



Caucus of Women Legislators



ROOM 460 STATE HOUSE BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS 02133 617 722 2266

MAY 2011

CAUCUS MARKS EQUAL PAY DAY WITH FORUM

COMPARABLE WORK AND STATE'S JOB CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTED

The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators marked Equal Pay Day 2011 with a pay equity forum at the State House on April 12. April 12 is a significant date because it symbolizes the point into the new year a woman must work in order to earn the wages paid to a man in the previous year.

Caucus co-chairs Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) and Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord) hosted the forum on behalf of the Caucus. Census statistics released September 16, 2010 show that the women still earn 77 percent of what men earn, based on the median earnings of full-time, year-round workers in 2009. Both men's and women's earnings showed slight increases from 2008 to 2009, with men's at \$47,127 and women's at \$36,278, a difference of \$10,849.

Representative Atkins pointed out that median earnings for most women of color are even lower. In 2009, the earnings of African Americans were \$31,824, 67.5 percent of all men's earnings (a slight drop from 67.9 percent in 2008), and Latinas' earnings were \$27,181, 57.7 percent of all men's earnings (a slight drop from 57.9 percent in 2008). Asian American women's earnings in 2009 were \$42,331, 90 percent of all men's earnings, a drop from 91 percent in 2008.



Representative Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge), lead sponsor of comparable work legislation

Attorney Lauren Stiller Rikleen was the keynote speaker. A nationally recognized expert in women's advancement and leadership development and the founder of the Rikleen Institute for Strategic Leadership, she is Executive-in-Residence at Boston College's Center for Work and Family in the Carroll School of Management. Rikleen said the problem isn't only equal pay for equal work. While women make up most of the students in higher education, only 17 percent of undergraduate engineering students and 18 percent of computer and information science students are women. "That 18 percent represents a decrease from a decade ago," she said. "We need to ask why. We need to think about how to reverse that trend."

Rikleen cited attitudes about family roles within the workplace. "There is an assumption that a father will work harder to support his family, and that a woman will want to work less to be with her family," she said. "Data shows mothers face wage penalties with each child. Even when there is no corresponding impact on productivity, women continue to earn less as they have more children."

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(l-r) Caucus Co-chairs Senator Karen Spilka and Representative Cory Atkins with keynote speaker, Attorney Lauren Stiller Rikleen.



Elizabeth Hart, who is the Legislative and Public Policy Chair of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, participated in the Caucus' Equal Pay Day Forum. Pictured (l-r) are Senators Harriette Chandler and Patricia Jehlen, lead sponsors of pay equity legislation; Elizabeth Hart, and Senator Karen Spilka.

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Caucus of Women Legislators

A Message from the Co-Chairs



Senator Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland)



Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord)

Dear Colleagues, Staff and Friends,

We are pleased and honored to be the new chairs of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators. The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators was founded with the mission to enhance the economic status and equality of women and to encourage and support women in all levels of government. In our thirty-sixth year, the Caucus comprises 23.5 percent of the Legislature. Senate President Therese Murray of Plymouth presides over the Senate, the first woman in Massachusetts to do so. In the House, Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia A. Haddad of Somerset is the highest ranking woman member. Minority party leadership is provided by Assistant Minority Whip Elizabeth Poirier of North Attleborough.

The 2011 bi-cameral and bi-partisan Caucus of Women Legislators is comprised of 36 members of the House and 11 members of the Senate. While our total numbers in the Legislature decreased this session, we are pleased to welcome seven new members. Representing districts from across the state, the women of the Legislature are as diverse in demographics as in their politics. Recognizing this, our goal is to enable each Republican and Democratic member to reach her leadership potential. Raising each member's profile and highlighting her expertise will benefit each member and the entire caucus. Providing more visibility of the work being accomplished by women legislators and women in every level of government will provide an example for more women to take leadership roles. We look forward to working with all of you to this end.

Sincerely,

Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators

2011 Co-Chairs

Senator Karen E. Spilka
Representative Cory Atkins

Treasurer

Senator Katherine M. Clark

Executive Director

Susan A. Wojtas

Members of the Senate

Gale D. Candaras
Harriette L. Chandler
Sonia Chang-Diaz
Katherine M. Clark
Cynthia Stone Creem
Eileen M. Donoghue
Susan C. Fargo

Jennifer L. Flanagan
Patricia D. Jehlen
Therese Murray
Karen E. Spilka

Members of the House

Denise Andrews
Cory Atkins
Ruth B. Balsler
Jennifer E. Benson
Christine E. Canavan
Gailanne M. Cariddi
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera
Geraldine M. Creedon
Linda Dean Campbell
Carolyn C. Dykema
Lori A. Ehrlich
Kimberly N. Ferguson
Ann-Margaret Ferrante
Linda Dorcena Forry
Gloria Fox

Denise C. Garlick
Colleen M. Garry
Susan Williams Gifford
Anne M. Gobi
Patricia A. Haddad
Kate Hogan
Sheila Harrington
Kay Khan
Elizabeth A. Malia
Rhonda L. Nyman
Shaunna L. O'Connell
Sarah K. Peake
Alice Hanlon Peisch,
Elizabeth A. Poirier
Denise Provost
Kathi-Anne Reinstein
Joyce A. Spiliotis
Harriett L. Stanley
Ellen Story
Martha M. Walz
Alice K. Wolf

CAUCUS WELCOMES EIGHT NEW MEMBERS

The Caucus of Women Legislators welcomed eight new members in January. The new co-chairs of the Caucus Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) and Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord) are looking forward to working with them and all the members this session.

Senator Eileen Donoghue (D-Lowell) is the former mayor of Lowell, having served 12 years on the Lowell City Council before leaving to run for Congress in 2007. An attorney with the firm Gallagher and Cavanaugh in Lowell, she is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts and Suffolk University Law School.



Representative Denise Andrews (D-Orange) is a managing partner and chief operating officer of Legacy Unlimited, an entrepreneurial consulting company. She had worked for twenty-five years at Proctor & Gamble, most recently serving as global diversity manager. She has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Massachusetts and an M.B.A. from Xavier University. She served as chairwoman of Governor Patrick's advisory council for non-discrimination, equal opportunity and diversity.

Representative Gailanne Cariddi (D-North Adams) is the manager of her family-owned business, Cariddi Sales Company and Real Estate. She has served on the North Adams City Council for the past twenty years. She has a bachelor's degree in management from Bentley College.



Representative Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden) served three terms on the Holden Board of Selectmen, and twice was elected chairwoman. She also is a former member of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee. She has a master's of science degree in speech/language pathology and a certificate of advanced graduate study in education leadership and management. She is a private practice speech/language pathology consultant, and has been an adjunct faculty member of the graduate department at Framingham State College.

Representative Denise Garlick (D-Needham) is a registered nurse and past president of the Massachusetts Nurses Association. She has served as vice-chairman of the Needham Board of Selectmen, served on the Needham Board of Health, and is a veteran Town Meeting member. She also is co-founder and co-chair of the Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention.



Representative Sheila Harrington (R-Groton) spent 24 years as a general practice attorney, practicing in the areas of real estate, family law, personal injury and workers' compensation. She has served on many boards and committees in Groton, including the Lowell Wish Project, the Groton Center for the Arts, the Deaconess Nashoba Board of Trustees, and the Village Theatre Project. A graduate of Providence College with a bachelor of arts in social work, she received her law degree from New England School of Law.



Representative Rhonda Nyman (D-Hanover) is the chief financial officer for her family owned business, Triangle Engineering, a firm in Hanover. She is the past coordinator of the Hanover Relay for Life; a member of the Hanover Democratic Town Committee and the Plymouth County Democratic League. She is also the co-founder of the Howie Nyman Memorial Scholarship Fund.



Representative Shaunna O'Connell (R-Taunton) is a self-employed court reporter, and a lifelong resident of Taunton. A member of many local civic and church committees. She has been a member of the Community Voices Committee for Jessica's Law, and has served on the GOP Woman's Advisory Board.



Check for updates about the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators on Facebook.

Caucus of Women Legislators

CAUCUS CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE



Rep. Denise Andrews (D-Orange), Rep. Ruth Balsler (D-Newton), Rep. Cory Atkins (D-Concord), Libby Franck, Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland)

Living History Storyteller Libby Franck mesmerized a State House audience with her performance portraying the fight for women's right to vote. This battle raged for 72 years culminating in organized marches and pickets in the first decades of the Twentieth Century. Franck portrayed Josephine Collins, local businesswoman and suffragist, and her journey from Framingham to Boston to help win the vote. "March to the Vote" was created to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Women's Suffrage with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

"Collins" told of bringing her young niece with her when she was able to cast her first vote. Representative Cory Atkins was moved to share how

she had brought her young daughter to the floor of the Democratic National Convention to be part of history when Geraldine Ferrera was the first women nominated to be vice-president of the United States.



Libby Franck as suffragette, Josephine Collins

Equal Pay Day Forum (continued from page 1)



Atty. Lauren Stiller Rikleen

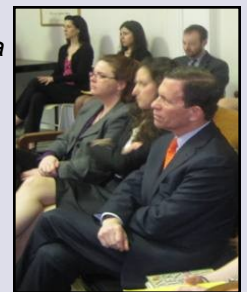
Rikleen said the widening gap could also be due to the fact that women do not negotiate higher salaries for their first job. "Data shows that 57 percent of men negotiate their first salary, but only 7 percent of women do," she said. "We have to be training women to understand how important it is to have that negotiation at the very first job offer."

Members of the Caucus have filed legislation to address the issues of comparable work and pay parity. Representative Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge) and Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville) the lead sponsors of House Bill 1415 /Senate Bill 931- *An Act Further Defining Comparable Work*. Currently, Massachusetts

General Law prohibits employers from paying male and female employees different wages "for work of like or comparable character or work on like or comparable operations." However, the law does not define "comparable work." The legislation would define the skills, effort and responsibility of a job to ensure pay parity.

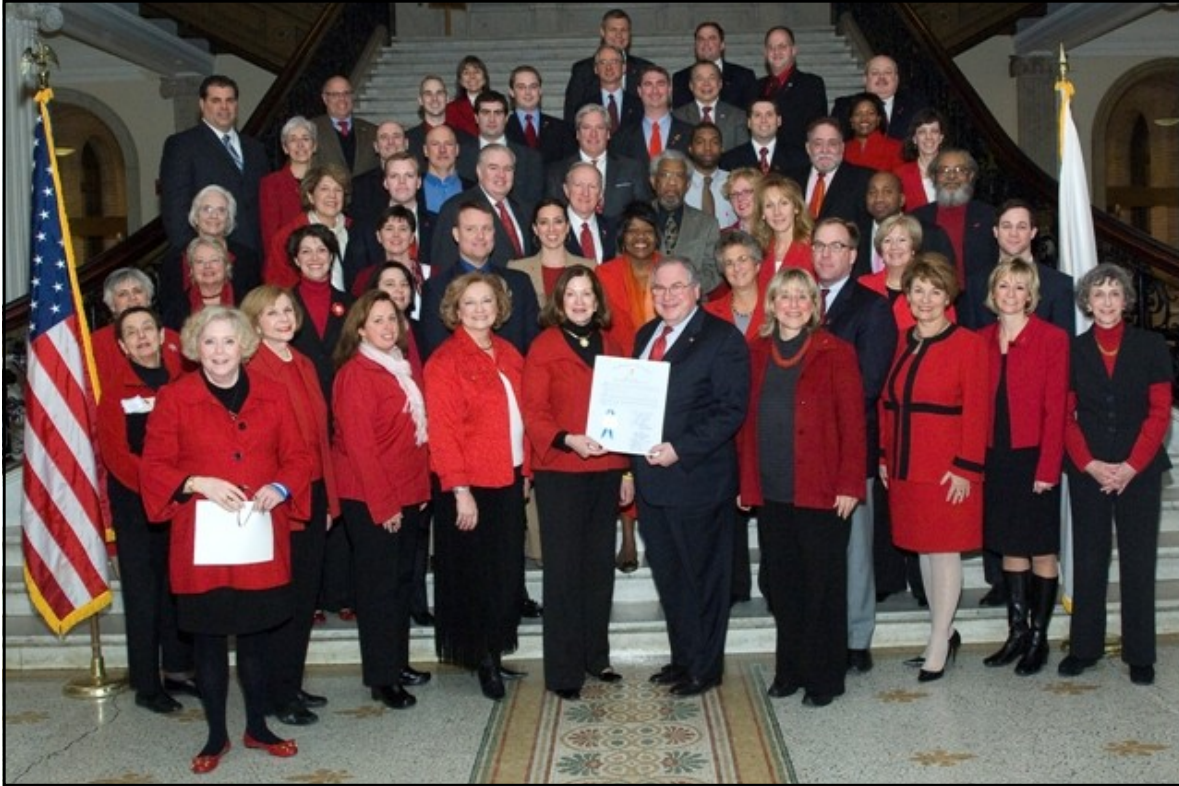
Senate Bill 1567/House Bill 1855, *An Act to Authorize the Human Resources Division to Undertake a Study of the State's Job Classification System* were filed by lead sponsors Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Alice Wolf. The bill requires a job classification study by the Massachusetts Human Resources Division, which would look at the qualifications and tasks of employees in the state's executive branch. Senator Chandler noted it has been 20 years since the state last did this.

State Treasurer Steven Grossman also addressed the standing room only crowd in support of equal pay for women. He spoke of initiatives his office is taking to ensure the Commonwealth does business with women owned enterprises and to encourage businesses to have women on their boards and in their executive suites.



State Treasurer Steven Grossman

Senator Spilka noted that eliminating the wage gap would benefit families by increasing household income, decrease poverty rates, boost savings and pensions, and increase consumer spending - all of which benefits the economy... "only when Equal Pay Day is December 31 will we have been successful," she stated.



THE CAUCUS OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS JOINED BY SENATE PRESIDENT THERESE MURRAY AND HOUSE SPEAKER ROBERT DELEO IN COMMEMORATING GO RED FOR WOMEN DAY

Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association's campaign to raise awareness among women about heart disease. Heart disease and stroke are the Number One and Number Three killers of women over the age of 20, claiming the lives of more than 460,000 women each year – about one per minute. That's more lives than the next four causes of death combined, and nearly twice as many as all forms of cancer, including breast cancer. Ninety percent of women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease, and most are unaware. In addition, the direct and indirect cost of cardiovascular diseases in the U.S., including stroke, averages \$475.3 billion annually.

At a February State House event, Caucus Co-Chairs Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) and Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord), along with Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) and Speaker Robert DeLeo (D-Winthrop) addressed the need to raise awareness about heart disease and women. The event also featured American Heart Association volunteer Dr. Maya Yiodum, and heart disease survivor Gail Canty Ioven.

Pictured (l-r) 1st Row: Rep. Alice Wolf (D-Cambridge); Rep. Cory Atkins (D-Concord); Senator Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester); Rep. Kathi-Anne Reinstein (D-Revere); Rep. Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset); Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth); Speaker Robert DeLeo (D-Winthrop); Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland); Rep. Charles Murphy (D-Burlington); Rep. Elizabeth Poirier (R-North Attleboro); Rep. Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden); Rep. Ruth Balsler (D-Newton)
2nd Row: Rep. Denise Garlick (D-Needham); Rep. Kay Khan (D-Newton); Rep. Jennifer Benson (D-Lunenburg); Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester); Rep. Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston); Senator Michael Moore (D-Millbury); Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz (D-Boston); Rep. Gloria Fox (D-Roxbury); Rep. Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown); Rep. Shaunna O'Connell (R-Taunton); Senator Eileen Donoghue (D-Lowell); Rep. Paul Adams (R-Andover)
3rd Row: Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville); Rep. Kate Hogan (D-Stow); Rep. Sean Garballey (D-Arlington); Rep. Kevin Honan (D-Brighton); Senator Stephen Brewer (D-Barre); Rep. Benjamin Swan (D-Springfield); Rep. Denise Andrews (D-Orange); Rep. Louis Kafka (D-Stoughton); Rep. Russell Holmes (D-Boston); Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston)
4th Row: Rep. Angelo D'Emilla (R-Bridgewater); Rep. Gailanne Cariddi (D-North Adams); Rep. Paul Brodeur (D-Melrose); Rep. Tom Sannicandro (D-Ashland); Rep. Paul Mark (D-Hancock); Rep. Tim Madden (D-Nantucket); Rep. Carlos Henriquez (D-Dorchester); Senator Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett); Rep. Linda Dorcena Forry (D-Dorchester); Rep. Marty Walz (D-Cambridge)
5th Row: Rep. Steven Howitt (R-Seekonk); Rep. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica); Rep. Denise Provost (D-Somerville); Rep. Mark Cusack (D-Braintree); Rep. Jonathan Hecht (D-Watertown); Rep. Brad Hill (R-Ipswich); Rep. Donald Wong (R-Saugus); Rep. George Ross (R-Attleboro)
6th Row: Rep. John Mahoney (D-Worcester); Rep. Christopher Markey (D-Dartmouth); Rep. Steven Levy (R-Marlborough).

Caucus of Women Legislators

WOMEN IN POLITICS: CHALLENGES AND TRENDS

Representative Marty Walz (D–Boston) and **Representative Shaunna O’Connell** (R–Taunton) were panelists at Suffolk University’s Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service “Women in Politics: Challenges and Trends.” The April panel was co-sponsored by the Boston Club, the Massachusetts Women’s Political Caucus, and the Women’s Bar Association. The discussion centered on the trends in participation of women in, as well as challenges pertaining to women running for and holding public office. Panelists included (l-r) Representative Marty Walz (D–Boston); Professor Leanne Doherty, Simmons College; moderator Janet Wu, Reporter WCVB-TV; former Lt. Governor Kerry Healey, co-chair, The Parity Project; Representative Shaunna O’Connell (R–Taunton) - shown with **Susan Prosnitz**, Executive Director of the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service.



photo courtesy of The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service

DONATE LIFE DAY

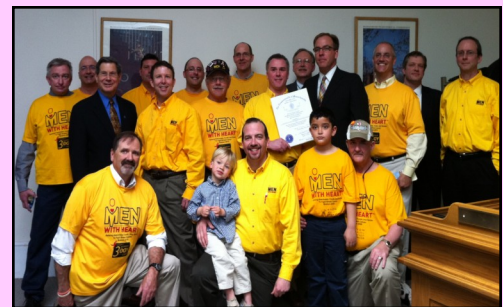
Senators Katherine Clark (D-Melrose), Susan Fargo (D-Lincoln), Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), and Registry of Motor Vehicles Registrar Rachel Kaprielian with the New England Organ Bank and Donate Life Massachusetts hosted Donate Life Day at the State House.



Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord); Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose); Matthew Boger, New England Organ Bank; Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

The event encouraged organ and tissue donation in the Commonwealth, highlighting the organ donation effort in Massachusetts including implementation of the online registry at the Registry of Motor Vehicles website where drivers can easily

elect to register as organ donors. There are more than 2,900 Massachusetts residents waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Last year, 218 Massachusetts patients died waiting for one of these transplants. Over the past year, the lives of more than 240 New Englanders were saved because individuals registered as organ donors on their state driver’s license or online through the Donate Life New England registry. In addition, the lives of 25,000 in this region were enhanced by tissue donations from registered tissue donors.



MEN WITH HEART

Several male legislators and State House staffers joined House Majority Whip Charles Murphy (D-Burlington) in supporting Men With Heart, “a group of men raising awareness, funds, and spirits in the fight against breast cancer.” Many in the group have had loved ones affected by breast cancer and are working to make a difference. Since its inception in 2001, Men With Heart has raised one million dollars. They participate in a variety of breast cancer events, raising money and providing support.



SENATOR CHANDLER, REPRESENTATIVE FOX AND CAUCUS HOST GIRLS’ ADVOCACY DAY

The Girls’ Initiative and Investing in Girls Alliance were hosted by **Senator Harriette Chandler** (D-Worcester), **Representative Gloria Fox** (D-Roxbury), and the Women’s Caucus for a Girls’ Advocacy Day at the State House in April. The girls met with members of the Caucus of Women Legislators and other legislators. Lt. Governor Tim Murray also came by to greet them. Girls from Boston, Quincy, Worcester, Lunenburg, Grafton, Shrewsbury, Springfield and East Longmeadow attended.

Caucus of Women Legislators

SENATOR SPILKA JOINS SENATE PRESIDENT MURRAY ON TRADE MISSION TO FINLAND

Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth) led a bipartisan trade mission to Finland this spring. She was joined by **Senator Karen Spilka** (D-Ashland), the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. The mission was designed to open European business markets, expand opportunities for Massachusetts companies, and promote the Commonwealth as the portal for health care technology and life sciences in the United States. The mission was also designed to improve avenues for Massachusetts companies to tap into European Union research and development funding.



(l-r) Senator Robert Hedlund (R-Weymouth), Senator Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), Senate President Therese Murray (D-Plymouth), Jouko Suokas, Executive Vice President, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, and Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister, the MA Life Sciences Center President & CEO.

The Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council announced during the trip that it was preparing to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Finnish Medical Device Association that would foster collaboration between Bay State and Finnish firms.

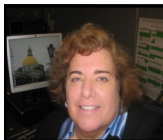
Over a three-day period, the delegation participated in all-day meetings on topics ranging from technical research and economic development opportunities to electronic health care systems and molecular medicine. Sessions and meetings included Finnish government officials, university representatives, scientists and companies such as Nokia.

The efforts compliment Senate-led initiatives last year that resulted in passage of two important pieces of legislation – the economic development bill, authored by the Senate President and Senator Spilka, and the small business health insurance relief bill – which will reduce health costs for Massachusetts small businesses, and consolidate and re-focus state agencies dedicated to helping local companies grow in the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts delegation also included Senator Robert Hedlund (R-Weymouth), the assistant minority leader, and representatives from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the University of Massachusetts, and various doctors, researchers, industry leaders and locally established companies, such as Boston Scientific and Amgen. No state funds were used for the trip.

CAUCUS NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Susan Wojtas has been named Executive Director of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators. She began her public service as a legislative aide for Representative Nicholas Buglione, then served in the State and Federal Relations office of Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn.



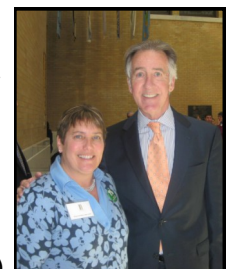
After working as a legislative agent with McDermott/O'Neill, she worked at Merrimack College for more than a decade as director of alumni relations and later as director of major gifts. Most recently, she was deputy director of the Massachusetts Legislative Education Office. She is a graduate of Merrimack College and earned her MBA from Bentley College.

The Caucus' former executive director, Jessica Leitz, is now chief of staff for Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose).

Currently, 173 women have served in the Massachusetts Legislature compared to more than 20,000 men.

EARTH DAY 2011

Representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) and the environmental community celebrated Earth Day at the State House. She is shown with Congressman Richard Neal. Representative Gobi joined Senator Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton) and Representative Frank I. Smizik (D-Brookline)



in hosting the Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, Environment Mass, Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow and Mass Audubon. Former Governor Michael Dukakis was a guest speaker.

Awards and Recognitions

House Assistant Minority Whip Elizabeth Poirier has been appointed to serve on a special committee assigned the task of redrawing the state's legislative districts in time for the 2012 elections. Representative Elizabeth Poirier, (R-North Attleboro), is one of four House Republicans appointed to the committee by Minority Leader Brad Jones. "Representative Poirier is a veteran legislator that will be an impartial voice on the committee," Jones



said. "I am very confident that she will be relentless in her advocacy for a fair and bi-partisan process in the redistricting effort."

The Legislature recently voted to create a joint committee of senators and representatives to design the new districts, which need to balance the voter population throughout the state. Rep. Poirier said she was pleased to serve on the panel even though she voted against its creation. She had favored an independent commission. The committee is assigned to redraw the districts for state Senate, the House and governor's council. It must also eliminate one of the ten congressional districts in Massachusetts because the state's population did not grow as fast as those in Southern and Western states.

Caucus of Women Legislators members **Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera** (D-Springfield) and **Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz** (D-Boston) are the House and Senate vice-chairs. Also serving on the Redistricting Committee are: **Senator Karen E. Spilka** (D-Ashland), **Speaker Pro Tempore Haddad** (D-Somerset), **Representative Anne M. Gobi** (D-Spencer), **Representative Linda Dorcena Forry** (D-Dorchester), and **Representative Alice Peisch** (D-Wellesley).

Senator Katherine Clark (D-Melrose) received the award for Democrat of the Year at Malden's annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast at the Irish American Club. Last year's recipient, Attorney General Martha Coakley presented the award to Senator Clark for her outstanding work in the community. More than 400 attendees from Malden and surrounding communities filled the Irish American Club for the event. "This was a unanimous vote by the committee," said City Committee Chair Joe Lawless. "We were very pleased to present this award to Senator Clark not only for her previous efforts in the public sector, but also the tremendous promise she brings to the State Senate." Past recipients of this award also include Senator John Kerry and the late Senator Edward Kennedy for their contributions as public servants. In photo to left, she is with Attorney General Coakley.

Senator Clark has joined the Advisory Board for the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston.



Representative Ellen Story (D-Amherst) received recognition by the Mass Mentoring Partnership at their January annual Youth Mentoring Day "for her passionate support of mentoring in Massachusetts and encouraging continued public support for mentoring programs". Also honored at the event for their strong support of mentoring were Sen. Michael Rodrigues (D-Westport) and Rep. Thomas Conroy (D-Wayland). *Pictured above (l-r) are last year's honoree Senate President Pro Tempore Stanley Rosenberg (D-Amherst), this year's honorees Senator Rodrigues and Representative Story, last year's honoree House Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset), Mass Mentoring President and CEO David Shapiro, and Mass Mentoring board member John Mahoney.*

Representative Story also received honors from The Cape & Islands Maternal Depression Task Force "for having made a difference in the life of families" through passage of Chapter 313 of the Acts of 2010, the Postpartum Depression Law. Rep. Story then co-hosted a luncheon event to introduce members of the Task Force and their work to the Cape and Islands delegation. The Speaker has recently named her chairwoman of the special commission on postpartum depression created by Chapter 313.



Caucus of Women Legislators

Representative Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown) was recognized by the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition/Silent Spring, with a January award “for her commitment to working towards breast cancer prevention.” Rep. Peake was also honored at the Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association January dinner with their Appreciation Award “for her continued efforts and support of the Massachusetts Lobster Industry.”



In February, Rep. Peake received a commendation letter from the Provincetown Public Library thanking her for her assistance in extinguishing a fire that started outside the library building. Spotting the fire outside of the 150 year old Library building next to her home, Rep. Peake quickly provided extra fire extinguishers to supplement the library’s supply, enabling the staff to contain the fire, which had become a wall of flames more than 20 feet high and 12 feet wide. The chair and co-chair of the Library Board stated: “We are so grateful that you were at your home, that you saw the fire, and that your reactions were so quick. You helped to save our beautiful building from severe damage, and literally saved the day”.

“You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”
– Eleanor Roosevelt

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston) was named as one of *Boston* magazine’s 50 Most Powerful Women in Boston. She and **Senate President Therese Murray** (D-Plymouth) were among those featured in the periodical’s February cover story, “Women in Power: From Politics to Academia, Finance to Food, Business to Philanthropy; The 50 Players Who Run Boston.”



Senator Chang-Diaz was also named as one of *El Planeta*’s “Powermeter 100” (100 Leaders who Impact the Latino Community in Massachusetts). The senator is the first Latina woman to have been elected to the Massachusetts State Senate. This is her fourth time on the Powermeter.

Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan (D-Leominster) has recently been appointed to the Department of Mental Health Task Force on Staff and Client Safety, which will assess current policies and practices around safety and training for those who provide and receive Department of Mental Health services in the community. The DMH Task Force on Staff and Client Safety will complete its review within three months and make recommendations for consideration.



Senator Cynthia Creem (D-Newton) participated in a February panel discussion entitled “A New Path for Probation” hosted by MassINC and the Rappaport Center at Suffolk University. With Senator Creem were Chief Justice Mulligan and Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety Marybeth Heffernan. The policy discussion focused on the future of Massachusetts’ probation agency, which is the first and oldest in the nation.



Representative Denise Provost (D-Somerville) was awarded the “Golden Shoe Award” by Walk Boston at a March ceremony. She was honored for her work on pedestrian and bicycle safety initiatives. Rep. Provost has been an active advocate for walking, sponsoring bills to reduce the prevailing speed limit in urbanized areas, to allow senior safety zones, and to strengthen snow shoveling regulations. She has participated in WalkBoston’s legislative committee, working with them in addressing issues with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and has led wonderful walks in Somerville where she has delighted walkers with her encyclopedic knowledge of Somerville history.



In February, **Representative Kay Khan** (D-Newton) was honored by the Children’s League of Massachusetts and received the Children’s Choice Award. Chairwoman Khan was recognized for her strong advocacy and work on behalf of the children, youth, and families of the Commonwealth.



Representative Shaunna O’Connell (R-Taunton) was the keynote speaker at the Annual meeting of the Massachusetts Woman’s Political Caucus.

Caucus of Women Legislators



The Massachusetts Federation of Republican Women honored (l-r) **Representatives Elizabeth Poirier** (R-North Attleborough), **Susan Gifford** (R-Wareham), **Kimberly Ferguson** (R-Holden) **Sheila Harrington** (R-Groton), and **Shaunna O'Connell**, (R-Taunton) at a spring luncheon.



Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville) was honored as the Massachusetts Women's Bar Association's Legislator of the Year at their March annual meeting. Incoming WBA President Nancy Cremins stated, "The Women's Bar Association is proud to end this productive and successful year... (by) honor(ing) Senator Patricia Jehlen for her tireless dedication to the most vulnerable of us - including the elderly, children, and working families. "

Representative Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen) was spotlighted in the spring UMass Amherst magazine in a feature titled "Movers, Shakers, and Lawmakers." While at UMass Amherst, she was the first woman commander of a ROTC unit there. She served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper and an intelligence officer. She now is vice-chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.



Representative Gloria Fox (D-Roxbury) has been elected to the At-Large Leadership for the Executive Committee of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. She was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service and Dedication from the Benjamin Healthcare Center; and received the Latina in Solidarity Award for her unwavering commitment to fighting for the rights of women of color and her relentless efforts that have made the Commonwealth more just for all minority women.

Representative Fox is the Legislative member of the Women of Color Roundtable and hosted the 6th Annual HIV/AIDS in Women and Girls Awareness and Prevention Day at the State House. She also hosted the Annual Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange Adoption Party at the Boys and Girls Club on Talbot Avenue, as their Legislative spokeswoman; hosted the Homelessness Prevention Lobby day as a leader in the fight to protect homelessness safety net programs in the FY12 Budget; and hosted the Community Health Workers Legislative Rally, which called on the Governor to restore funding to community based prevention programs. Representative Fox is the legislative champion of "An Act to Establish a Board of Certification for Community Health Workers," which passed last legislative session. She has led on the letters to Congress requesting full funding of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) line items.



(l-r) Members of the Women of Color Roundtable and guest speaker on National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness day Forum; Jennease Hyatt, U.S DHHS/OASH/Region-NE, Irvienne Goldson, ABCD Health Services, Dawn Fukuda, MA DPH, Rep. Gloria L. Fox, Rhoda Johnson-Tuckett, M. ED BPHC, Wanda Allen, Harvard University CFAR, Tiella Grimes



Katie Ziegler katie.ziegler@ncsl.org and Dick Cauchi dick.cauchi@ncsl.org from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) visited the State House on March 8 and 9. They hosted a briefing about NCSL services along with Senator Richard Moore, the current NCSL President. They had individual meetings with many legislators and staff. Unfortunately there wasn't time to see everyone, but Katie and Dick hope you will take advantage of NCSL's information and services. Every legislator and legislative staffer is a member of NCSL. Explore the latest policy news on the website, www.ncsl.org, or contact Dick or Katie with any questions and they will connect you to the proper NCSL staff expert. Katie Ziegler is the coordinator of the Women's Legislative Network of NCSL. Every female legislator in the country is a member of the Network, which has the mission of promoting the participation, empowerment and leadership of women legislators. **Representative Gloria Fox** (D-Roxbury) is currently an Eastern Regional Representative on the Network Executive Board.