

WOMEN'S ACTION for NEW DIRECTIONS

WAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2005

Each year, the WAND Board evaluates and sets the legislative agenda. The two WAND lobbyists then focus their energies on these issues (especially in the first half of the year, when the federal budget is proposed and debated).

CATEGORY A • Most active

- Support alternatives to war as a means of resolving differences
- Reduce excessive military spending in order to achieve more balanced federal budget priorities
- Prevent new nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons testing, including the proposed new plutonium pit production facility
- Prevent deadly nuclear materials from falling into the wrong hands

CATEGORY B • Active involvement

- Advance proposals to prevent the weaponization of space
- Prevent deployment of national missile defense
- Support defense-related environmental cleanup
- Support efforts to dispose of, store, and transport nuclear waste in the least dangerous manner

CATEGORY C • Supportive

- Support funding for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency (UN agencies that assure compliance with CTBT and nuclear weapons inspections, respectively)
- Support efforts to reduce violence against women

THE BUILDUP OF A NEW NUCLEAR ARSENAL

NOW IS THE TIME TO HEAD OFF A NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE: OPPOSE THE BUNKER BUSTER

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT CONGRESS DID NOT FUND THE DEVELOPMENT OF new nuclear weapons in FY05. The final spending bill for the year zeroed out funding for the bunker buster and for research on new nuclear weapons concepts. "We regard this as a significant victory," says Susan Shaer, WAND Executive Director. "We worked hard to rally members and friends to take action, and we believe that our efforts helped make a difference."

The bad news is that funding requests for these items have reappeared in the proposed federal budget for FY06. The new bunker buster request is \$8.5 million, and the Department of Energy plans to spend almost half a billion dollars on it over the next few years. WAND is joining other arms control groups in bringing this funding request into the light, and encouraging citizens to take action. "Especially at a time when dozens of worthwhile programs are on the chopping block, it's inappropriate and dangerous to request funds for an initiative that could restart the nuclear arms race," says Shaer.

More info and a call to action: see other side!

Representative Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), member of the House Armed Services Committee and a key leader of efforts to stop this funding, called it "a waste of money on a weapon commanders in the field have not asked for, is of highly questionable utility, and may trigger a new global nuclear arms race."



WAND Public Policy Director Marie Rietmann chats with Carnegie's Joseph Cirincione at a WAND-sponsored strategy session on the Carnegie Endowment's report with staff of House Armed Services Committee Members.

You can order or view the final report, titled *Universal Compliance: A Strategy for Nuclear Security*, online: www.carnegieendowment.org.

RECEPTION WELCOMES NEW WAND/WILL WOMEN TO CONGRESS

Dozens of WAND and Will members and friends gathered at the lovely home of Jackie Lewis on Capitol Hill to celebrate our new women in Congress on March 2, 2005.

Congresswoman Gwen Moore comes to Capitol Hill with 16 years of state legislative experience and a strong track record on family and children's issues.

Will member Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D) was elected at age 26 to the Florida House (the youngest woman in Florida's history to earn that distinction), and has served her community through her leadership in numerous organizations.



Left: U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, surrounded by STAND women and WAND's new Field Outreach Associate Jennifer Ortiz (right).

Right: WAND Executive Director Susan Shaer with NOW President Kim Gandy.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK

DONATE TO THE WAND EDUCATION FUND AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TOGETHER, WE CAN:

- Bring great new voices to vital national debates — about federal budget priorities, nuclear disarmament, women's political empowerment, more! — through the WAND Women Speakers' Bureau.
- Brief women who might run for Congress on foreign policy issues.
- Brief women in Congress on weapons and budget priorities issues (including the bunker buster).
- Spread the word far and wide about a possible new generation of nuclear weapons.
- Produce and distribute a timely fact sheet on weapons in space.
- Write a collaborative bulletin with the National Women's Health Network on women, health, and nuclear weapons and budget priorities.
- Introduce our new women in Congress to our colleagues in Washington through our Capitol Hill reception (see photos to the left).
- Energize and educate hundreds of prominent women leaders from across the country at our biennial conference in September.
- Organize and inspire partner organizations on nuclear weapons, war and peace, budget priorities.

SPECIAL EDITION ON NUCLEAR BUILDUP

TAKE ACTION ON THE BUNKER BUSTER!

Money for the bunker buster has been requested in the proposed federal budget for FY06. The nuclear weapons budget is considered in committee in April and May.

It's vital to send a message to your Members of Congress today.

It's easier than it looks.

1. Determine who your Members of Congress are.
2. Find their contact information.
3. Compose your message and send it through any means: fax, email, mail, phone call.

IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE WEB:

We've made it simple. We have a lively Take Action! Center on the WAND web site. Please check it out:

<http://capwiz.com/wand/home/>

You just enter your zip code, and it determines who your Members are, and enters their email addresses automatically.

And please sign up for our regular Action Alerts!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE WEB:

If you're unsure of your Members' names or contact information, please call the WAND field office: **404-524-5999**; or contact your local election office; or refer to the phone book.

You can call, fax, or send a letter.

If you send a letter, be sure to mail it to your Members' home offices; mail to Capitol Hill offices is delayed for irradiation.

**SOME WORDS TO GET YOU STARTED.
USE YOUR OWN LANGUAGE!**

Thank you for eliminating funding for the nuclear bunker buster in FY05. Please oppose it this year as well.

The nuclear bunker buster is a wasteful and dangerous attempt to build new nuclear weapons that, if used, would harm our own soldiers on the battlefield through nuclear radiation.

WHAT IS THE BUNKER BUSTER?

- Also known as the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), the bunker buster is portrayed as a weapon that could burrow into the ground before detonating, greatly increasing its ability to destroy hardened underground targets.
- Supporters argue that the bunker buster is needed to attack hard and deeply buried targets (such as leadership bunkers or WMD production facilities) in countries of concern, thereby deterring or defeating such nations.
- Critics reply that:
 - The bunker buster would lower the threshold for use of nuclear weapons and prompt other nations to develop nuclear weapons to deter U.S. attack.
 - Nuclear weapons (including the bunker buster) cannot be engineered to penetrate far enough into the ground to prevent nuclear fallout. To prevent fallout, a nuclear weapon with approximately the same yield as the one dropped on Hiroshima would need to be buried 850 feet in the ground. Currently, the best weapons casing available can barely penetrate 100 feet.
 - The yield of the bunker buster would be much larger than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The bunker buster would have a yield of 100KT; the Hiroshima bomb was 15KT.
 - If a weapon with a yield of one kiloton was detonated some 35 feet underground (close to current capability), it would put one million cubic feet of radioactive debris into the air, and create a crater the size of Ground Zero in New York.



WHY OPPOSE THE BUNKER BUSTER?

- The U.S. should lead by example. It's the right and smart thing to do. Global teamwork to reduce and eliminate nuclear threats works – but only when the biggest player on the team does its part. The U.S. needs to help reduce the allure of nuclear weapons – not increase it by pursuing new nuclear weapons. Developing new nuclear weapons sends the wrong message to other nations, and has the potential to spark a new nuclear arms race. It would almost certainly jeopardize the Non-Proliferation Treaty (in which the U.S. and other nuclear powers pledged to disarm in return for other nations not seeking nuclear weapons).
 - Using a nuclear weapon to try to destroy a buried bunker or other target would produce significant civilian casualties and radioactive fallout. In addition, U.S. military personnel operating in the area would be at enormous risk, not only of death and injury but also of extreme psychological trauma.
 - The bunker buster is regarded as a “tactical” nuclear weapon. Developing such a weapon would make it difficult to encourage Russia to dispose of its arsenal of over 4,000 tactical nuclear weapons.
- New nuclear weapons serve no practical role in countering the threats from extremists who are willing to use terrorist tactics. You can't nuke a network or an extremist ideology. Instead, we should be taking more practical and appropriate steps to safeguard the U.S. and enhance global security.
- Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction; they are not just another weapon in the U.S. arsenal. We never want to use nuclear weapons again or see others do so; it's important to preserve that taboo, which has been in place since 1945.



691 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

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