**GFWC News & Notes** 

***GFWC — an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service***

**Carol Weldin, AWC Liaison**

**May 2018**

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**Wear Orange for National Gun Violence Awareness Day**

**Over the years, gun violence has become all too familiar in the American landscape. In response, organizations and elected officials came together in 2015 to establish National Gun Violence Awareness Day. The campaign asks supporters to wear orange in honor of victims of gun violence, to raise awareness about the issue, and to advocate for change.**

**The tradition of wearing orange was started by a group of Chicago high schoolers who lost their friend, Hadiya Pendleton, to gun violence in 2015. Her classmates honored her by wearing orange, chosen to symbolize the color hunters wear to protect them in the forest. Now the whole country wears orange to represent the value of life and the need to protect it.**

**Wear Orange Weekend begins on June 1, National Gun Violence Awareness Day, and continues through Sunday. This year, make yourselves visible in your community. You can find an event near you on the official Wear Orange Website to join other supporters. Wear orange and use the hashtag #WearOrange on social media, including the GFWC app, to spread the word about working towards a safer world.**

**Legislative Action Corner**

**Tremendous Gain for Working Women Candidates**

**On May 10, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) issued an advisory opinion that campaign funds can be used to pay for child care. It is “ground-breaking – a game changer” for women running for office. The ruling of the FEC commissioners followed a 1995 request approval from a male candidate to use campaign money for part-time childcare, so his wife could attend campaign events. Campaign funds are often used for the candidate’s personal expenses, but this is the first time a woman candidate had made such a request. Earlier this year, Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL), the first woman to give birth while serving in the Senate, was allowed to bring her infant to the floor while she cast votes. A record number of women are running for office at all levels this year.**

**National Skin Cancer Awareness Month**

**May is the month to raise awareness about the most common cancer in the United States: skin cancer. While it is the most common, it is also the most preventable! That means with proper education, it can be avoided. With warmer weather comes more days spent in the sun. Make sure that you and your loved ones are soaking up the sun safely.**

**How to Protect Your Skin**

* **Put on broad-spectrum sunscreen half an hour before you plan to be outside, even if the day is cloudy. Remember to reapply every two hours.**
* **Stay in the shade when you can, especially between 10am and 4pm when the sun is strongest.**
* **Cover up with hats and UV protective sunglasses.**
* **Don’t go to tanning salons. It’s prom season, which means many of the young women in your life might be considering a trip to the tanning salon to get some color before the big night. Even one session increases the risk of skin cancer.**
* **Practice routine self-examinations. You can learn how to perform them and what to look for through the** [**Skin Cancer Foundation**](https://u3654531.ct.sendgrid.net/wf/click?upn=9eXHP1PR7PQVD2K3bEZ-2F3uRSEn8hkpnbPnsLMNXVen6U5ThY0z729MEc4WHxMzozj3NdHF2-2F2d4s4CbZR2Ok4flEAz6-2BirzJR7Rtaf8WNZCdLhUGB0qq8oqtRUCXvvMZ_a4ZyCjtkwnIfEsP7ECigyqsT48cwGvjsXYPXVCnj5dy6uLfJ1K3Lq1FBRrZ-2B-2B7RwLDH6W-2B4TiJcwZSr8UfeKsOSUt7Vrw9oeMGZrtThcUEgeExlXd6IDIZaBj-2FADn7YyOqXEWGByzPlinUtgIKMYb-2BtQyiIK0oADOnrJ-2Fk9oFluL07WfY1H7Oav-2FEq4pz33FypLWNTswOYodhpFtLC5Bc8rqqMgUqiAkkVlVDAxXSsrRlDbww4BoRz92WfNMU-2BIkZ6kwKO05oA1QDFjWiOcbHl-2BK6xjNUZKeOnKEC7ks8wIXgdNb-2FB-2BfpaLhimXAdCLro8n-2BtqlWAU-2BEzx105jlbgwATeZaX-2BmJcIX-2FQNuPJshWenBWfRX0JXOI8sxRzu-2Fmz6GgSVrM-2BOM0DqvYZQ3N4sg-3D-3D)**.**
* **The Skin Cancer Foundation will be taking another tour through the United States providing information and free screenings. Look for your city on their** [**2018 schedule**](https://u3654531.ct.sendgrid.net/wf/click?upn=9eXHP1PR7PQVD2K3bEZ-2F3pURyi9UsyqgBBCl4bNA59SFAGbp9SXlH-2F9mM31FtjTaXmK-2F7px1TXLpb-2B9nZkWgbmW4lWHU9iDPCn6kK0yF-2BKo-3D_a4ZyCjtkwnIfEsP7ECigyqsT48cwGvjsXYPXVCnj5dy6uLfJ1K3Lq1FBRrZ-2B-2B7RwLDH6W-2B4TiJcwZSr8UfeKsOSUt7Vrw9oeMGZrtThcUEgeExlXd6IDIZaBj-2FADn7YyOqXEWGByzPlinUtgIKMYb-2BtQyiIK0oADOnrJ-2Fk9oFluL07WfY1H7Oav-2FEq4pz33FypLWNTswOYodhpFtLC5Bc8rqqMgUqiAkkVlVDAxXSsrRlDbww4BoRz92WfNMU-2BIkasoHhoAn6II9fQuGc7ua8hkwWbWd-2Fy-2BQED4cO-2BwCoopaCz5dqZJv9k8DOcN-2Bc5vWeUNFrLzXDWvEsFPCFXXTMAXObwxMiSemD-2F-2BP64BCGz3LSgZjhYYSxWLefXy6xMU-2FGGDgCzZnT1JjaQm2e57dXg-3D-3D) **and spread the word so your communities can take advantage.**

**This month, take time to protect your skin, and raise awareness in your communities so that everyone else will too.**

**Legislative Corner**



**Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee is the chief sponsor drafting the House VAWA bill expected to be introduced soon.**

**GFWC joined national women’s organizations gathered on Capitol Hill for the Enough Is Enough Summit & Congressional Briefing during Sexual Assault Awareness Month to address sexual harassment and assault in the workplace (Title 7) and schools (Title 9). Panelists included representatives from the Equal Employment** **Opportunity Commission, National Women’s Law Center, National Organization for Women, American Association of University Women, End Rape on Campus, Legal Momentum, Feminist Majority, National Domestic Workers Alliance, ERA Coalition, National Council of Jewish Women, National Congress of Black Women, and the National Farmworker Women’s Alliance. Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee (TX), Carolyn Maloney (CA), Jackie Speier (CA), and Lois Frankel (FL) summarized legislative efforts to date and the opportunity to build momentum created by the #MeToo movement. In preparation for re-authorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the focus of this summit was to educate lawmakers about the necessity to extend sexual harassment laws to all women, especially domestic workers and farm workers, so that every woman is protected – no loopholes and no exclusions.**

**Legislative Action Corner**

**Airline Passengers Will Benefit**

**On April 27, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 4, with a strong bipartisan vote, to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. The bill includes new consumer protections for commercial airline passengers, such as requiring medium and large hub airports to have a lactation room behind their security checkpoints, as well as efforts to fund noise and air pollution mitigation projects. The Transportation Department would be required to issue regulations to bar mobile phone calls during flight, set minimum dimensions for passenger seats, develop a bill of rights for disabled passengers, and require ticket agents with annual revenue of $100 million or more to adopt customer service standards regarding refunds, cancellation policies, itinerary changes, and responses to complaints. Air carriers would be prohibited from involuntarily removing ticketed passengers that have boarded a flight. Employees will be trained to recognize and respond to potential human trafficking, and air carriers would be required to provide annual training to flight attendants on dealing with allegations of sexual misconduct. Next step – the Senate.**

**Legislative Action Corner**

**VAWA FY 2019 Federal Appropriations Advocacy**

**GFWC joins the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and more than 930 organizations to urge Congress to increase funding for federal programs that address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Domestic and sexual violence are life-threatening, pervasive crimes that affect millions of families every day. Our nation is experiencing a watershed moment as survivors of gender-based violence are coming forward. Our community programs must be there to support these survivors and their families, and there must be resources for prevention and education so violence doesn’t happen in the first place. Find our letter** [**here**](https://u3654531.ct.sendgrid.net/wf/click?upn=9eXHP1PR7PQVD2K3bEZ-2F3mIJNiWy6WA0dpzYdO4Pqr7Hg9e0Yhsg6-2FS5LBW4Vpfei3yJ8Qf8H0Yhd1-2B-2FyhdAAK5n9kyJEW8hLTVB6fjBNZrIpIfHcsUsCUesZi43S6ZvHeDd20QT-2BVjljVtAdcjLz5bryaTFdCw9F8NwoqY-2BylR3TsMYGE1lzocCxQP-2BVROY_a4ZyCjtkwnIfEsP7ECigyqsT48cwGvjsXYPXVCnj5dy6uLfJ1K3Lq1FBRrZ-2B-2B7RwLDH6W-2B4TiJcwZSr8UfeKsI7DV-2BJM8dHySJ9TO-2FZA6BNycZF17-2FR29zmOvbG-2B0iOTdTk-2BOD3ze-2Fa52Q5mBytrWDUNRS7c9AzxqLc2-2BRCUAa8Om8cxewdHOMyssn99EcOt6Umtx-2BM4Xegb1swN3Mcr76DLf3fMC7Uod9aypU692AE-2B-2B-2F3ZLET-2Bqjrp-2FrWh7l3Q1LfTxFNer1vhHeQQZq4a4VN9-2B-2BzW6D9NuI9b6ErjCQU9ouvmMPGmT4weBrTjbx81nvCHdey-2BjY0WcuEF7eblseOzDz30cEsEg1tB7NUhw-2BmszRHaJCDFpPeMSMZUAbG-2Bp6w005fJssnnkpuqBQiEvA-3D-3D)**.**

**Congressional House and Senate Appropriations Committees are beginning the FY 2019 process to fund these Violence Against Women (VAWA) programs in the Department of Justice, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act programs at the Department of Health and Human Services, and to increase funding released from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) account. We are appreciative of the FY 2018 funds now being deployed in our communities.**