



*Bringing women policymakers together across party lines to advance issues of importance to women and their families.*

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Dear Friends of WCPI,

As we look back over 2018, we wanted to take a moment to thank you, our many supporters and friends, for supporting our mission to bring women policymakers together to bridge the partisan divide.

As we look forward to 2019, we hope you will join us at our [congressional gala](#) on Wednesday, February 27, 2019. We invite you to attend our congressional briefings, and access the resources available on our new and improved [website](#), to be launched in several weeks. Please stay in touch with us @WCPIInst on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Cindy Hall  
President

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## **Spotlight on Women in Public Policy**

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In 2018, WCPI continued its efforts to expand women's leadership in public policy through its women Members of Congress, chiefs of staff, and congressional fellows programs.



### **Women Members of Congress**

We have been a resource for the women Members of Congress and their staffs since our inception 24 years ago. At a time when partisan rancor is high, WCPI worked to bring women policymakers together across party lines.

Among our 2018 events, we sponsored our annual Take Our Daughters to Congress Day with Girls Inc. in April, a policy briefing on sexual harassment in June, and a September reception to honor the women Members of Congress leaving Congress at the end of the session and thank them for their many years of service.

We also paused to remember the late Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY), who passed away in March, and former Ambassador and Rep. Margaret Heckler (R-MA), who passed away in August.



The first woman to chair the House Rules Committee, Rep. Slaughter co-chaired the Women's Caucus during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. The only microbiologist serving in Congress and a longtime champion for women's health, she was a leader in the establishment of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical trials, and breast cancer research.

Amb. Heckler was a co-founder and co-chair of the Women's Caucus. During her tenure, she sponsored the 1974 Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and championed the Equal Rights Amendment and Title IX. After leaving Congress, she served as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and later as Ambassador to Ireland.



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## Women Chiefs of Staff Program

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Funded by a grant from [Democracy Fund](#), WCPI has been administering the [Women Chiefs of Staff program](#) for three years. We are proud to have fostered bipartisan and bicameral relationships among women chiefs of staff, committee staff directors, and senior leadership staff. We held a number of events in 2018, and are excited to continue this partnership into the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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## Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy

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We hosted our fifth class of fellows this year! The Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy program provides a unique fellowship – the only graduate-level fellowship on Capitol Hill focused on women – with policymaking and legislative experience.

The Class of 2018 included five fellows who worked in House offices from January through July on a wide range of policy issues. We celebrated the class at our annual reception in June and are grateful for the support of foundation, corporate, academic, and individual [sponsors](#) who make the program possible.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the fellowship program.



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## WCPI Internship Program

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We were pleased to host interns from Washington and Lee University and Gustavus Adolphus College this year. In return for their invaluable contribution to our mission, these young women learned about the legislative process and women's issues while on Capitol Hill. Click [here](#) to learn more about the internship program.

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## Take Our Daughters to Congress Day

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Once again, WCPI partnered with Girls Inc. to bring girls to Capitol Hill for our annual Take Our Daughters to Congress Day. This year, 13 women Members of Congress hosted 15 girls from across the country, aged 9-18, as they learned about the legislative branch of government. This longstanding partnership with Girls Inc. allows girls to see women's leadership up close and envision themselves as future Members of Congress and leaders in their communities.

Click here for more [photos](#) of the event.



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## Spotlight on Events

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### Annual Congressional Gala



At our first event of 2018, we were honored to hear from Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and Reps. Susan Brooks and Lois Frankel, the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, as they highlighted the bipartisan work of the Women's Caucus on behalf of women and girls.

We were pleased to host 400 guests, including current and former Members of

Congress, federal agency officials, corporate and labor supporters, senior congressional staff, and women's groups. Click [here](#) to see our gallery of photos from this year's gala and past galas.

Please save the date, February 27, for our [2019 Congressional Gala](#). More details to come in January!

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## Congressional Staff Briefings



In 2018, WCPI continued its tradition of hosting congressional briefings on important issues facing women. We were proud to host briefings on [mid-life and older women's health](#) and [employment issues facing women veterans](#). We are grateful to Amgen and TherapeuticsMD for their support of the mid-life and older women's health briefing, and to DAV and IAVA for their longtime support of, and partnership on, our annual women veterans briefing.

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## Sixth Annual Capitol Hill STEAM Fair

In July, we were pleased to host the Sixth Annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) Fair, which featured fourteen exhibits showcasing a diverse group of public and private sector programs to encourage girls and women to pursue STEAM education and careers.

Approximately 200 attended the event, including five Members of Congress, federal agency representatives, corporate and labor supporters, congressional staff, and women's and STEAM advocacy organization leaders. WCPI was proud to host an event that highlighted one of the Women's Caucus priority issues; it was truly inspirational!



We are appreciative of the continued support from the corporate, labor, and nonprofit communities. Please click [here](#) to see photos from this year's event.

Additional photos of the STEAM Fair are available [here](#).

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## The Source for Women's Issues in Congress

Published every week Congress is in session, [The Source](#) provides nonpartisan coverage of federal legislation affecting women and their families. This resource is free to the public and provides readers with the most up-to-date information on congressional hearings, mark-ups, and House and Senate floor action.

This year, we published our [Election Wrap-Up](#), which detailed results from the 2018 mid-term congressional elections. We provided analysis of the election returns and biographies of the women newly elected to Congress.

Stay tuned for our annual At-A-Glance publication, which will be available at the end of the year. In the meantime, be sure to visit our [Other Publications page](#) for these and previous reports. You can read previous editions of [The Source](#) by clicking here.

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## Spotlight on Our Leadership

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We owe a large debt of gratitude to the continued support and guidance of our Board of Directors and Corporate-Labor Advisory Committee.

This year, we mourned the passing of former board chair and longtime board member, Alice Borrelli. Her contributions to WCPI and women's health will not be forgotten.

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## **WCPI Staff**

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President

**Cheryl Williams**  
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**Shannon Wilson**  
Executive Assistant to the  
President/Development  
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**Julia O'Connor**  
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