

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

---

Maine Women's Publications - All

Publications

---

7-1-2005

## Maine Women's Advocate No. 39 (Summer 2005)

Maine Women's Lobby Staff

*Maine Women's Lobby*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine\\_women\\_pubs\\_all](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all)



Part of the [History Commons](#), [Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons](#), [Sociology Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Staff, Maine Women's Lobby, "Maine Women's Advocate No. 39 (Summer 2005)" (2005). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 214.

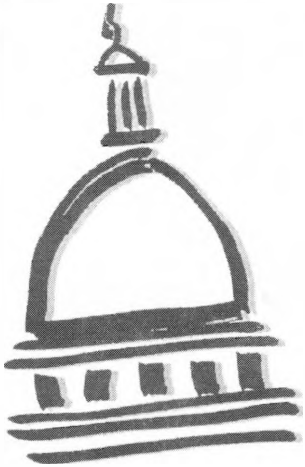
[https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine\\_women\\_pubs\\_all/214](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all/214)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Women's Publications - All by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

# The MAINE WOMEN'S ADVOCATE

SUMMER 2005

Number 39



a publication of the  
*MAINE WOMEN'S  
LOBBY*  
and the  
*MAINE WOMEN'S  
POLICY CENTER*

## ***Maine Women Lead in Supreme Court Deliberation***

Dozens of polls demonstrating strong public support for moderate federal judicial candidates, hard-line extremists have so far only committed to furthering nominees who are hostile to individual rights. The first battle, spawned by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, aimed to end the tradition of filibuster - or unlimited debate used to block judicial nominees whose views are outside of the mainstream.

This "nuclear option" was averted in large part because of the leadership of Senator Snowe and Senator Collins, who joined with a bipartisan group of 14 Senators to forge a compromise that took the nuclear option off the table, for the time being. They called upon the President to return to the time-honored tradition of consultation and compromise - not confrontation - when nominating judges to the federal courts. With the recent retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, we hope that message was heard.

The Maine Women's Lobby honors Justice O'Connor for her years of faithful public service to the nation and her distinction as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Now, we call on all parties involved in selecting a replacement - Senators from both parties and President Bush - to continue in the spirit of compromise and select someone who can be broadly supported.

The Maine Fair and Independent Federal Courts Coalition, which includes 40 Maine organizations led by the Maine Women's Policy Center, has been advocating for more than a year for an independent judicial confirmation process - a process that upholds the system of checks and balances inherent in our democracy. We have called on our Senators to consider each nominee thoroughly in order to protect the independence of our federal courts.

Over the spring, this coalition gathered support from activists, students, attorneys, and concerned citizens throughout the state,

*(continued inside)*

## ***Women's Progress at the State House***

At the close of the first half of the 122nd legislative session, women have much to celebrate. Most heartening was the passage of Senate President Beth Edmonds' bill entitled *An Act to Care for Families* (L.D. 1044). Beginning September 17, 2005, many Maine businesses will be asked to extend to their employees the flexibility to use already-earned sick or vacation time to care for a child, parent, or spouse. This law will apply to businesses with 25 or more employees, allowing families to take care of family care needs at home without the risk of losing their jobs. This bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support resulting from collaboration between legislative leaders, advocates, and business leaders.

As one advocate said in a written statement, "*Lack of flexible sick time forced me, as it does so many others, out of the workforce and onto assistance. I was a productive employee in need of flexibility to do my job. But instead, I was faced with a horrible choice: my job or my child.*" The Maine Women's Lobby is committed to using all the tools at our disposal - organizing, public education, and legislative action - to address the growing need for family care.

We are proud of the other pro-active legislation that we supported, for example, the renewal of unemployment insurance benefits for part-time workers (L.D. 309). Under the new law, part-time workers will continue to be able to receive unemployment benefits until September 30, 2008. Despite this additional sunset provision, we are committed to extending this coverage beyond 2008.

We also celebrated the passage of an anti-discrimination bill (L.D. 1196) to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians once and for all! Strong leadership from Governor Baldacci, President Edmonds, Speaker Richardson, primary sponsor Senator Turner, and the fantastic advocates at Equality Maine was crucial to this success. Despite opponents' threats, we are confident that the law will be upheld when it comes before voters in November.

*(continued inside)*



WMTW Channel 8 films activists dressed as "Checks" and "Balanz" as they speak with Portland pedestrians about the importance of independent judicial nominations.

## From the Executive Director

This first half of the 122nd Legislature came to an end in the wee hours of the morning on Saturday, June 18. Thanks to the hard work of our lobbyist, Lauralee Raymond, with support from all staff, board, and our legislative committee, the Maine Women's Lobby can be proud of our accomplishments for Maine women. In fact, we were successful in 33 of the 35 bills that we worked on this session! Check out the legislative report insert for more information and to find out how your legislators voted. Special thanks to the many volunteer advocates who shared their stories and came to the State House to make their voices heard!

While the demands of the legislative session were many this season, our other work was not diminished. The Maine Women's Lobby led an intense Maine struggle to uphold the judicial confirmation process and prevent the Senate from "going nuclear," a campaign that won national attention. We will continue to lead state advocacy efforts around the nomination of a U.S. Supreme Court justice to replace outgoing Justice O'Connor. We also mobilized around other urgent national issues - speaking up in defense of the *Family Medical Leave Act*, reproductive privacy, and the federal programs that Maine people depend on.

In April, the Maine Women's Policy Center honored how far Maine women have come - and acknowledged how far we have yet to go - in ending the wage gap at an Equal Pay Day press conference with Governor Baldacci.

Our research and policy staff was hard at work, for example, garnering broad support and insight from local attorneys into the challenges posed by divorce and separation on women's health insurance status. We advocated for increased access to higher education and broadened support for work and family policies by fostering connections among health organizations, business men and women, and advocates, to develop a strategy for family care.

And of course, we worked to bolster women's political leadership by welcoming 100 girls from across the state to our 9th annual *Girls' Day at the State House* and by hosting a series of events during Women's History Month in March to honor the political leadership of women and girls. There's much yet to do this summer! To get involved, drop us a line at [info@mainewomen.org](mailto:info@mainewomen.org) or call 622-0851. We'd love to hear from you.

With thanks,

Sarah Standiford, Executive Director

## Meet Our New Staff!

**Sarah Dore-Fairfield** joined us in June 2005 as a volunteer leader assisting Community Organizer Cara Bilodeau.

**Heidi Hart** joined us in May 2005 as our Linda Smith Dyer Fellow. Heidi is leading our campaign to increase access to health insurance for women undergoing divorce or separation. Heidi recently completed her first year of law school at the University of Maine School of Law.

**Lynn Sanders** joined us in May 2005 as our newest intern. Lynn is assisting with research and analysis to further the Women's Economic Justice Project. She recently completed her junior year at Mount Holyoke College.

**Thank you to Pamela Boivin**, our 2004 Linda Smith Dyer Fellow, and to **Christina Griffin**, our intern. Your dedication and hard work will be missed.

## AARP & PTLA to the Rescue!

Thanks to the generosity of the folks at AARP who recently upgraded their equipment, we have three additional computers and two additional printers. Pine Tree Legal Assistance was kind enough to donate a table to house one of the workstations and one of the printers. We are putting everything to good use - thank you, AARP and Pine Tree Legal Assistance! Pretty soon we'll be needing a bigger office...

## Women's Progress (continued from the front page)

On the health care front, the Maine Women's Lobby continued to advocate for funding of Dirigo Health and the implementation of services for the elderly who may lose vital prescription drug coverage with federal restructuring under Medicare Part D.

Thanks to an important bill sponsored by Representative Maril Canavan (L.D. 1115), Maine's address confidentiality program that serves victims of sexual assault and domestic violence will be improved to enable survivors to register and vote without fear.

Despite our success on this and many other bills, there were great challenges this session. It was particularly disheartening to witness a set of reactionary measures aimed at restricting the already-limited public assistance available through general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

Not unexpected was the onslaught of legislation aimed at barring access to sexuality education, family planning, and abortion services. For example, despite the Legislature's good work in addressing crimes against pregnant women with the passage of President Edmonds' *Motherhood Protection Act* (L.D. 884), the Maine Women's Lobby was nonetheless forced to address "fetal rights" legislation in the form of *An Act to Protect Children from Acts of Violence* (L.D. 262). Simply put, this was part of a national strategy to use the criminal code to establish separate rights for a fetus. The purpose is to create a legal argument for overturning the U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*. Although proponents of that legislation claimed they sought to redress the significant problem of violence against pregnant women, ultimately we know that the best way to address crimes against pregnant women is within the context of education and prevention of domestic violence.

Fortunately, compromise legislation emerged that withdrew mention of fetal personhood while increasing penalties for certain crimes against pregnant women. Now, we invite the Roman Catholic Diocese, Maine Right to Life, and others to work with us on a real solution to this problem: expanding services for domestic violence prevention.

Overshadowed by the contentious fetal rights bill, three anti-choice bills received incredible votes that guaranteed their defeat. The House and Senate rejected a 24-hour waiting period and scripted, biased counseling bill (L.D. 25), defeated a parental notification mandate (L.D. 1575), and discarded an invasive and unnecessary abortion reporting bill (L.D. 1479).

Legislation to write discrimination into the Maine Constitution via an amendment defining marriage between one man and one woman also received resounding defeat in both chambers.

Lastly, efforts to undermine Maine's successful family life education program in our schools were defeated (L.D. 1639 and L.D. 1488). As a result, Maine's proven approach to sexuality education will continue. Thank you to everyone who communicated with their legislators this session. Your voice made a difference.

## 122nd Senate Roll Call for Maine Women's Lobby Legislative Priorities

[illegible]

# 122nd House Roll Call Votes for Maine Women's Lobby Legislative Priorities

	24-Hour Waiting	Fetal Rights	Part-Time	Motherhood	Flexible	Civil Rights	Opt In vs Opt	Parental	Abstinence
	Period Abortion	(Before Compromise)	Unemploy. Ins.	Protection Act	Leave	for All	Out of Sex Ed.	Consent	Only Ed.
RC = Roll Call	(RC # 281)	(RC # 286)	(RC # 272)	(RC # 121)	(RC # 268)	(RC # 63)	(RC # 185)	(RC #282)	(RC # 203)
LD = Legislative Document	L.D. 25	L.D. 262	L.D. 309	L.D. 884	L.D. 1044	L.D. 1196	L.D. 1488	L.D. 1575	L.D. 1639
Yes = Support for	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL	Yes = MWL
MWL position	Oppose	Oppose	Support	Support	Support	Support	Oppose	Oppose	Oppose
Herbert Adams	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
James Annis	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Walter Ash	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Susan Austin	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Christopher Babbidge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christopher Barstow	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stephen Beaudette	No	No	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Robert Berube	Absent	Absent	No	Absent	No	No	Absent	Absent	No
Leonard Bierman	Absent	Absent	No	Absent	No	No	No	Absent	No
George Bishop	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Richard Blanchard	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Patricia Blanchette	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lawrence Bliss	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stephen Bowen	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
David Bowles	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Joseph Brannigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Brautigam	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richard Brown	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes
William Browne	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Mark Bryant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joan Bryant-Deschenes	No	No	No	Yes	Absent	No	No	No	No
Richard Burns	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Emily Cain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
James Campbell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	No	Yes	Yes	No
Marilyn Canavan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roderick Carr	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Richard Cebra	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
John Churchill	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Herbert Clark	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Harold Clough	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Ronald Collins	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Margaret Craven	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Philip Cressey	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Charles Crosby	Absent	Absent	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	No
Robert Crosthwaite	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Glenn Cummings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Darlene Curley	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Philip Curtis	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Robert Daigle	Yes	No	Absent	Yes	No	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent
Gerald Davis	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Kimberly Davis	No	No	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent	No	No
Timothy Driscoll	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent
Robert Duchesne	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Benjamin Dudley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Edward Dugay	Yes	No	Absent	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent
Michael Dunn	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Duplessie	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brian Duprey	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Jane Eberle	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Eder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter Edgecomb	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Harold Emery	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Sean Faircloth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Farrington	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Edward Finch	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jeremy Fischer	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charles Fisher	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stacey Fitts	Absent	Absent	No	Yes	No	No	No	Absent	No
Kenneth Fletcher	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Patrick Flood	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stan Gerzofsky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kevin Glynn	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Connie Goldman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christian Greeley	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Absent
Carol Grose	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Darren Hall	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
James Hamper	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Bruce Hanley	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Stephen Hanley	Yes	No	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charles Harlow	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
George Hogan	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Randy Hotham	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Deborah Hutton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Troy Jackson	Absent	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes
Lawrence Jacobsen	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Absent	Yes	No
Rodney Jennings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alan Jodrey	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Henry Joy	No	No	No	Yes	No	Absent	No	No	No

## 122nd House Roll Call Votes for Maine Women's Lobby Legislative Priorities

	24-Hour Waiting	Fetal Rights	Part-Time	Motherhood	Flexible	Civil Rights	Opt In vs Opt	Parental	Abstinence
	Period Abortion	(Before Compromise)	Unemploy. Ins.	Protection Act	Leave	for All	Out of Sex Ed.	Consent	Only Ed.
Jeff Kaelin	Yes	Yes	No	Absent	No	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes
Theodore Koffman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scott Lansley	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Arthur Lerman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sarah Lewin	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Kenneth Lindell	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Jacqueline Lundeen	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Elaine Makas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes
Donald Marean	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Boyd Marley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lisa Marraché	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes
Edward Mazurek	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Earle McCormick	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Howard McFadden	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Jonathan McKane	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Terrence McKenney	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Everett McLeod	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Absent
Barbara Merrill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Elizabeth Miller	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
H. Sawin Millett	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Janet Mills	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stanley Moody	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	No
Gary Moore	No	Absent	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Bradley Moulton	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Roberta Muse	Yes	Yes	No	Absent	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joan Nass	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Jacqueline Norton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Nutting	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Ott	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Rosaire Paradis	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
John Patrick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deborah Pelletier-Simpson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leila Percy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Anne Perry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Donald Pilon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes
Raymond Pineau	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hannah Pingree	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wright Pinkham	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
John Piotti	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gary Plummer	Yes	Yes	No	Absent	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christopher Rector	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
David Richardson	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent
Earl Richardson	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
John Richardson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maitland Richardson	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Absent
Wesley Richardson	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Peter Rines	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes
John Robinson	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Kimberly Rosen	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Sonya Sampson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Absent
Thomas Saviello	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
James Schatz	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent
H. Stedman Seavey	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Roger Sherman	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Thomas Shields	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Nancy Smith	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
William Smith	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	Yes	Yes
Vaughn Stedman	No	No	No	Absent	No	No	No	No	No
Richard Sykes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Joshua Tardy	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Douglas Thomas	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Absent
Judd Thompson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
A. David Trahan	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
John Tuttle	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Joanne Twomey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Linda Valentino	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Vaughan	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
William Walcott	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thomas Watson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Webster	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Walter Wheeler	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richard Woodbury	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	91	68	75	140	73	91	79	91	86
No	55	77	72	0	70	58	60	54	55
Absent	5	6	4	11	8	2	12	6	10
Excused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151	151



## **Description of Bills Listed in the Legislative Report**

**L.D. 25: *An Act to Educate Maine Women on Risks Associated with Abortion*** sought to impose a 24-hour waiting period and biased, state-scripted counseling for women choosing abortion. MWL position: Oppose. Status: Dead.

**L.D. 262: *An Act to Protect Pregnant Women from Acts of Violence*** was modeled on the national Unborn Victims of Violence Act and formerly titled *An Act to Protect Unborn Children from Acts of Violence*. Proponents claimed that this legislation was intended to deter violence against pregnant women. In reality, this bill did little more than promote an anti-abortion agenda by using the criminal code to establish separate rights for a fetus. The compromise bill that passed was called *An Act to Protect Women from Acts of Violence*, removed all references to "unborn child," and created a new crime of assault against a pregnant person that results in the termination of a pregnancy. The roll call included is the original bill that MWL opposed without the compromise. The final bill was not opposed by MWL and passed unanimously in the Senate and the House. MWL position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor, 17-A MRSA §208-C.

**L.D. 309: *An Act to Remove the Sunset on Part-Time Unemployment Insurance Benefits***. In 2003, the Maine Women's Lobby led the effort to extend unemployment insurance to part-time workers, ensuring that those who would otherwise be eligible for benefits are not denied simply because of their part-time work history. Unfortunately, those benefits were set to expire in September of 2005. Governor Baldacci initiated this legislation to remove the sunset provision. The final bill enacted extended the sunset until 2008. MWL position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor, 26 MRSA §1192, sub-§3.

**L.D. 884: *An Act to Protect Motherhood*** addresses the disturbing fact that the leading cause of death for pregnant women is homicide. This bill allows for special weight in the sentencing of certain crimes against pregnant women *without* undermining critical tenants of *Roe v. Wade*. It also calls for increased data collection on the problem of violence against pregnant women. It serves to keep the focus of the legal system on the primary victim: the pregnant woman. MWL position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor, 19-A MRSA §4013, sub-§4.

**L.D. 1044: *An Act to Care for Families*** was sponsored by Senate President Beth Edmonds. The bill enables employees to use their existing paid sick or vacation days to care for an ill child, spouse, or parent. As amended, this bill limits the flexible time off to 40 hours/year and applies to employers with 25 or more employees. L.D. 1044 will help women and families respond to illness without the risk of losing pay or losing their job. The roll call included is a vote before amendments were added to remove penalty provisions and allow an employer size limit. With these amendments, the final bill passed with broad bi-partisan support in the House with a vote of 97-49 with 5 absent and in the Senate 23-12. MWL Position: Support. Status: Signed by the Governor, 26 MRSA §636.

**L.D. 1196: *An Act to Extend Civil Rights Protections to All People Regardless of Sexual Orientation***. This bill ends discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, credit, education, and employment. MWL position: Support. Additionally, MWL will support the efforts of Maine Won't Discriminate in upholding this law against a proposed people's veto campaign. Status: Signed by the Governor, 5 MRSA §4552.

**L.D. 1488: *An Act to Give Parents Control Over the Sex Education of Their Children***. This bill undercuts Maine's successful family life education program and is unnecessary — parents already have the choice to "opt-out" of comprehensive family life education for their children. The motion to accept the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report was approved without a roll call vote in the Senate. MWL position: Oppose. Status: Dead.

**L.D. 1575: *An Act to Require Parental Notification of Teenage Abortions*** would repeal Maine's nationally recognized Adult Involvement Law and mandate parental involvement for all minors who choose an abortion regardless of their circumstances. These laws put teens' health and safety at risk and do nothing to create better family communication. All major health organizations oppose laws mandating parental involvement in minors' abortion decisions. MWL position: Oppose. Status: Dead.

**L.D. 1639: *An Act to Allow Abstinence to be Offered as an Alternative Education Program for Grades 7 to 12***. Abstinence education is already part of Maine's family life education program. MWL position: Oppose. Status: Dead.

### ***Maine Women Online***

If you haven't visited our web site in a while, check it out at [www.mainewomen.org](http://www.mainewomen.org). We've added more information and functions. You can now make a secure online tax-deductible donation to the Maine Women's Policy Center, and you can also renew your membership to the Maine Women's Lobby. Would you like to be in the know about urgent policy issues by receiving our monthly e-newsletter? Simply drop us an e-mail with the message "subscribe" to [info@mainewomen.org](mailto:info@mainewomen.org).

## Maine Women's Policy Center Hosts 9th Annual Girls' Day at the State House

On the morning of March 24, nearly 100 7th and 8th grade girls across the state took the State House by storm in their "Girls Rock the House ... and the Senate" t-shirts designed by Board member Lauren Grousd. Thanks to the generosity of many of our Board members and the excellent workmanship from the folks at Geiger, the Maine Women's Policy Center was able to provide this souvenir of a day of hands-on involvement in Maine government.

The students also received a Girls' Day Action Guide, met with legislative leaders, job-shadowed their legislators, participated in a mock press conference and a mock public hearing, and nearly a third of them served as pages in the House and Senate. From one teacher's perspective: "Lives can be changed by events such as this, and this is not the first time Girls' Day at the State House has invigorated my students to see themselves as powerful women." From one student's perspective: "I learned that everyone's voice is important. Also, I can make a difference."



*Girls' Day participants hone their legislative skills during a mock public hearing*

Girls' Day at the State House was **once** again a success thanks to the many volunteers and mentors who donated their time for the day. It was also possible through generous funding from the following sponsors: **Champion:** Margaret Chase Smith Library; **Lender:** Cole Haan; **Supporters:** Maine Education Association, MBNA Foundation, MeadWestvaco, Jim Mitchell & Sharon Sudbay, Peoples Heritage Bank, Plum Creek Timber Company, Time Warner Cable of Maine, and Verizon; **Friends:** AAUW of Maine, Birgitta Peterson Designs, Family Planning Association of Maine, Gardiner Family Chiropractic, Great Gatherings, H.E. Sargent, Maine Better Transportation Association, Maine State Nurses Association, Moose Ridge Associates, Moss, Inc., National Association of Women in Construction Maine Chapter 276, New England Cable & Telecommunications Association, Inc., Peachey Builders, Pierce Atwood LLP, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, and Questor. T-shirts were sponsored by MWL and MWPC Board members. Pens used by the mentors were donated by Rent-A-Geek.

### Maine Women Lead *(continued from the front page)*

hosting a dozen rallies, press conferences, and petition drives. Pedestrians visiting the Portland Public Market even got a visit from "Checks" and "Balanz" (see picture on the front page). Activists - representing a larger-than-life check mark and scale - distributed information and gathered signatures from passers-by on a petition to Senator Snowe and Senator Collins.

In May, the Maine Women's Lobby partnered with MoveOn PAC to host a 24-hour mock filibuster in Portland's Monument Square. Nearly 100 activists volunteered throughout the day and into the night to state their beliefs about the importance of upholding the federal judicial confirmation process. Mimicking the traditional Senate filibuster, activists read from the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the dictionary, and even the script of *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, all in an effort to symbolize the importance of unlimited debate on judicial nominees. Several hundred Mainers signed a petition reminding our Senators that our founding fathers had it right when they decided they wanted America's courts to be independent.

Shortly after the 24-hour filibuster and on the eve of the threatened "nuclear option," we got word that Senator Snowe and Senator Collins had helped to forge a compromise. The group of 14 Senators promised to cast votes on three of President Bush's appointees, in return for withholding the use of the filibuster except in "extraordinary circumstances." Now, with one and possibly more vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court, we must work to ensure the confirmation of a nominee who is independent and will pledge to uphold the rights of ordinary Americans. The best way for the nomination process to work is for President Bush to choose compromise over confrontation and nominate a justice who can earn broad support.

#### MWL Board of Directors

Stephanie Eglinton - *Chair*  
Barbara Alexander - *Vice-Chair*  
Karen Wagner - *Secretary*  
Beth Kilbreth - *Treasurer*  
Kristin Aiello  
Roslinde Collins Gibbard  
Lauren Grousd  
Jennifer Hoopes  
Robin Lee  
Anna Melbin

#### MWPC Board of Directors

Stephanie Eglinton - *Chair*  
Mary Denison - *Vice-Chair*  
Karen Wagner - *Secretary*  
Beth Kilbreth - *Treasurer*  
Judith Daniels  
LeAnn Greenleaf  
Pamela Bruno MacDonald  
Bonita Pothier  
Betsy Clemens Saltonstall  
Kim Simmons

#### Staff

Sarah Standiford, *Executive Director*  
Lauralee Raymond, *Legislative Coordinator*  
Bonnie Buckmore, *Development and Communications Coordinator*  
Cara Bilodeau, *Community Organizer*  
Heidi Hart, *Linda Smith Dyer Fellow*  
Lillian Pease, *Volunteer*  
Lynn Sanders, *Intern*  
Sarah Dore-Fairfield, *Volunteer*



# Join us at the *Breakfast of Champions!*

The Maine Women's Policy Center's Breakfast of Champions series are our premier annual events and are one of the most exciting forums to learn about current trends and issues on the horizon for Maine women. This year's forums will highlight the theme of "Women in the Workplace."

**Portland - October 3, 2005 - 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Holiday Inn By the Bay**

**Bangor - October 19, 2005 - 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Spectacular Event Center**

**Presque Isle - October 26, 2005 - 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Northern Maine Community College**

We are delighted to present two dynamic women as keynote speakers this year. Ellen Bravo will be speaking at the Portland breakfast, and Marjorie Stockford will be speaking at both the Bangor and Presque Isle breakfasts.

**Ellen Bravo** is a widely acclaimed trainer, public speaker, and author. As former National Director of 9to5, she is one of the nation's foremost experts on working women's issues. Ellen has written two books, *The 9to5 Guide to Combating Sexual Harassment* and *The Job Family Challenge: Not for Women Only*. Her talks are moving, funny, and full of examples of practical applications of how to deploy feminism in the workplace.

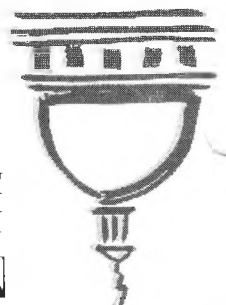
**Marjorie Stockford** is a writer and consultant focused on advancing women into leadership positions in American society. Marjorie is a Portland native and author of *The Bellwomen*, a book about the historical class action lawsuit against AT & T which "resulted in a \$38 million settlement that benefited 15,000 employees, more than 13,000 of them women, and changed our perceptions of women's and men's roles in the workplace forever."

**Admission** is \$35, student admission is \$15. All but \$12 (cost of breakfast) is tax-deductible.

**Sponsorship** levels begin at \$150. This level includes two breakfast tickets and recognition on the invitation and in the program. For sponsorship information, e-mail Bonnie Buckmore at [development@mainewomen.org](mailto:development@mainewomen.org) or call her at 622-0851.

Maine Women's Lobby

PO Box 15  
Hallowell, ME 04347



PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 77  
Augusta, ME