



Maine Women's Policy Center

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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

*Fourteenth 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 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Girls' Day at the State House brought 100 girls from across Maine together with more than 60 volunteers, lobbyists, and legislators for a day of learning, leadership, and exploration.

The event, organized by the Maine Women's Policy Center and sponsored by AAUW Educational Foundation, Time Warner Cable, Walmart, the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust, and FairPoint Communications, 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 also met with Governor Baldacci and with women elected and appointed leaders and participated in a "Get To Know Your State House" scavenger hunt.

"I want the girls here to think about being in an elective office at some point in life. Whether it is running for the school board in town or running for the State Legislature or running for President," said Speaker of the House, Hannah Pingree. "It is important that we are involved in politics because a lot of big decisions are made about our lives, about our families, about our state, and about our environment."

Melinda Poore, the Vice President for Government Affairs for Time Warner Cable New England, added, "Time Warner Cable is proud to support Girls' Day at the State House. As a company rooted in innovation, we place a

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high premium on the diversity of our employees. That means encouraging more girls to pursue non-traditional

career paths in science and technology and to become the leaders of tomorrow. I hope you enjoy your day at the State House – seeing firsthand how our state government works and meeting some of our dynamic women leaders who are truly making a difference for Maine.”

“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 one of last year’s participants said, “Today I learned how much women can make a difference in politics. I also learned that it will take some courage and believing it’s possible.”

*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](http://www.mainewomenspolicycenter.org).*

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