most challenging budgets the legislature has ever attempted to balance.

Through the worthy efforts of our colleagues, we have also made considerable progress toward providing security for some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable citizens.

Our children have been assured safeguards not only through the enactment of the anti-bullying bill, but also as a result of a successful amendment to the FY11 budget requiring a ninety day notice in cases of eligibility or benefits changes for those receiving Emergency Assistance, TAFDC or EAEDC.

The end of the session rapidly approaches, yet our work on issues directly impacting women will not cease. We have had notable successes. This spring Governor Patrick signed into law criminally enforceable harassment protection for victims of stalking. The Caucus task forces on domestic violence, women in prison and homeless families continue to prepare for next session after much rewarding progress this year.

We look forward to assisting the ongoing efforts of our colleagues in the Caucus during the last weeks of the session and thank our friends for your support throughout difficult times.

Sincerely,

*Senator Patricia D. Jehlen and Representative Alice K. Wolf
Co-Chairs, Women's Legislative Caucus*

Judith Wurtman, PhD on Nutritional Links to Stress

The Caucus of Women Legislators sponsored a timely forum on stress management in the midst of the budget season at the State House. Dr. Judith Wurtman, renowned expert on nutritional links to stress, was invited as a guest speaker to instruct legislators on specific non-traditional physiological stress relievers.

Wurtman discovered the connection

between carbohydrates, serotonin, and emotional well-being through her MIT clinical studies and has written several books on the issue including *The Serotonin Solution*.

Although the House of Representatives had concluded debate on the budget shortly before Wurtman presented her findings at the forum, House legislators were still

dealing with substantial legislation. State Senators were readying for their budget debate.



Caucus of Women Legislators Intern



Stephanie Graves, a junior at Boston University, joined the Caucus in mid May and will intern through July. A Tacoma, Washington native, Stephanie is pursuing a dual major in Political Science and Psychology, with minors in Education and Women Studies.

Stephanie's interest in women's issues has grown since pursuing coursework related to women in politics and gender issues in the law and plans to continue her studies at the graduate level with special interest in public policy or social work. She also hopes to continue working within the Massachusetts legislature.

Pay Equity Forum



Former Lt. Governor and President of The Wage Project Dr. Evelyn Murphy

Less than a week before this year's official "Pay Equity Day", state leaders and legislators gathered for a forum on the merits of S689, *An Act Further Defining Comparable Work*, sponsored by Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Somerville). Representative Alice K. Wolf (D-Cambridge) is the lead sponsor of the bill's House version.

Addressing a packed hearing room, House Caucus Chair Representative Alice K. Wolf introduced former Lieutenant Governor Dr. Evelyn Murphy, a leading expert and activist on the gender wage gap in Massachusetts and the forum's keynote speaker. Murphy is the President of The WAGE Project, Inc., a national grassroots organization determined to end wage discrimination against working women, and Resident Scholar in the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University. In 2005, Simon & Schuster published her book *Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What To Do About It* on women's wages.

Murphy traced the long history of gender pay inequity straight back to biblical references and noted that not much has improved since. Some strides were seen in the mid-twentieth century but since 1993, over 15 years ago, there have been virtually no gains made in closing the wage gap to

less than its current \$0.23.

"The bill that they [Senator Jehlen and Representative Wolf] have filed in the House and the Senate is right on the mark," Murphy said. "Pay for the job, not the person."

Small differences in each weekly paycheck, noted Murphy, create a ripple effect through the economy. She pointed out that the gap is even more obviously significant when it is described as an average of \$1.2 million less pay for women over the course of a lifetime. It ultimately affects available savings, pension amounts and social security checks for women.

Gender pay inequity has become a hot issue for men, as well. Men whose wives, mothers and daughters make less than they should are starting to notice because, during tough economic times, their incomes are required to fill the gaps.

Also invited to speak was Cambridge Attorney Lee Goldstein who represented Marilyn Jancy, an Everett cafeteria worker, in her suit demanding pay equal to the janitorial staff in the same school system. Jancy was paid half the hourly rate than the male janitors. Goldstein successfully argued at the time that the work was comparable and deserved the same pay rate. The decision was later overturned by the Massachusetts Supreme Court

which ruled that the definition of "comparable work" under Massachusetts law did not limit them

from more narrowly comparing the two jobs.

Goldstein pointed out that the cafeteria workers, who made half of what the janitors did, were traditionally women while the janitorial staff was traditionally male. Both jobs had risks attached: working with chemical and tools, or working with extreme temperatures and back-injuring lifting. However, when too closely compared, the disparate tasks involved did not meet the narrower criteria for "comparable work". He urged that the bill filed by Jehlen and Wolf be passed to clarify the definition for the Commonwealth's courts.

Representative Jason Lewis (D-Winchester) concurred. A former businessman familiar with private sector pay practices, the Representative spoke on the need to pass S689 from an economic point of view. He paraphrased Horace Mann, saying that America's greatest natural resource is the human intellect and noted that Massachusetts cannot afford to lose talented young women who will go elsewhere if they cannot get fair pay in Massachusetts. He concluded with the thought that passing S689 is not only the right thing to do, but that it is also the wise thing to do from an economic point of view.

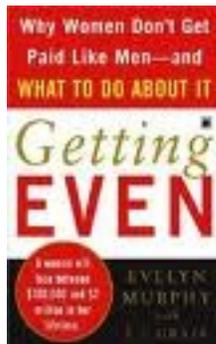
Also participating in the forum were Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) Commissioners Marisa DeFranco and Joanne McCrea.

DeFranco and McCrae both spoke on behalf of the MCSW, advocating the passage of S689. DeFranco echoed the

FOR EVERY DOLLAR MADE BY A MAN IN THIS COUNTRY, A WOMAN DOING THE SAME WORK, IF SHE'S LUCKY, MAKES SEVENTY-EIGHT CENTS.

sentiments of the previous speakers and added, "If women can raise themselves up with the help of this legislation, they can become equal participants in the Commonwealth."

Commissioner McCrea concluded the day's events by further illustrating the injustice of women receiving less than men. She handed Representative Lewis a whole cookie while giving approximately three-quarters of a cookie to Representative Katherine Clark (D-Melrose) who was in attendance.



Caucus of Women Legislators

Awards and Recognitions



On April 30, **Senate President Therese Murray** (D-Plymouth) announced the establishment of a “Therese Murray Public Service Award” to be presented annually to someone in the greater Plymouth area.

On May 3, she served as the keynote speaker at the 12th-annual Women Honoring Women Luncheon, where she also received an award and, on May 6, she spoke at the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health awards ceremony, at which she received the Spirit of Compassion Award.

The Senate President was also honored with a public service award from the Massachusetts Association of Private/Public Schools on May 7.

Common Cause Massachusetts presented Legislative Achievement Awards to the Senate President on June 12, for her work on the Ethics bill and to **Senator Joan Menard** (D-Fall River) for her efforts toward National Popular Vote at their 40th Anniversary.



On April 11, 2010 **Senator Harriette Chandler** (D-Worcester) was presented with the “Beacon Award” from the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, with their appreciation for her leadership in advancing the rights of sexual violence survivors and in honor of her work on *An Act Relative to Harassment Prevention Orders*, which is now Chapter 23 of the Acts of 2010.

On June 12, she received the “Distinguished Service Award in the Field of Public Service” from the Doctor Franklin Perkins School. Her award read: “In Recognition of her devoted leadership on behalf of citizens throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Her admirable record of service in the MA House of Representatives and State Senate includes a deep commitment to field of child welfare. Her service as an advocate for health care, at-risk youth, children and families has resulted in an improved quality of life for the citizens across the Commonwealth.”



Senator Jennifer Flanagan (D-Leominster) was selected to participate in the 2010 Program for Emerging Political Leaders, sponsored by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Leaders were asked to nominate one or more members who by their actions have demonstrated those qualities associated with leadership—integrity, compassion, intelligence, vision, and common sense. The goal of the program is to inspire these men and women to continue careers in public service.



Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston) was named Barrier Breaker in Diversity by the Boston Globe for her role as the first Latina elected to the Massachusetts State Senate on Sunday, June 27 and received the 2010 Haiti Relief Community Service Award by the Way of the Cross Church of Dorchester for her role in the Haitian earthquake relief efforts on June 27.

Rep. Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston), appointed by House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo, kicked off the first meeting of the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission by quoting Ben Franklin and referencing the MWRA water main rupture that spurred a boil water order in dozens of communities, an order that was lifted after major pipe repairs were completed. The commission was established in the state budget approved last summer.



Representative Ruth Balsler (D-Newton), who accepted an award from the National Association of Social Workers in April, said she is concerned gambling in the state will undo the advances social workers make with addicted clients at a time when the state has already cut funding for addiction services.



On April 11, the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) held their 5th Annual Walk for Change, a fundraiser that provides visible support to survivors and brings people committed to ending sexual violence together. In recognition of all the work done to ensure that *An Act Relative to Harassment Prevention Orders* was signed into law, **Representative Cory Atkins** (D-Concord) was presented the Beacon Award: *In recognition of outstanding leadership in advancing the rights of sexual violence survivors.*

On June 9, **Representative Kate Hogan** (D-Stow) received the Minute Man Arc Legislator of the Year Award. The human services organization is a full service provider, offering programs and services to children and adults with disabilities as well as their families.



On Wednesday, June 2, **Representative Karyn Polito** (R-Shrewsbury) was honored by the Massachusetts Legislators Association which presented her with the Legislator of the Year Award at its 68th annual dinner.

Caucus of Women Legislators

Awards and Recognitions



Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) received the Lisa Anne Jenkins Massachusetts Association for Families Legislator of the Year Award on May 16 for her commitment and dedication to improving the lives of foster and adopted children in the Commonwealth. She also received the Children's Mental Health Champion Award on June 18th from the Parent/Professional Advocacy League for her dedication to improving the lives of children with mental health needs and their families.



On May 3, the Children's Mental Health Campaign celebrated the tenth anniversary of the state's mental health parity

law. Honorees, for their roles in the passage and implementation of a model parity law that mandated that mental health diagnoses would be covered by insurance in the same fashion as any other medical issue, included caucus members **Representatives Ruth Balsler, Kay Khan, Liz Malia, Ellen Story, and former Rep. Nancy Flavin.**



Over the last two months, **Senator Susan Tucker** (D-Andover) has been recognized by the following groups for her advocacy and service to the community: Greater Lawrence Community Action Center, Northeast Independent Living Center, and the Child Care Circuit of Greater Lawrence.

Since April, **Senator Marian Walsh** (D-West Roxbury) has been recognized by the MA Psychiatric Society with their "Presidential Award", was presented with the "Paving the Way Award" by Emerge Massachusetts, and the Commissioners of Norfolk County presented her with their "Achievement Award" which recognized the work that she has done for Norfolk County over her tenure as State Senator.



Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera (D-Springfield) was honored on June 16 with a human relations award. The award was given by the National Conference for Community and Justice of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, Inc. The group, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, presents annual awards to individuals who have proven themselves as leaders, who have worked for human rights and dignity, worked to promote an inclusive society, and who have taught others through example.



Representative Mary Grant (D-Beverly) was honored by The Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann with a certificate of appreciation on May 14 and Emerge Massachusetts honored her as a retiring woman legislator at their spring fundraiser on June 15. The River House, a homeless men's shelter in Beverly, honored the Representative at their Board meeting on June 25 and she was given the Beverly Rotary "Citizen of the Year" on the evening of June 29.



Representative Lori Ehrlich (D-Marblehead) received the North Shore Community Service Award from the Anti-Defamation League on May 13, 2010 at the Essex County Law and Education Day. She won this award for her work on the bullying bill.



Representative Jennifer Callahan (D-Sutton) received the Community Citizen Award from the Uxbridge Grange on May 11, 2010

Representative Marty Walz (D-Boston) was recently named Legislator of the Year by Advocates for Autism Massachusetts (AFAM), a grass-roots organization of advocates, professionals and families impacted by autism, of which The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation is a founding member. Representative Walz received the award during Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day at the State House to recognize her work to improve the lives of adults and children with autism.



Representative Kay Khan (D-Newton) was honored by the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization to receive the 2010 Friends of School Nursing Award for her continuous support and contributions to MSNO's legislative advocacy for helping promote school nursing in Massachusetts.

She has been recognized for efforts advocating for adequate funding for school nursing in the State budget and the inclusion of school nursing in key legislative language.



Representative Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset) received a Doctor of Public Administration from Massachusetts Maritime Academy at commencement ceremonies at the Buzzard's Bay campus on June 19.

CAUCUS OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS



MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

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Patricia D. Jehlen
Joan M. Menard
Therese Murray
Karen E. Spilka
Susan C. Tucker
Marian Walsh

THE CAUCUS OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS IS A BIPARTISAN, BICAMERAL GROUP OF FEMALE LEGISLATORS, THE MISSION OF WHICH IS TO ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC STATUS AND EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND TO ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER WOMEN IN ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Girl Power on the Hill



Ruth Bramson,
Eastern Mass.
Girl Scouts CEO

Nearly 150 Girl Scouts from across the Commonwealth gathered at a State House leadership conference during school vacation week in April. The all day session, jointly run by the Caucus of Women Legislators and the Senate Legislative Education Office under the auspices of Senate President Therese Murray, was designed to hone leadership skills and provide hands-on education on the legislative process.

Opening the session, Caucus members Senator Jennifer Flanagan (D-Leominster), Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein (D-Revere) and Representative Jennifer Callahan (D-Sutton) addressed the Girl Scouts in the overflowing House Chamber. Each related their own inspirations and challenges as leading women in their communities, and thanked Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts Program Director Joan Reilly for bringing

them to the State House.

The Girl Scouts, ranging in age from 11-18, participated in workshops led by legislative staff volunteers, participated in a Caucus developed State House Scavenger Hunt and received an official State House tour. Workshops for the girls included specifics on the legislative process unique to the Commonwealth, as well as that of the federal government. They also learned how to advocate for a cause and effective leadership techniques.



Girl Power on the Hill concluded with a full mock debate in the House Chamber of Senate Bill 2323, An Act Relative to Bullying in Schools. Not only were the girls fully engaged in debating the merits of the legislation, they also filed several thought provoking amendments which inspired fervent responses from both sides of the issue.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2009, only 15 of the CEOs of Fortune 500 companies were women?

That is only 3%