



WOMEN'S
CONGRESSIONAL
POLICY
INSTITUTE

WCPI 2025

Annual Report



WCPI 2025 Annual Report

Dear Friends of WCPI:

As we close out 2025, I'm reflecting on my first year leading WCPI and the transitions we've weathered, both as an organization and as a country. In January, we said goodbye to our longtime leader, Cindy Hall, who retired after leading WCPI for 26 years. I'm so grateful to Cindy for her leadership and trusting me to lead WCPI through its next phase.

Returning to the organization that started my career has been a full circle moment for me. The leadership of bipartisan women policymakers has never been more important than it is now. While this year has proved challenging for many in the policy space, we took the time to better understand how WCPI can best support women policymakers and their trusted partners.

We are redoubling our efforts to cultivate bipartisan relationships between women Members of Congress, congressional staff and other partners in the coming year and beyond—from hosting dinners and forums for women Members to expanding our work with bipartisan women chiefs of staff and legislative directors.

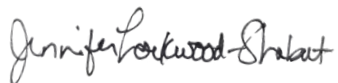
This year, we hosted our twelfth class of Congressional Fellows, continuing a 45-year tradition of training potential leaders in public policy to examine issues from the perspective, experiences, and needs of women.

In April, we celebrated our 30th Anniversary at our Congressional Gala Reception, and over the course of the year, we continued to connect our supporters with senior congressional staff for important discussions on women's leadership.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain as dedicated as ever to building a community of bipartisan policymakers and trusted partners to advance issues important to women, and we hope that you will join us in continuing to cultivate opportunities for bipartisan collaboration and partnership.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,



President



Fostering Bipartisanship, Advancing Policy on Capitol Hill

WCPI Recognizes the New Leadership of the Women's Caucus

This year, we welcomed the new leadership of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus (BWC) during an in-person event at the Capitol.



On February 11, outgoing Co-Chairs, Congresswomen Kat Cammack (R-FL) and Susie Lee (D-NV), passed the gavel to Congresswomen Monica De La Cruz (R-TX) and Emilia Strong Sykes (D-OH), Co-Chairs for the 119th Congress. Incoming Vice-Chairs, Congresswomen Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY) and Janelle Bynum (D-OR), participated in the event, and we were also joined by a bipartisan group of congresswomen to celebrate this occasion.



The Bipartisan Women's Caucus Outlines Shared Agenda for Women and Families

Republicans and Democrats Unite to Set Agenda for the 119th Congress

On May 27, the Bipartisan Women's Caucus (BWC) announced their shared policy goals, which reaffirm the Caucus' commitment to championing policies that support the health, economic stability, safety, and leadership of women and girls across the country.

Co-Chairs, Congresswoman Monica De La Cruz (R-TX) and Congresswoman Emilia Strong Sykes (D-OH), along with Vice-Chairs, Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY) and Congresswoman Janelle Bynum (D-OR), presented a collective vision to strengthen and support women and their families through common sense and bipartisan solutions.

The Caucus outlined the following legislation priorities for this Congress:

- Caregiving: Exploring ways to better support caregivers
- Food and Nutrition: Expanding access to healthy and nutritious food
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Promoting programs for women-owned businesses
- STEM/STEAM: Creating greater opportunities and a pipeline for women and girls
- Women Veterans: Addressing military sexual trauma and enhancing research on women veterans' health
- Violence Against Women: Supporting efforts to promote the economic security of survivors
- Women's Health: Strengthening and funding maternal health, mid-life health and expanding IVF insurance coverage
- Women's History Museum: Ensuring women's contributions throughout our country's history is recognized and honored



To learn more about the Bipartisan Women's Caucus' priorities for the 119th Congress, [click here](#).

We closed out the year by partnering with the Bipartisan Women's Caucus to hold a Member-only dinner designed to build relationships and explore ways in which women Members can further their collaboration.



Congressional Briefings Highlight Issues Impacting Women and Girls

Women in Cybersecurity: Breaking the Barriers

**TUESDAY
APRIL 29, 2025**

CAPITOL HILL LUNCH BRIEFING:

**WOMEN IN
CYBERSECURITY:
BREAKING THE
BARRIERS**


Yuanxia Ding
Senior Manager, Career Choice –
Americas, Amazon


Jackie Flores
Director, Security Risk &
Compliance at Microsoft


Jennifer Franks, Director
Center for Enhanced Cybersecurity
& Analytics Foundry at GAO

In April, WCPI continued its focus on women in the STEM field by hosting a congressional briefing, “Women in Cybersecurity: Breaking the Barriers.” The briefing was held in conjunction with the leadership of the Bipartisan Women’s Caucus and made possible by support from Amazon.

During the briefing, we heard personal stories from women professionals in STEM, their organization’s efforts to recruit more individuals, emerging cyber threats, the importance of creating a workforce that is representative of the people we serve, and opportunities within the public sector to combat challenges underrepresented communities face in the cybersecurity field.

Rep. Janelle Bynum, Vice-Chair of the Bipartisan Women’s Caucus, provided thoughtful closing remarks. Our speakers included Jackie Flores-Bochner, Director, Security Risk & Compliance at Microsoft; Yuanxia Ding, Senior Manager, Career Choice – Americas, Amazon; and Jennifer R. Franks, Director, Center for Enhanced Cybersecurity and Analytics Foundry at GAO, who moderated the briefing.

We thank Amazon for their support of this event. For more information and to view a recording of this briefing, please [click here](#).



Child Care Means Business



In September, WCPI, in conjunction with First Five Years Fund, hosted a Capitol Hill briefing titled “Child Care Means Business.” This event was held in cooperation with the Bipartisan Women’s Caucus and the Pre-K and Child Care Caucus.

Rep. Janelle Bynum, Vice-Chair of the Bipartisan Women’s Caucus, gave remarks that reinforced why child care must remain a national priority. Our speakers included Dr. Betsy Tonniges, Owner of Primrose School of Lincoln at Wilderness Hills; Angie Clifford, CEO of Northmont Area Chamber of Commerce; and Elaine Bennett, MBA, CEO of the Guadalupe Regional Medical Center of Texas.

We thank First Five Years Fund for their partnership in hosting this event. For more information, please [click here](#).



WCPI Gala Reception Celebrated the Bipartisan Women's Caucus and WCPI's 30th Anniversary



On Wednesday, April 9, WCPI proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary of advancing bipartisan leadership for women and girls in DC. Our 2025 Annual Congressional Gala Reception marked this milestone by honoring the organization's legacy and the women serving in the 119th Congress.

As part of the program, we recognized Dr. Susan F. Wood, a founding board member of WCPI, whose vision and early leadership helped shape the organization's bipartisan mission, and former Congresswoman Nita Lowey, a trailblazing legislator and longtime champion of women and girls in Congress, as well as an early supporter of WCPI's work.

We also honored Cindy Hall, who led WCPI as president for 26 years, and welcomed and celebrated Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat as WCPI's new president, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the organization's history.

We were honored to host 200 guests, including high-ranking administration and federal agency officials, corporate and labor supporters, senior congressional staff, leaders from national women's organizations, and individual supporters who purchased tickets to join us.

This special evening would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and ticket-holding attendees. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2025 WCPI Congressional Gala Reception and a very special thanks to our [gala sponsors](#) for making this event possible.



Cindy Hall Retires After 26 Years at WCPI



This year, Cindy Hall retired on January 17 after 26 years as President of WCPI. Not only has Cindy been a transformational leader of WCPI, but she's also been an incredible mentor to hundreds of women building public policy careers. She successfully moved WCPI's mission forward by designing programs and partnerships to inform critical legislative issues impacting women while cultivating strong bipartisan relationships among Congresswomen and women congressional staff.

Cindy has served as WCPI's president since 1999, coming on board four years after its founding in 1995. She previously worked for four Members of Congress for more than 17 years, including 12 years as Legislative Director to Ambassador and former Rep. Connie Morella, whose bipartisan leadership was instrumental in landmark achievements for women and girls. Under Cindy's leadership, WCPI underwent significant transformations, adding new initiatives and updating longstanding programs to better meet its mission.

"For more than 25 years, it has been my privilege to work with WCPI's Board of Directors and staff, the Bipartisan Women's Caucus, our bicameral group of women chiefs of staff, our congressional fellows, and our many supporters," said Hall. "While I will miss each of you and our critical work, it is time for a new generation of leadership."



WCPI Remembers the Life and Legacy of Dr. Susan Wood and Former Rep. Nita Lowey

This year saw the passing of two of WCPI's founding Board Members, former Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Dr. Susan Wood.



Congresswoman Nita Lowey served for 32 years in the House and was the first woman to chair the powerful House Appropriations Committee. She was a champion for women's issues and women's health, in particular, and was a tremendous supporter of WCPI, encouraging former Caucus staff to start the organization back in 1995. She remained a steadfast supporter of WCPI's mission for three decades. Beyond her legislative accomplishments, Congresswoman Lowey was an advocate for bipartisan collaboration and mentorship of women in public service. As a founding Board Member and former Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, her leadership helped lay the foundation for WCPI's continued work to advance bipartisan dialogue and strengthen women's representation in policy.

Dr. Susan Wood served as the Deputy Director of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (now the Bipartisan Women's Caucus) and partnered with Marjorie Sims and Lesley Primer Persily to found WCPI. Susan's career was dedicated to improving women's health. She served as the Director for Policy and Program Development in the Office on Women's Health, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Assistant Commissioner for Women's Health, and Director of the FDA Office of Women's Health. Susan later became a professor in the Departments of Health Policy & Management and Environmental and Occupational Health at The George Washington University and directed the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health.

The leadership of Congresswoman Lowey and Dr. Susan Wood lives on in WCPI's work, particularly through our work to support bipartisan congressional staff.



Developing Women Leaders in Public Policy

Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy Program Finishes Twelfth Year at WCPI

This year's fellows, Ashley Holmes and Ashley Morales, worked as legislative fellows for the offices of Congresswomen Robin Kelly and Delia C. Ramirez, respectively.



(Left to right) Ashley Morales and Ashley Holmes

During their fellowships, the fellows learned the legislative process while working on a wide range of health issues. In July, we hosted a Capitol Hill reception to celebrate the hard work of Ashley H. and Ashley M. as they neared the completion of the program. We were joined by Rep. Delia C. Ramirez's Legislative Director, Marina Sangit, and Rep. Robin Kelly's Senior Adviser on Health Policy, Michelle Galdamez, each of whom spoke about their respective fellows, as well as former fellows, family, friends and fellowship sponsors.



Click [here](#) to learn more about the Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy. Our heartfelt thanks to our [2025 sponsors](#): Kahn Education Foundation, the North America Taiwanese Women's Association, Novartis, PepsiCo, and Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). We also thank the many [individual donors](#) to the Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy. WCPI is proud to carry on the legacy of Susan Scanlan who started the fellowship program as President of the Women's Research and Education Institute in 1980.

Stay tuned for our announcement of the 2026 Class of Fellows and the opening of the 2027 application cycle in the spring!



WCPI FELLOWSHIP RECEPTION 2025



Paid Internship Program Continues to Train Future Women Leaders

Our mission is rooted in supporting future women leaders at all stages of their careers. We continued to host our paid Policy and Communications/Development internships. We were excited to receive a record number of applications from students across the country and internationally.



In the spring, we hosted Anisha Chopra (University of Michigan) and Jasmine Richardson (Boston University). Anisha and Jasmine helped us prepare for our annual congressional gala reception while researching and writing our [Weekly Legislative Update](#).



In the summer, interns Madelyn Hoffmann (American University) and Rebecca Locher (New York University) joined the WCPI team. In addition to assisting with donor research and social media and publishing the Weekly Legislative Update, Madelyn and Rebecca participated in WCPI's Capitol Hill "externship," working in the congressional office of Rep. French Hill (R-AR) and with the Democratic staff of the House Homeland Security Committee.



This fall, we were joined by Serena Klebba (Colby College), and Campbell Overby (Appalachian State University). Campbell worked on a number of social media and donor campaigns, and Serena assisted with the publication of the Weekly Legislative Update and conducted research for our policy briefings and events. We thank Anisha, Jasmine, Rebecca, Serena, and Campbell for their hard work on behalf of WCPI.



Joint Session: Congressional Women Chiefs of Staff & Legislative Directors



We continued our support for women chiefs of staff and committee staff directors in Congress as part of our [Joint Session](#) program, first established by longtime former chief of staff, Betsy Wright Hawkings, in 2015. The program fosters bicameral, bipartisan personal relationships across party lines, builds a support network for women chiefs of staff, committee staff directors, and senior leadership staff, and develops bipartisan women's leadership.



This year, we piloted an expansion of the Chiefs Program to a small group of bipartisan women legislative directors. The launch of this new program was delayed due to the government shutdown but kicked off in December with guest speakers and an opportunity for participants to build relationships across the aisle.



Take Our Daughters to Congress Day



In July, WCPI continued its longstanding relationship with Girls Inc. to collaborate and host an in-person Take Our Daughters to Congress Day, a program we have sponsored for almost twenty years.

Young women from across the country had the opportunity to shadow Senators and their staff, witnessing firsthand what it takes to lead in public service. We're deeply grateful to the Senators and staff who welcomed the girls into their offices and shared their time, stories, and inspiration.

After the event, WCPI and Girls Inc. hosted a lunch for the girls in the U.S. Capitol, where the girls discussed their experiences meeting with Senators and their staff and the lessons they learned from attending this event.



Get to Know WCPI

Meet the WCPI Board of Directors

The WCPI Board of Directors voted to elect its officers in June: Mary-Lacey Reuther, Chair; Keenan Austin Reed, Vice Chair; and Jane Park, Secretary-Treasurer. We were also excited to welcome five new women to the Board of Directors this year. We extend our deepest thanks to departing Board Members, Amy Plaster, Anna Schneider, and Sherilyn Wright for their extraordinary service to WCPI. Their leadership, dedication, and service have played a vital role in advancing WCPI's mission and strengthening its programs. The organization is grateful for their many contributions and continued support of WCPI's work.



Mary-Lacey Reuther
Chair

Head, North America Healthcare
Policy and External Affairs

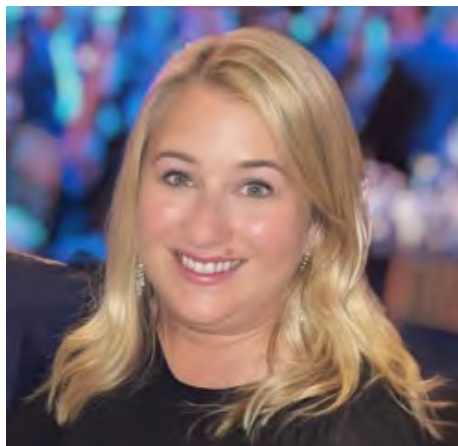


Keenan Austin Reed
Vice Chair

CEO & Managing Principal
Alpine Group



Jane S. Park
Secretary-Treasurer
EVP & Chief Legal Officer
Summit Utilities



Liz Johnson

Senior Director of Policy & Government
Affairs
Emerson Collective



Krysta Juris

Founder
Two Light Strategies



Fiona Kohrman

Legislative Representative
American Federation of Government
Employees (AFGE)





Lindley Kratovil Sherer
Co-Chair of Government Relations
Invariant



Sarah Towles
Senior Director of Government Affairs
PepsiCo



Kasia Witkowski
Senior Manager, Public Policy
Amazon



Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat
Ex Officio
President, WCPI

Meet the WCPI Staff



Krista Selnau Camarda
Senior Director of Development and
Communications



Anisha Chopra
Spring 2025
Communications/Development Intern
University of Michigan



Annabel Greene
Communications/Development Associate





Madelyn Hoffman
Summer 2025
Communications/Development Intern
American University



Alyssa Innis
Policy Director



Serena Klebba
Fall 2025
Policy Intern
Colby College



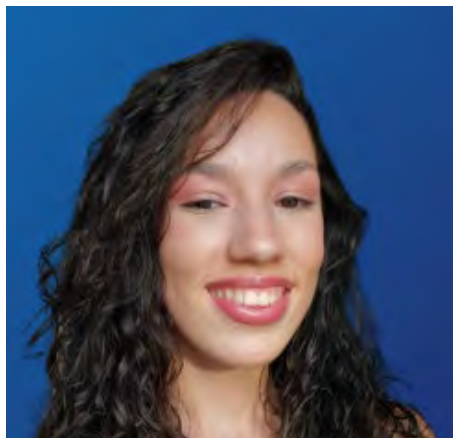
Rebecca Locher
Summer 2025
Policy Intern
New York University



Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat
President



Campbell Overby
Fall 2025
Communications/Development Intern
Appalachian State University



Jasmine Richardson
Spring 2025
Policy Intern
Boston University



Thank you to our sponsors!

We are so grateful for the longtime support of our [foundation partners](#): Kahn Education Foundation, PepsiCo Foundation, Peter G. Peterson Foundation, and the PG&E Foundation. We appreciate our corporate, labor, non-profit, and individual sponsors for supporting this year's [fellowship program](#), [annual gala reception](#), and [congressional briefings](#).

We look forward to continuing our work with these partners to bridge the partisan divide and bring together women policymakers!

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CSL Behring	Seneca Point Strategies
CTIA	SHRM
EMD Serono	United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters (UA)
eHealth	United Food & Commercial Workers International Union
GSK	Volkswagen

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