



Dear Friends of WCPI,

The Women's Congressional Policy Institute is grateful to our many supporters and friends who have helped make 2017 a year to remember. We are pleased to provide you with this update of our activities this past year.

As we look forward to 2018, we thank each of you for your support for our mission to bring women policymakers together across party lines to advance issues of importance to women and their families. We hope you will join us for our gala on **Wednesday, February 28, 2018**. We also invite you to attend our congressional briefings, enjoy the resources on our [website](#), and to stay in touch with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Cindy Hall
President

2017: A Year Promoting Leadership

WCPI's commitment to women's leadership has never been stronger. Whether through our programs for women Members of Congress, chiefs of staff, congressional fellows, or our efforts to promote girls' leadership, in 2017, we expanded our work to build the pipeline of women and girls engaged in public policy.

Women Members of Congress

Since we opened our doors in 1995, WCPI has been a resource for the women Members of Congress and their staff on women's issues in Congress and the history of the [Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues](#). This year was no different. In an effort to strengthen the Caucus, we sponsored several events for women Members of Congress, among them a January reception that included the gavel-passing ceremony for the newly elected leadership of the Women's Caucus for the 115th Congress and to welcome 11 newly elected women Members of Congress, and our Take Our Daughters to Congress Day with Girls Inc. in April, during which girls shadowed the women Members of Congress. We ended the year by hosting a reception for Members to discuss next year's priorities and build personal relationships across party lines.



Women's Chiefs of Staff Program

Funded by a grant from the [Democracy Fund](#), we have been administering the [Women Chiefs of Staff program](#) since January 2016.

First conceived by longtime House Chief of Staff Betsy Wright Hawkings of Democracy Fund and a core bipartisan group of veteran women chiefs of staff in 2015, the program's mission is to foster bicameral personal relationships across party lines, build a support network for women chiefs of staff, committee staff directors, and leadership staff, and develop bipartisan women's leadership.

We held a number of events in 2017 and, thanks to continued support from the Democracy Fund, we are looking forward to hosting more in the year ahead.

Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy

WCPI sponsored its fourth class of fellows in our Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy program. Through the fellowship program we are providing women leaders of tomorrow with the experience they need for success today.

The fellowships are extended each year to a select number of graduate students with a proven commitment to equity for women. Fellows gain practical policymaking experience and graduate credit as they work from January to August in congressional offices. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we were able to double the fellows' stipend in 2017.

The Class of 2017 included four fellows who worked in House and Senate offices. WCPI celebrated the Class of 2017, their congressional sponsors, and past fellows from the program in June. We are grateful for the [continued support](#) of the fellowships by foundation, corporate, academic, and individual sponsors.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Fellows Program.



WCPI Internship Program

This year, we hosted three talented interns from universities across the country – the University of California, Santa Cruz, Howard University, and the University of South Carolina.

In addition to helping WCPI host our congressional briefings and annual gala, these young women learned about the legislative process and public policy through their time on Capitol Hill.

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

Take Our Daughters to Congress Day

We partnered with Girls Inc. once again this year to match 19 girls with 17 women Members of Congress for our annual Congressional [Take Our Daughters to Congress Day](#). The girls

shaded their respective Members for a day and saw women's leadership in action, taking valuable lessons back to their communities.

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



A Year of Action

WCPI once again highlighted women's role in developing and implementing bipartisan public policy solutions through our Congressional Gala, congressional briefings, and weekly news report.

Annual Congressional Gala

In March, we celebrated 40 years of bipartisan collaboration and progress for women at our annual [Congressional Gala](#), where we also announced our new name. Gala speakers included Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Women's Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Susan Brooks and Lois Frankel, and the co-founders and past co-chairs of the Women's Caucus. Among the 375 attendees were 26 women Senators, Members of Congress and former Members, the Women's Caucus co-founders, former Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman and Amb. Margaret Heckler, as well as federal agency officials, corporate and labor supporters, senior congressional staff, and women's groups. We are very thankful for the [support](#) of so many companies, labor unions, foundations, advocacy organizations, and individuals.



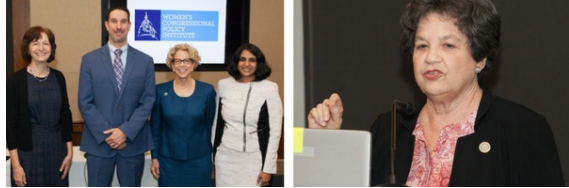
Additional photos of the Gala are available [here](#).

Congressional Staff Briefings

WCPI hosted several [congressional staff briefings](#) on key women's issues. Briefings in 2017 focused on chronic pain in women and its relationship to the opioid crisis, neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, and veterans' health issues. We thank the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for its



longtime support of the women's health briefing series.



We also held our fifth annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) Fair. We are grateful for the [financial support](#) for the event from the corporate, labor, and nonprofit communities.



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



Weekly News Report

With a goal to provide policymakers and the general public with the most up-to-date information on women's issues, WCPI continued to publish our longtime weekly online news report, [The Source](#). Free to the public, *The Source* reports on congressional hearings, mark-ups, and House and Senate floor action affecting women and their families. We also published a special report on the president's budget and will publish [reports](#) on the annual appropriations process and a summary of legislative action at the end of this session of Congress.

A Year of Gratitude

It has been a busy and successful year, but we could have not accomplished so much without the dedicated support of our Board of Directors. We thank each of them for their counsel and support throughout the year.

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