



Maine Women's Policy Center

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

MEDIA RELEASE

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Women Leaders to Girls: Make Your Voice Heard

*Thirteenth Annual Girls' Day at the State House:
Over 100 Girls Learn About Leadership in Political Process*

(Augusta) – Today, girls were in the majority at the Maine State House. That's because the Maine Women's Policy Center's 13th 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, sponsored by Time Warner Cable, AAUW Educational Foundation, New Girls' Fund for Social Change, and Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust, 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. In addition, the girls met with Governor Baldacci and with women elected and appointed leaders and participated in a "Get To Know Your State House and Legislature" scavenger hunt.

"Girls' Day at the State House is one of my favorite days of the legislative session. I think it is important for young people and women to be involved in the political process... I want [the girls here today] to think about being in an elective office at some point in life. Whether it is just 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."

“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, “I liked interacting with new people and learning that women can actually make a difference, that it’s not just men who take the wheel. And, that we as females are taking hold and making our mark in Maine. Simply fantabulous!”

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.

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