



WOMEN LEGISLATORS' LOBBY

www.willwand.org

will@wand.org

WILL President

Nan Grogan Orrock
GA State Senator

WILL Washington Director

Christina Cernansky

Honorary Co-Chairs

U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)
U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL)

National Office

322 4th St., NE
Washington, DC 20002
202 544 5055
fax 202 544 7612

President's Office

250 Georgia Ave. SE, Suite 202
Atlanta, GA 30312
404 524 5999
fax 404 524 7593

Endorsing Organizations

American Association of
University Women
American Nurses Association
Center for Policy Alternatives
Legal Momentum
Ms. Foundation for Women, Inc.
National Association of Social
Workers
National Federation of Business
and Professional Women's Clubs
National Women's Political Caucus
Older Women's League
Ploughshares Fund
Unitarian Universalist Association
Women's Campaign Fund
Women's Policy Group
Women USA Fund, Inc.
YWCA of the USA

WILL is a program of WAND
(Women's Action for New Directions)

www.wand.org

Executive Director

Susan Shaer

National WAND Office

691 Massachusetts Ave.
Arlington, MA 02476
781 643 6740
fax 781 643 6744

The Honorable Barack Obama, President
The United States of America
Washington, DC

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of Women Legislators' Lobby (WILL), we congratulate you and warmly welcome your leadership of our nation. As a national women state legislator network focused on promoting sound security policies, we believe that this moment in our history is truly a turning point. We can all work together to make a positive change in the future of our country and indeed, our world.

We hope you will take action in your first 100 days in office on the following issues that are especially important to us:

Budget priorities

The current U.S. federal budget shows dangerous imbalances in our "security" spending. Over 54% of discretionary spending goes to the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons programs.

We hope that your Administration will reorder budget priorities in the FY 2010 budget amendment, to accurately reflect the values you espoused during your campaign.

- Redirect some portion of the excessive funding for the Pentagon to homeland security and non-military international engagement.
 - Refer to *A Unified Security Budget for the United States, FY 2009* for additional information.
- Change the distribution of the budget "pie" so some of the expected funding increase for the Department of Defense and nuclear weapons goes to other unmet needs beyond security (e.g., environment and human needs).

Jobs

We commend your pledge to conduct a line-by-line analysis of the federal budget and eliminate programs that have outlived their usefulness. We are dedicated to making the best use of our federal monies.

Your plan to save or create 2.5 million jobs is most welcome. Our nation needs to make cost-effective investments in vital programs that create jobs. We urge you to consider the attached report, *Alternative Public Spending: Effects on Job Creation*, which shows that investing public dollars in areas other than the military (health care, education, mass transit, or construction for home weatherization and infrastructure) *creates more jobs* than investing in either the military or personal consumption.

Nuclear weapons

You have pledged that "this is the moment to begin the work of seeking the peace of a world without nuclear weapons." We look forward to making great strides in reducing, and one day eliminating, these most dangerous weapons the world has ever known.

As you begin this work, we hope you will pay immediate attention to these issues:

- Publicly affirm your commitment to engage the Senate in efforts to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty at the earliest possible date; and encourage support from the other countries required for the treaty's entry into force.

SAVE THE DATE!

WAND/WILL National Conference 2009

October 4 - October 6, 2009 | Washington, DC

- Engage Russia in talks leading to an agreement to achieve significant, verifiable and irreversible reductions to 1,000 or fewer total U.S. and Russian nuclear warheads and associated delivery systems; and extend or replace key verification and monitoring provisions of START I that are set to expire in 2009.
- Change our dangerous nuclear high-alert status. Increase the warning and decision times for the launch of all U.S. and Russian nuclear-armed ballistic missiles, thereby reducing risks of accidental or unauthorized attacks.
- Eliminate any Bush administration funding requests for the so-called *Reliable Replacement Warhead* program in the FY 2010 budget.
- Congress has repeatedly rejected this proposed multi-decade, multi-billion dollar program to replace many nuclear warheads in the stockpile.
- Instead, the Obama Administration's Nuclear Posture Review should set the framework for diminishing the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile and infrastructure, making clear that the aim of the United States is to achieve global elimination of nuclear weapons.
- In addition, the Nuclear Posture Review must clarify that the only role for U.S. nuclear weapons is to deter the use of nuclear weapons by other countries.

Iraq

As promised, commence a plan to remove combat troops from Iraq in 16 months.

Iran

As the best means of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons, initiate diplomatic engagement between our two countries.

We look forward to working with you in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,



Nan Grogan Orrock
Georgia State Senator
President, Women Legislators' Lobby of WAND



Christina Cernansky
Associate Director
WiLL Washington Office

One Special Idea on Security Priorities

ANNOUNCE THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WILL COORDINATE A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE SECURITY POLICY

A 2007 report by a group of retired generals and admirals stated that "climate change acts as a threat multiplier for instability in the most volatile regions of the world." Floods, rising water levels, food and water shortages, ravages from tornadoes or hurricanes, and massive migration are destabilizing.

Cold War weapons and current Pentagon budget priorities do not address these real-world threats and today's needs.

We devote 50 times as much to arm the rest of the world as to help it prepare for and avoid climate catastrophe. As the Obama Administration addresses climate change, a task force focused on military industrial climate security policy should be developed.