



Maine Women's Policy Center

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

WLAC Partners

Business and Professional Women
EqualityMaine
Family Planning Association of Maine
Hardy Girls Healthy Women
League of Young Voters
Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center
Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community
Maine Civil Liberties Union
Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Maine Council of Senior Citizens
Maine NOW
Maine Women's Fund
Maine Women's Lobby
Maine Women's Policy Center
Mainly Girls
National Association of Social Workers - Maine Chapter
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Portland Tenants Union
USM Women's Resource Center
WAGE Project Maine
Women Unlimited
YWCA New England Regional Council

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Women Shouldn't Shoulder Bulk of Budget Cuts

Coalition of Women's Organizations Press for Fair Budget as Part of Leadership "Day at State House"

Augusta, ME – Citing the impact of proposed budget cuts on women, a coalition of women's organizations and their members gathered Monday to build their leadership and advocacy skills and to press for a budget that reflects the needs of women and girls. Monday's "Women's Leadership Action Coalition Day at the State House" brought women to Augusta to learn how to influence the policymaking process and to press for a budget that puts the needs of women first instead of last.

"Unfortunately, the proposed supplemental budget balanced the books on the back of women and girls," said Sarah Standiford, Executive Director of the Maine Women's Policy Center, a sponsor of the event. "Extreme cuts to Medicaid, domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health care, family planning, and other social services disproportionately affect women. That's why we stand with MaineCanDoBetter.org in calling for a better solution."

On Thursday, the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs approved a budget proposal that rejected the bulk of the most extreme cuts. The Women's Leadership Action Coalition called this a step in the right direction and a better measure of Maine's values of shared responsibility.

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“The women here today are taking action to make their voices heard as part of the policymaking process,” said Eloise Vitelli, Director of Program and Policy for the Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community. “Leaders from our agency and the 25 other members of the Women’s Leadership Action Coalition are dedicated to ensuring that women are represented in Augusta. By providing hands-on training to our members and clients, we know that the needs of women and girls will be heard when fundamental decisions about state investments are made.”

Participants learned about the budget and other legislative issues affecting women and girls this session, engaged in a hands-on training on direct advocacy, and practiced their lobbying skills.

The mission of the Women’s Leadership Action Coalition is to collaborate and coordinate efforts to improve the social, economic, and political status of women and to ensure the equality of all Maine citizens.

The Women’s Leadership Action Coalition is a project of the Maine Women’s Policy Center.

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