



Maine Women's Policy Center

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

Media Release

For Immediate Release: March 24, 2011

Contacts on Day of Event: Charlotte Warren, 207.441.9116 (cell), cwarren@mainewomen.org

Sarah Standiford, 207.837.2609 (cell), sstandiford@mainewomen.org

State House Halls Filled Today with Maine's Future Leaders – Girls!

The Fifteenth Annual Girls' Day at the State House Engages 100 Girls in Policymaking

(Augusta) – Today, girls were in the majority at the Maine State House. That's because the Maine Women's Policy Center's 15th Annual Girls' Day at the State House brought 100 girls from across Maine together with more than 50 volunteers, lobbyists, and legislators for a day of learning, leadership, and exploration.

The event, hosted by the Maine Women's Policy Center, was sponsored by AT&T, Best Buy, Bangor Savings Bank, Margaret Chase Smith Library, Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust, and dozens of individuals and corporations. It gave a diverse group of girls the opportunity to learn how they can have an impact in the policymaking process. Held each year to commemorate Women's History Month, Girls' Day at the State House teaches girls about the legislative process and the important role women play in shaping public policy.

Throughout the day, girls debated legislation and worked with real lobbyists and journalists in organizing mock public hearings and mock press conferences. The girls met with women leaders from the legislature and from Governor LePage's administration. They also participated in a "Get To Know Your State House" scavenger hunt.

"At AT&T, we understand the power of communication," said Owen Smith, Regional Vice President for AT&T in Maine. He continued, "We are proud to support this program which helps Maine's young women learn how they can apply the power of communication and advocacy toward leadership now and in the future."

"Girls' Day enables young women to envision themselves as leaders and learn how to voice their opinions," said Maine Women's Policy Center Executive Director, Sarah Standiford. "Our hope is that these young women come away with real insights into the political process and a feeling of excitement about participating in it," she continued. As, Maggie, one of last year's participants said, "I learned so much I don't know where to begin! Although, overall, I learned that I (yes me) and anyone else can do anything! Follow your dreams and believe in yourself."

The Maine Women's Policy Center, founded in 1990, is a private, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to improve the lives of Maine women and girls through public policy and leadership development. www.mainewomenspolicycenter.org.

###